

Why the Guardian Scholars Program is So Important

- Nationally, only 40 to 50 percent of foster youth will graduate from high school.
- While most have a desire to obtain their post-secondary education, only 10% will actually do so.
- Of the 10% who attend college, only 3% will graduate.
- 38% of the nation's homeless population are former foster children.
- In San Diego County, nearly 300 youth will exit the foster care system each year.



“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

— Malcolm X



(founded as the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation)

Guardian Scholars Program

9440 Ruffin Court, Suite 2
San Diego, CA 92123

www.promises2kids.org
858-278-4400

The Guardian Scholars Program is funded through donations from individuals, foundations and corporations including:

QUALCOMM

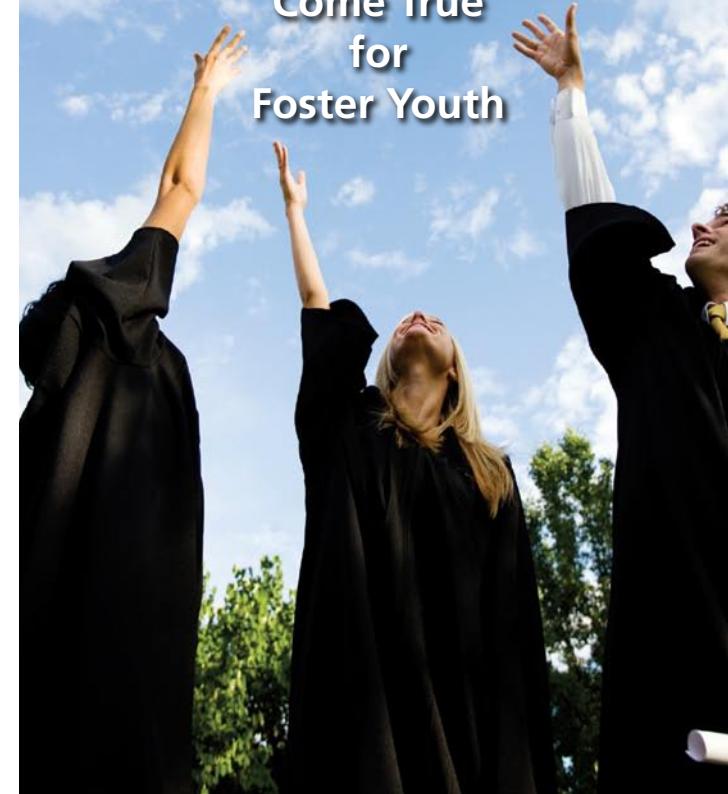
The Cuatrecasas Family Foundation

Junior League of San Diego

The In-N-Out Burger Foundation



Guardian Scholars Program
Making College Dreams
Come True
for
Foster Youth





The Guardian Scholars Program

The Guardian Scholars Program supports former foster youth in San Diego County who wish to obtain a university, community college or trade school education. The goal is to provide each student with financial assistance, life-skills coaching, mentoring, housing assistance, and support that will enable them to fulfill their dreams of attaining a college degree.

How the Guardian Scholars Program Began

The Guardian Scholars Program began in 1998 at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) with three students. The program was a cooperative effort between CSUF, Orangewood Children's Foundation (OCF), and Ron Davis, a member of the CSUF Advancement Board.

After seeing the success of the program in Orange County and recognizing the need in San Diego County, Promises2Kids decided to expand its Foster Fund Program to help support youth leaving foster care in San Diego County (approximately 300 every year) who wanted to obtain their post-secondary education. With the help of Orangewood Children's Foundation, Promises2Kids created the Guardian Scholars Program.

Who Can Become a Guardian Scholar?

Students who qualify to participate in the Guardian Scholars Program must be former foster youth who wish to obtain their post-secondary education. Guardian Scholars receive the following support:

- Up to \$5,000 to help cover costs that are not typically covered by financial aid
- New student orientation
- Academic Advising
- Financial Aid Application Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Access to Housing
- Mentoring Opportunities
- Life-Skills Coaching
- Post-graduate Career Planning and Assistance



The support services of Promises2Kids, combined with college campus services, provide a powerful safety net for the many foster youth who need support after aging out of the foster care system.

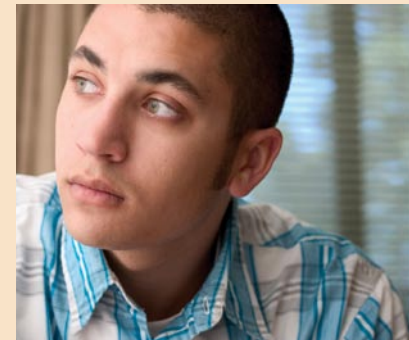
The collaborative partnership between Promises2Kids and the student's educational institution not only helps students navigate their way through the education system, but it also provides the encouragement, support, and direction that a parent would normally provide.

About Promises2Kids

Promises2Kids, founded as The Child Abuse Prevention Foundation in 1981, is a non-profit organization formed by a group of passionate San Diegans who wanted to create positive long-term outcomes for children and youth in San Diego County.

The mission of the organization is to break the cycle of child abuse through prevention, education, advocacy.

In 2001, the Foundation created a fund to provide former foster youth with scholarships to help ease the financial burden of attending college. In just 5 years, the program helped local students with more than \$500,000 in support. Realizing that financial aid addressed only a small part of the barriers that face these youth, the organization added a mentoring/life coach element to the program. And this component has been the key to many successful graduations, life-long bonds, and positive, life-altering experiences.



In 2008, the program far surpassed national educational averages for foster youth with 80% of Guardian Scholars seniors obtaining their undergraduate degree.

To learn more about other Promises2Kids programs and services, visit www.promises2kids.org.