

MESSAGE FROM CEO & PRESIDENT SUSAN GOLDING

Record Unemployment Takes Toll on Youth

The global youth unemployment crisis has been referred to as a ‘social time bomb’. Recent reports show that the struggling economy has caused an explosive increase in the jobless rate among youth, with an additional 8 million young people out of work between 2007 and 2009, bringing the overall global percentage to 13%.



In the United States, more than half of Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 years old were unemployed in July 2010, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This is record unemployment for this age group during this period. It marks the first time since the government started collecting this data, that less than half of all U.S. youth were employed in July. July is usually a time when youth employment is higher as a result of summer jobs.

These daunting statistics hit former foster youth particularly hard when, at the age of 18, they are no longer eligible for support from foster care and suddenly have to advocate and care for themselves without parental support. San Diego, by nearly any set of metrics, is an expensive place to live. Estimates put the cost of living in San Diego between 30 percent and 50 percent above the national average and, as a result, youth in San Diego face even greater challenges.

With just a little help, these youth can excel. The Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars Program, a college scholarship and mentoring program for former foster youth, is evidence of that. In 2010, 100% of Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars seniors graduated. This compares to national averages, which state that only 10% of former foster youth attend college with only 3% of those students actually graduating. Despite the impressive graduation rates for Guardian Scholars this year, our students continue to struggle with the daily challenges of paying rent, putting food on the table, and finding employment during these difficult times.

As the impact of the economic crisis continues to take a toll on our youth, we are calling upon employers, donors, and our supporters to reach out to former foster youth. Do you have a job available? Would you be willing to donate to sponsor a Promises2Kids Guardian Scholar? Do you have time to volunteer as a mentor?

Thank you for caring. Former foster youth need your help now more than ever.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Golding". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Golding CEO & President