



NEWSLETTER WINTER 2025 EDITION

Our nonprofit charity foundation exists to honor the memory of thirteen-year-old Emily Rose Shane, who was tragically murdered on April 3, 2010 on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, CA. We transformed this tragedy into a positive mission of empowering underserved students.



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Gabriel, 7th grade, working with Mentor/tutor Emily at Rio Del Valle Middle School, Oxnard.

OUR MISSION: EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

The Emily Shane Foundation's SEA (Successful Educational Achievement) Program's purpose is to empower underserved, under-resourced middle school students in the mainstream classroom who are at risk of academic failure. Our individualized and intensive, comprehensive approach fosters bonds that build a supportive environment to enhance learning and personal well-being.

SEA Program students are guided on a path to success in school and in life.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SEA Program Community,

I am writing as the fires in LA continue to burn, and so many are dealing with immeasurable loss. Everyone at ESF shares the heartbreak that this devastation has caused.

With empathy, support, and care, we hope and pray for fire containment and healing. We are looking to relief efforts for all affected, and there are many resources being promoted to assist those in need. Please let us know if we can provide these resources to you or assist in any way.



Those of our SEA Program sites not impacted are continuing sessions. As things normalize, we will resume as conditions permit. At this time, the situation remains fluid.

The initial purpose of my message for this newsletter was to share some positive statistics about our SEA Program from the last school year, and I'm pleased to share just a few below:

- ❄️ 91% of students passed all classes (up from at least one failing grade).
- ❄️ 95% showed improvement in multiple subjects, with more A and B grades and fewer D and F grades.
- ❄️ 93% felt well-prepared for high school.
- ❄️ 90% had an increased desire to succeed academically.

These achievements reflect the positive results of our work. On average, each school year, we serve 80 students across 13 sites in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. To all who support our mission of educational equity: your contributions are transforming young lives at a critical time in their academic journey. We are profoundly grateful for your generosity!

To our caring and committed mentors/tutors: your tireless efforts in going the extra mile to inspire, teach, and guide your students make these achievements possible. We appreciate you! Our administrative support team plays a critical role in helping to track and assess all the reporting for students at all sites, easing the work involved in what makes us unique—tailoring our approach to each individual. A special acknowledgment goes to the university students who create our marketing, social media messaging, and website updates; they are essential to our success.

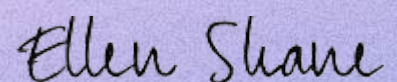
Our SEA Program is about more than improved grades. It's about fostering the skills, confidence, and attitudes that lead to lasting achievement. Our unique, personalized, and caring approach truly makes a difference and inspires us to continue this important work. As we commence the second term of the school year and a new year, our mentor/tutors are ready to support their students' continued growth and success. We look forward to witnessing their progress and celebrating the impact of our collective efforts.

Finally, I want to acknowledge our terrific management team: Harege Kebede, SEA Program Coordinator, and Mary Fernandez, SEA Program Assistant Coordinator/Marketing Manager. Their tireless work ensures that all the moving parts come together to achieve the remarkable results we strive for. Special appreciation and gratitude to our amazing board, our donors, and all who participate in any way to support ESF.

This work is a significant source of personal fulfillment and a beautiful legacy to Emily, who remains at the heart of everything we do.

As we commence our second school term, we do so with sadness and heavy hearts. We send our deepest wishes for the safety of our community and express our sorrow to all dealing with loss.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ellen Shane". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Ellen" and "Shane" being capitalized and prominent.

Executive Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ESF'S ANNUAL SPRING GALA FUNDRAISER



As we face the aftermath of the devastating fires and the destruction they left behind, our hearts are with the many who were impacted. Our entire community has been deeply affected.

In light of the emotional impact, we have made the decision to move forward with our annual Wings Over Malibu spring gala fundraiser, as our work is more critical than ever. Some of our SEA Program students lost their homes, while others were forced to evacuate. Now more than ever, they need our support - both academically and personally - to stay on track. The funds we raise are essential to sustaining our SEA Program. A portion of proceeds will be donated to fire victims.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 29, 2025!

In the spirit of community and resilience it will truly be a meaningful gathering.

WINGS AND WAVES OF ACHIEVEMENT: AN AUTUMN CARNIVAL FOR ALL



**Pepperdine University, Alumni Park
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024**



Ellen Shane, (ESF Executive Director), Congressperson Jacquie Irwin, and Senator Ben Allen released butterflies.

