

Meet *Guardian Scholar*, Elizabeth



The years I spent growing up in foster care were the worst years of my life. I still have nightmares about my time in care. This is why it's beautiful that I found the determination to go on; I had every reason to give up, but I didn't, and I am beyond proud of myself for that.

I always had a love for drawing and painting, and after foster care I was able to get a hold of my love for art and grow my skills. I now have a social media presence where I use my art to represent my culture as a Mexican American and use it to bring light to other minority groups.

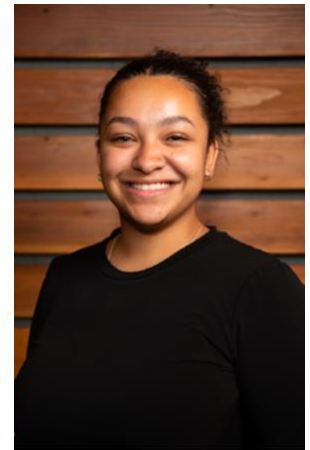
I am also proudly furthering my education as a first-generation college student and currently working on my bachelor's degree in criminal justice at SDSU. This is one of many things I do to better myself, and ensure I am healing and giving myself a brighter future.

Promises2Kids has presented many opportunities and has supported me in different stages of my life. They have taught me useful skills through groups like the woman's leadership network and advocates for change period they have also connected me with a mentor and coordinator who provide me with the support and resources when I need them most.

Meet *Guardian Scholar*, Vanessa

Vanessa was eight years old when she and her brother entered foster care period both experienced physical abuse and emotional neglect. They were separated immediately, only getting the chance to see each other monthly through *Camp Connect*. She lived in 12 different placements during her eleven years in the system. Throughout it all, education was her one escape, the one outlet where she felt she could control her future and outperform the labels placed on her.

She joined *Guardian Scholars* in 2020 and is now a student at UCLA, eventually pursuing her law degree. Vanessa plans to use her insight and experience from being in care to help improve the resources available to underserved communities. She is driven by a desire to advocate for youth and is looking forward to getting involved with philanthropy after school.



Vanessa is appreciative that *Promises2Kids* has been with her throughout her entire time in care and even afterwards, from *Camp Connect* to *Guardian Scholars*, which continues to motivate her to shoot beyond the stars.

She always felt the support of the entire *Promises2Kids* community behind her as she reaches for her lofty goals.

Thanks to supporters like you, Vanessa can continue to live her own advice and “strive to make yourself proud”.