



Promises2Kids

Creating a
brighter
future for
foster children
for 40 years



PROMISES2KIDS

40th Anniversary

OUR PROMISE:

To create a brighter future
for foster children.

There are 3,000 foster youth 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. 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.



> OVER 90% WILL NEVER GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE

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

> 40% OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS WILL BE SEPARATED IN FOSTER CARE

> FOSTER CHILDREN MOVE AN AVERAGE OF 8 TIMES BEFORE THEY AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE



PROMISES2KIDS SUPPORTS FOSTER CHILDREN THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS

Assists current and former foster youth in reaching their educational and career goals. Guardian Scholars has a 85% success rate for participating former foster youth. 8% of foster youth nationally will complete college.

CAMP CONNECT

Reunites brothers and sisters who are separated and living apart in foster care. 40% 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 photos, college application fees, and the Birthday Club. 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. The San Diego County Child Abuse Hotline receives reports of abuse for nearly 70,000 children annually. 1,000 of these children are cared for through the Polinsky Children's Center.

SUPPORTING FOSTER YOUTH FOR 40 YEARS



This past year brought on unimaginable, unexpected, and unwanted change. It was a year of reflection and constantly reassessing how to navigate the impact of Covid-19.

The one thing that remained a constant was the generosity our supporters continued to show, even while dealing with their own personal struggles. Our community stepped up when foster children needed help most and for that, I am grateful.

Although the pandemic affected us in ways that we weren't prepared for, the community's support made it possible to find safe and creative ways to ensure that youth always felt connected. We supported more students, grew as a team, and even when Camp group outings were restricted, we made sure that separated siblings maintained relationships through one-on-one visits.

We are celebrating our biggest milestone yet – our 40th anniversary. Since 1981, we have supported over 200,000 abused and neglected children.

Our work is not possible without those who believe in our mission. Through continued leadership, volunteering, and philanthropy, much more can be accomplished. I'm excited for the year ahead, and hope that you'll continue to show foster children that they are loved.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS

85% of Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars complete higher education compared to 8% of foster youth who graduate college nationally.



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

Guardian Scholars supports foster youth in their pursuit of their educational and career goals. 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.

DAMIEN entered foster care at age 15 due to severe neglect. As the oldest of 3 brothers, he took on the parental role before entering care. Often going to sleep hungry, he stole what he could to ensure his brothers ate. This challenging time caused tension at home, which led to Damien living on his own as a teenager and working side jobs to make ends meet. His brothers were his motivation to pursue his education because he believed that education was key to breaking the cycle of neglect, and he graduated high school with a 3.0 GPA.

Being a Guardian Scholar has changed his life. With support from staff and his mentor, and participating in the Mens Leadership Network and Speakers Bureau, his dreams are becoming a reality.

At 23, Damien is attending San Diego State University, majoring in business with plans to pursue his masters. In addition to being a father, he also takes care of his two younger brothers. His goal is to be a positive role model and help his brothers achieve their dreams.

A young boy and girl are running on a beach, holding hands. The boy is wearing an orange t-shirt and the girl is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a blue skirt. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows the ocean and a sandy beach.

CAMP CONNECT

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

OUR Promise: to reconnect brothers and sisters separated in foster care.

JAVIER (8) AND YUVI (5) were separated upon entering foster care and live in different homes. They do not see each other often, unlike most peers their age who see their siblings every day.

Through Camp Connect, they reunited at a beach party for a fun-filled afternoon and were inseparable from the moment they arrived. Although Javier was diagnosed with autism and has trouble with verbal communication, his little sister Yuvi intuitively knows how and when to speak up for him. Despite his challenges, Javier is a great big brother and always supports Yuvi. During this visit, Yuvi called on her brother in the pool, and he would put his hand out to guide her or swim to her whenever she needed him.

Javier and Yuvi were able to create new memories and support each other in ways that only a sibling can. Monthly, they will have opportunities to see one another and build on their relationship.

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.

FOSTER FUNDS

373

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



OUR Promise: To celebrate how special every foster child is.

Foster Funds helps foster youth experience all life has to offer, which is so critical to experiencing a sense of belonging. 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.

OLIVER started at a new high school, which was a very difficult transition. Heading into a new school is tough for any teenager, and even more so for a foster youth.

For 15-year-old Oliver, making the high school football team has always been a goal of his. This year he took a leap of faith, tried out and to his surprise made the team! Being passionate about the sport for so long, this was a dream come true! Unfortunately, he could not afford the equipment necessary to participate.

Oliver's request for football gear including a helmet, cleats, a mouthpiece and compression pants was granted through the Something Special fund, which allows foster youth to pursue extracurricular activities.

This has tremendously boosted his self-esteem and Oliver will now walk onto the football field with his head held high and ready to take on his next challenge!



A.B. & JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER

60,000+

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

OUR Promise: To provide a safe haven to children when they need it most.

JADE and her 13-year-old mother were exposed to physical and emotional abuse since she was born. As a result of this trauma, she was in and out of relative foster care for years until the age of 5 when she entered the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center (PCC).

