



Camp Connect San Diego, a partnership of Promises2Kids, County of San Diego, and United Way of San Diego County, provides an opportunity to strengthen family ties and create memories for brothers and sisters in foster care who live apart. Research shows that siblings in foster care who remain connected have better outcomes in school and in their placement. This same research also indicates an increased sense of belonging, identity, confidence, problem solving, self esteem, greater connections to their family of origin, and a decreased sense of loss and trauma.

Even though sibling separation is not routinely tracked by foster care agencies, San Diego County began tracking sibling placements in 2008 and is dedicated to improving relationships for foster siblings through placements and case workers. Programs such as Camp Connect San Diego and the recruitment of mentors who serve sibling groups help in this effort. Approximately 70 percent of children placed in foster care have a sibling brother or sister and many are separated during placement. Promises2Kids is working with the County and United Way to develop and measure outcomes related to bringing foster siblings together.

“For children entering care, being with siblings can enhance their sense of safety and well-being. They are not burdened with wondering where their siblings are and whether or not they are safe. Siblings in the same home can provide natural support to each other and some sense of stability and belonging. Continuity of sibling relationships assists children in maintaining a positive sense of identity and knowledge of their cultural, personal, and family histories” [Source: childwelfare.gov].

The children in the program will meet for many events during the year such as Padre’s games, and a week-long camp near Julian.

To learn more about Camp Connect, contact Stephanie Trolinger at 858-427-1106.

“In the course of my career as a social worker for over 10 years, I have been exposed to many human emotions; however, none have affected me as profoundly as witnessing siblings being reconnected at Camp Connect.”

— Margo Fudge of
Child Welfare Services

Camp Connect San Diego

Upcoming Events for 2010

Camp Connect San Diego is sponsored by Promises2Kids and the United Way in partnership with the County of San Diego. Our program organizes events designed to reunite siblings who are currently separated in the Foster Care System. Below is a list of our upcoming events:

Camp Connect San Diego – A Day of Creating Memories
The ARTS Center – Liberty Station
Saturday, March 27th 10:30am-2:00pm

Camp Connect San Diego – Day at Knotts Berry Farm
Saturday, June 5th

Camp Connect San Diego – Camp Whispering Winds Retreat (Julian)
Thursday Aug 19th-22nd 2010
this is a 4day/3 night camp

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Stephanie Trolinger at 858-427-1106 or stef@promises2kids.org.

*Volunteers will need to be 21 yrs or older and complete a volunteer application and Live Scan

Handy Links containing information on children separated in foster care.

<http://www.fosteringperspectives.org/fpv14n1/v14n1.htm>

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-04-08-siblings-adoption_N.htm

<http://uwsd.org/media-events/News%20Center/newsletters>