



# Promises2Kids

You can help create a brighter  
future for foster children.



PROMISES2KIDS



## There are 3,000 foster children in San Diego County. Each one needs you.

We all understand the importance of family. Foster children grow up without a family who can be there for them. Through no fault of their own, many grow up feeling lonely, afraid, and struggle to imagine a different future.

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90% WILL NEVER GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE

OVER 80% EXPERIENCE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AS A RESULT OF THEIR  
ABUSE; MOST OFTEN DEPRESSION OR PTSD

49% OF SISTERS AND BROTHERS WILL BE SEPARATED IN FOSTER CARE  
FOSTER CHILDREN MOVE AN AVERAGE OF 5 TIMES BEFORE AGE 18

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However, with the right support, much more is possible. Promises2Kids provides these special children with the tools, opportunities and guidance they need to address the circumstances that brought them into foster care, overcome the difficulties of their past and grow into healthy, happy and successful adults.

## TOGETHER we can do so much.

OUR PROMISE:

To create a brighter future for foster children.



## GUARDIAN SCHOLARS

Assists current and former foster youth in reaching their educational goals.

Guardian Scholars has a 90% success rate for participating former foster youth. Less than 10% of foster youth nationally will complete college.

## CAMP CONNECT

Reunites brothers and sisters who are separated and living apart in foster care.

49% of sisters and brothers in foster care are living apart in San Diego. Promises2Kids reunites them through Camp Connect.



## FOSTER FUNDS

Provides financial support to foster youth for sports, music classes, class photo, and college application fees. It also supports Birthday Club and drivers education.

OVER 200,000 children in need have been helped and supported by Promises2Kids.

## A.B. & JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER

Provides critical services, emergency shelter and support for abused and neglected children.

70,000 reports of abuse are made annually to the San Diego County Child Abuse Hotline. 1,000 of these children are cared for through the Polinsky Children's Center.







# GUARDIAN SCHOLARS

OUR PROMISE  
to support each  
foster youth with  
their dream of  
education.

They just need someone to believe in them.

Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars supports foster youth in their pursuit of education through high school and higher education. In addition to the scholarship, Promises' staff and trained mentors provide the support, love and guidance to students that a typical family would provide to ensure success.

90%

of Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars complete higher education compared to less than 10% of foster youth who graduate college nationally.

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**Alison** and her sister grew up being neglected by their mother and father – both of whom were abusing drugs, resulting in them being removed from their parents' care. Upon graduating from high school, Alison struggled to navigate through college without any help. While others had the support and guidance from their parents, Alison was not as fortunate. Being accepted into Guardian Scholars changed her life. Doors suddenly opened and she was presented with various opportunities, including a job. Already a mother to her own biological child, Alison took on the added responsibility of taking in her sister's three children. Balancing school, work, and raising four children wasn't easy, but with the help and support of staff and her mentor, she was more confident than ever and determined to go to college. Others believed in her when she didn't believe in herself. Today, Alison is pursuing her degree in Psychology and aspires to be a Social Worker and Therapist; making a difference by advocating for at-risk youth.



# CAMP CONNECT

OUR PROMISE  
to reconnect  
brothers and  
sisters separated  
in foster care.

They just need the chance to stay connected.

**Jake** and his siblings were separated for 3 years and had not seen each other in months. Through Camp Connect, they were reunited at the San Diego Gulls Winter Wonderland Tailgate. They played street hockey, created arts and crafts, and had their photo taken with Santa. The highlight was cheering on the Gulls as they faced off against the San Jose Barracudas. This was their very first experience at a live sporting event and they had no idea what to expect. Jake usually keeps to himself, but this opportunity allowed him to open up more and connect with others. Jake was extremely happy and thankful for what he said was a life-changing experience and something that he would never forget. Every Camp Connect reunion since then has been filled with feelings of excitement. They all share a long embrace each time they reunite and spend these precious moments catching up, joking around, laughing, and most importantly creating new memories to replace ones that they would rather not remember. These simple moments are ones that some of us take for granted, but are treasured by Jake and his siblings.

Camp Connect provides siblings who have been separated in foster care with an environment of fun and safety, allowing them for a short time to set aside their trauma and experience the joy of being a kid. For foster youth, these are precious opportunities to create special memories and lasting bonds with their brothers and sisters.

## 300+

brothers and sisters were  
reunited through Camp  
Connect this past year.



# FOSTER FUNDS

OUR PROMISE  
to celebrate how  
special every  
foster child is.



## They just need to know

Special circumstances often arise in a foster child's life when they need additional financial support for sports equipment, and music classes. It also includes the Birthday Club - providing a gift to a foster child on their birthday. Foster Funds helps foster youth experience all life has to offer, which is so critical to experiencing a sense of belonging.

# 291

foster youth were provided financial assistance through Foster Funds last year.

**Michelle** loves to draw. She is an aspiring artist who spends much of her time creating comic book characters; it's her way of coping. When asking Michelle about her drawings, her inspiration, and all that goes into it, her face simply lights up! This way of coping developed into talent, and grew into a passion and dream of attending San Diego's Comic-Con. She looked to Promises2Kids as a starting point of making that dream a reality. With tickets nearly impossible to obtain, a second idea was presented: attending San Diego Comic Fest.

Michelle was overwhelmed with excitement! A few weeks later, Promises2Kids provided her with two 3-Day passes to the event. Michelle's dream is taking shape, and she is about to discover a world full of magical possibilities of where her talent can take her.



# A.B. & JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER

OUR PROMISE  
to provide a safe  
haven to foster  
children when  
they need it most.

They just need to know they're loved.

**Luke** was just four when he was taken into foster care. In those four years, his parents beat him with bats and paddles, tied him to the bed, and left him without food for days at a time. When the police finally rescued Luke, he had bruises across most of his body, healing scars on his back, and a black eye. When the police asked his name, he simply replied "Idiot" – the only thing his parents had ever called him.

Luke found a safe haven at the Polinsky Children's Center. Once Luke had healed enough to leave the hospital, he was taken into protective custody at the Polinsky Children's Center and then placed with a foster family. For the first time, he has a family that will love and care for him, and help him create happy memories to begin to replace the years of pain. Sadly, Luke is just one child in the 1,000 children that are brought to the Polinsky Children's Center and only one of the 70,000 child abuse reports that are made each year.

The A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center is San Diego County's emergency shelter for children who cannot remain at home as a result of abuse or neglect. The Center opened in 1994. Promises2Kids raised \$12 million to build the 6-acre facility.

## 54,000+

children have cared for  
since 1994 at the Polinsky  
Children's Center.

You can help make a difference in the lives of San Diego's 3,000 foster children today:

## DONATE

Through your generosity, you can help a foster youth receive the necessary support and services for a brighter future. Your gift of any size will make a difference.

## VOLUNTEER

Become a Guardian Scholar Mentor or a Camp Connect Counselor and provide the support and guidance to students aspiring to reach their dreams of a higher education, and to siblings living apart in foster care who have been reunited.

## ATTEND

Our annual fundraiser, the Dream On Concert Gala, is held each June to benefit foster children. Enjoy an exclusive dinner and a private concert featuring a major recording artist.



**PROMISES 2 KIDS**

*Creating a brighter future for foster children®*

To learn more contact us at

**PROMISES2KIDS.ORG**

**858-278-4400**

TOGETHER  
we can do so  
much.