Jade had a history of attachment concerns, significant challenges with sensory regulation, extreme difficulty with transitions, and safety concerns regarding her behavior.

Through PCC, Jade received a full developmental assessment and services through KidSTART - a program for children under 6 with complex needs.

She developed great rapport with her therapist, thrived on the structure at PCC and stabilized over time. Her mental health needs were being met and her team came up with a clear plan outlining her clinical needs and considerations for her next placement. Jade is an incredibly resilient girl with a spunky personality who because of this intervention, will be able to thrive in an adoptive home.

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 and funds programs for children at the center.

This timeline is to share the past four decades of the evolution and history of Promises2Kids and our initiatives to change the lives of foster children.

2021

Promises2Kids celebrates 40 years of serving over 200,000 foster youth in San Diego County.



With the announcement of San Pasqual Academy (SPA) closing in 2022, Promises2Kids provided the necessary resources to **accept all SPA youth into Guardian Scholars**.

2020



Due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**, provided **\$350k of support** for former foster youth to help meet basic needs such as groceries, cleaning supplies and funding for rent and utilities – supplementing youths' income, as a result of job loss.

2014

Celebrated the **20th anniversary of Polinsky Children's Center** and the 50,000 children it has served, as well as the dedication of the **Mary Goodall Education Center**.



2013



Guardian Scholars expands its services to include college preparation support to foster youth in their junior and senior years of high school. The first class had 10 students.

2012

Camp Connect expands its program to include day camp activities each month in addition to its annual life changing 4-day Summer Camp for siblings who have been placed in separate foster care homes.



2002



In partnership with HomeAid San Diego and YMCA Youth & Family Services, the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation opened **"Mary's House"**, North County's first transitional living program for former foster youth.

2001

CAPE, KGTV/San Diego's Channel 10 and Union Bank of California start **"Team10 Foster Fund"**, to fund college or technical training for former foster youth in San Diego. Ten former foster youth received nearly \$43,000 in scholarship funds the first year. This is now Guardian Scholars.

San Pasqual Academy, the first of its kind residential high school for foster youth opens. CAPE raised \$6 million for the capital campaign, surpassing the goal by \$1 million.

1994

A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center opens, relocating all children from the overpopulated Hillcrest Receiving Home.



1990

CAPE raises \$12 million to build the new emergency shelter for children to replace the outdated Hillcrest Receiving Home. A \$5 million lead campaign gift is made by Mrs. Jessie Polinsky. In honor of the gift, **the new shelter is named A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center**.

1989

Birthday Club is established to provide birthday cards and gifts to foster children.



The first **Holiday Gift Drive** is held, and now collects more than 10,000 gifts annually for foster children.



2009

The Child Abuse Prevention Foundation becomes **Promises2Kids**.



2008

Camp Connect launches a 4-day summer camp designed to bring together siblings who have been separated by their placement in the foster care system.

2005



A collaborative effort between CAPF, San Diego County Adoptions and others is initiated to help improve the process of finding warm and loving homes for foster children who cannot be reunited with their family.

2003

Former CAPF President, Emeritus Board member and lifelong volunteer Elizabeth Lennon passes away and the Elizabeth Lennon **Something Special Fund** is established by Board members.

Approached by local leaders to serve as the fiscal agent to help launch **Just In Time**, a new effort to support foster youth as they transition into adulthood. This effort enabled them to later grow into a separate nonprofit entity.

The San Diego International Conference on child and family maltreatment presented annually by The Chadwick Center at Children's Hospital incorporates a new symposium, the **Annual Beth Lennon Symposium on Child Maltreatment**, focused on training first responders on identification, investigation and victims of child abuse. This is now included as part of Promises2Kids law enforcement education and training opportunities.

1988

CAPF creates a new program at UCSD to help drug-dependent pregnant women from delivering drug-addicted babies.



1987



CAPF creates a **private child-friendly waiting room at family court** for children waiting to testify. Prior to the private room, children waited in the same room as their abusers, increasing their trauma.

CAPF **Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign** results in 60 new foster homes for the placement of children within three months, a record for foster family recruitment efforts.

1985

CAPF volunteers and donors provide funding assistance to **establish a centralized number for San Diego's Child Abuse Hotline**. In one year alone, the hotline has received reports of abuse for nearly 70,000 children.



1984



Barbara Christiansen and nine friends found **St. Germaine Auxiliary** to the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation.



1981

Child Abuse Prevention Foundation (CAPF) is founded by Norma Hirsh, Renée Comeau, Rob Butterfield, Carla Snyder and Mary Avery. First activities were to raise community awareness of the issues of child abuse and establish an emergency Baby Food Fund to provide food, medicine and supplies to children.

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COMMITTED TO
CHANGE

Thank you for
positively impacting
the lives of
foster youth.

Together we can
do so much.

You can help make a difference
in the lives of San Diego's
3,000 foster youth 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 educational and career goals, and to siblings living apart in foster care who have been reunited.

ATTEND

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



PROMISES 2 KIDS

40th Anniversary

TO LEARN MORE:
PROMISES2KIDS.ORG
858-278-4400