This year, we presented a new fall fundraiser, an autumn carnival, in partnership with Pepperdine University titled “Wings and Waves of Achievement.” The event featured carnival games, a petting zoo, a cornhole toss tournament, many vendors and community organizations tabling, the Bubble Fairy, food trucks, an amazing art installation with sculptures by Malibu artist Ann Krasner, and jazz artist Les Sabler performing. The event culminated in a spectacular butterfly release. We are grateful to Pepperdine for their generous support and to all who participated in the event and in the accompanying silent auction.



Featured jazz artist Les Sabler and percussionist Iraj Lashkary delighted attendees with their music.



Guests were serenaded by Malibu Middle and High School musicians, under the direction of Dr. Zander.



Every attendee had the opportunity to engage with the art installation by noted Malibu artist Ann Krasner.

SEE THE LIST OF ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

OUR IMPACT



SEA SUCCESS STORIES



Ashley, Grade 7, Rivera Middle School, Pico Rivera

Ashley, a returning SEA Program participant, has made significant strides in her English skills under the guidance of her mentor/tutor Chris. After scoring just 40% on her first essay, she mastered the essay format and recently achieved a perfect 100%, raising her grade from an F to a C+.

Andrew, Grade 6, Clinton Middle School, South Los Angeles

With the support of his mentor/tutor Mateo, Andrew improved his science grade from a D to a B and his English Language Development grade from a D to a C. By the end of their first term together, Andrew became more confident in asking for help.



Nailah, Grade 7, Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet, Westchester

Nailah, a returning SEA Program participant who dreams of becoming a real estate entrepreneur, has realized impressive progress thanks to her mentor/tutor Haily. She improved her English grade from an F to a B and her Algebra grade from a B to an A—both of which are essential to real estate!



WHAT OUR PARENTS HAVE TO SAY...

Bertha, Parent of Maya, Grade 7, John Adams Middle School, South Los Angeles

"I see my daughter much happier now. We all have different ways of teaching, and Mohamad is an excellent mentor/tutor who has found methods that Maya truly understands. Some people give up at the first challenge, but Mohamad doesn't. He always supports Maya."

Rachel, Parent of Mateo, Grade 8, John Adams Middle School, Santa Monica

"Mateo's mentor/tutor Lelosa was fantastic! She was kind, encouraging, knowledgeable, and incredibly helpful. Mateo really enjoyed working with her and responded well to her suggestions and guidance. Before tutoring, he was neglecting his studies, but after working with Lelosa, he developed a strong desire to improve."

Crysten, Parent of Adan, Grade 6, Colina Middle School, Thousand Oaks

"The SEA Program has been a godsend. Grades are improving, and there are fewer tears at night over homework. Adan absolutely adores Nevign. She has made learning fun and helped him focus on exams. She speaks to him at his level, making it easier for him to understand."

Maya



Mateo



Adan



WHAT OUR SITE LIAISONS HAVE TO SAY...

Ms. Davis, Counselor, Wright Middle School STEAM & Gifted Magnets, Westchester

“Students in the SEA Program have stated that they feel more confident in the classroom and are now comfortable asking for help. Teachers have stated they have seen a positive change in these students in their classrooms. Parents have stated they appreciate the support of the program and how it has help their students improve.”

Ms. Espinoza, Diploma Counselor, John Adams Middle School, South Los Angeles

“One SEA Program student shared that they feel more at ease and pay better attention in class now, thanks to their mentor/tutor explaining things more clearly. Another said, 'Something clicked inside of me,' making them more aware of what they need to do in class. Overall, it's been incredibly helpful.”

Ms. Barrientos, North Park Academy, Pico Rivera

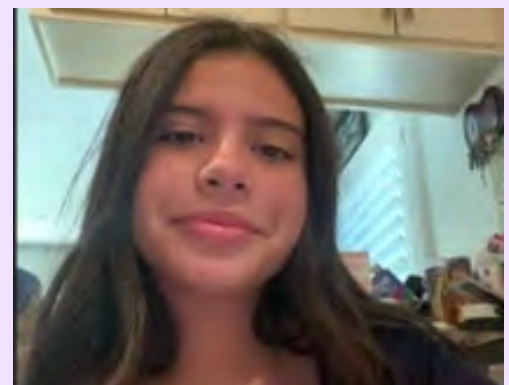
“We've noticed that students participating in the SEA Program are making a more consistent effort to be successful in their studies. Some of these students, as they've progressed to high school, have taken on the role of tutors themselves, giving back to the community and helping younger students who are in similar positions. This shift not only reflects their growth but also highlights the positive impact of the program in fostering a sense of responsibility and leadership.”



