

Community Service Association Newsletter

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Message from the CSA Board of Directors

This month's newsletter features a profile of Promises2Kids, a charitable organization which provides essential youth services and support for education throughout San Diego County.

Thank you, CSA members, for giving back to our community and supporting these services.

Profile of Promises2Kids

Since 1981, Promises2Kids has been dedicated to its mission of creating a brighter future for foster children in San Diego County. From the moment the children come into foster care and through to adulthood, Promises2Kids provides the hope, support, and opportunities these special individuals need to change their lives for the better. Each year, over 3,100 current and former foster youth are supported through core programs, including:

A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center—More than 2,000 children are cared for annually at San Diego County's emergency shelter for abused and neglected children. Spanning six acres, the campus consists of: six residential cottages, infant nursery, medical clinic, school, library, cafeteria, gymnasium, two swimming pools, two playgrounds, and an outdoor athletic field.

Camp Connect—Siblings who are separated in foster care have the chance to reconnect thanks to this program. Of the over 3,100 children currently in foster care in San Diego County, approximately 500 children are separated from one or more siblings. Brothers and sisters are reunited at a four-day summer camp in the mountains in Julian and at monthly one-day events.

Guardian Scholars—Last year 50 former San Diego County foster youth achieved their dreams for higher education through Guardian Scholars. The program

offers partial financial scholarships and mentoring support to participants, 85 percent of whom complete their higher education. Nationally, only 50 percent of foster children receive a high school diploma and only 3 percent of foster children achieve a college degree.

Foster Funds—Through the **Birthday Club**, foster children receive a gift card on their birthday so that their special day does not go by unnoticed. **Community Drives** are held by Promises2Kids in partnership with communities to collect backpacks, Halloween costumes, and holiday gifts, and to hold back-to-school shopping events. Thirdly, there is the **Something Special Fund**, for which the Community Service Association provides funding.

The **Something Special Fund** provides additional financial support for activities such as sports or music lessons, or for things such as class photos, prom clothes, or college application fees. Foster youth often feel left out and isolated when they are not able to participate in these activities and rites of passage due to a lack of funding. Last year over 300 children received this financial support on an as-needed basis upon the request of a social worker.



“Promises2Kids relies on the support of dedicated individuals and organizations throughout San Diego, and we are especially grateful for the assistance of the Community Service Association.”

To learn more about Promises2Kids please visit Promises2Kids.org.

CSA Mission Statement

The Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District is a nonprofit association organized to solicit contributions from district employees for recognized charitable agencies in San Diego County which support the arts, education, health, and human services.