Jared, Grade 6, Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet, Westchester



Diana, Grade 8, John Adams Middle School, South Los Angeles



Nevaeh, Grade 8, North Park Academy of the Arts, Pico Rivera

GOOD DEEDS: OUR IMPACT GOES BEYOND THE ACADEMIC



To embrace our "Pass It Forward" motto, our SEA Program students are requested to perform a good deed or act of kindness for every session received. We aim to spread kindness in the world.

See how our students give back!

Jared, Grade 6, Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet, Westchester

"When my friend dropped his lunch, I noticed he was upset. Since I had already eaten my school lunch, I gave him the sandwich from my backpack, so he wouldn't go hungry."

Angel, Grade 6, Rio Del Valle Junior High School, Oxnard

"I helped my parents with cooking Thanksgiving dinner and said I was thankful for my food after."

Rebeca, Grade 7, Malibu Middle School, Malibu

"I helped a classmate with their homework, explaining things in a way that was similar to how you explain them to me. I made sure to break down ideas so they could understand."

Madison, Grade 7, Clinton Middle School, South Los Angeles

"I gave my friend some advice when she was feeling conflicted."

Neveah, Grade 8, North Park Academy of the Arts, Pico Rivera

"I spent time with my grandpa, while my parents were at work. We chatted. It was nice to spend quality time with him and make his day a little brighter."

Rey, Grade 6, Rivera Middle School, Pico Rivera

"On my way home from the gas station, I encountered a homeless person. I decided to give them the chips I had just bought, feeling it was the right thing to do."



FEELING INSPIRED? TWEET US YOUR RECENT GOOD DEED @ESFGOODDEEDS AND SPREAD WARMTH THIS WINTER!



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

WE'RE HAPPY TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW SEA PROGRAM COORDINATOR!



HAREGE KEBEDE



Harege is a graduate of Occidental College who brings a strong and impressive background in Diplomacy and World Affairs, along with minors in Critical Theory & Social Justice, Economics, and Black Studies. Her dedication to advancing educational equity and her expertise will make a significant impact on our work. We're fortunate to have her join us and help us advance our mission of educational equity, providing an important perspective on all matters. Since joining, Harege has quickly adapted to her many responsibilities and has done so with incredible grace. She continues to work tirelessly to help further our mission and make a meaningful impact.

THE EMILY SHANE FOUNDATION NAMES OUR FIRST MARKETING MANAGER!

MARY FERNANDEZ

Mary joined us as a SEA Program Assistant Coordinator in April 2024. She manages our growing marketing and video team, drives efforts to revamp essential marketing tools, and elevates our outreach strategies. Recognizing her impactful contributions, we proudly name her our Marketing Manager! She continues to grow in this role, harnessing the power of social media to expand awareness of our mission. She credits the success of her work to the amazing collaboration within her marketing and video team.





MEET OUR NEW ESF UNIVERSITY CLUB PRESIDENTS!



PEYTON COHANE

Peyton is a very valuable member of The Emily Shane Foundation. She is a junior, originally from Massachusetts, who moved to Los Angeles to pursue a degree in Biology at LMU. Realizing that Peyton wanted to connect with the broad Los Angeles community, she joined our SEA Program as a mentor/tutor. In this position, she works with Aubrey, a sixth-grade student at Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet, who needs additional support in math.

She also creates wonderful content for our marketing team and recently took on the role of ESF Club President! We are incredibly grateful for all that Peyton does for us.

AMERIE KRAUTLER

Amerie is a sophomore at the University of Southern California, studying Public Policy and Law. She plans to pursue a master's in Education Policy and later attend law school to specialize in Education Law. Amerie's passion for educational equity is deeply personal, shaped by her own experiences growing up and navigating the education system, alongside her two siblings who are still in school. Whether through tutoring, mentoring, or simply being a friend, she did everything she could to help those around her succeed, even when faced with larger systemic challenges. Her commitment to improving education extends to her siblings, as she feels a strong responsibility to ensure they, too, have an equitable learning experience.



MENTOR/TUTOR HIGHLIGHTS

CHARLISE

MENTOR/TUTOR,
WRIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL STEAM MAGNET, WESTCHESTER



"I am a part of The Emily Shane Foundation because of its commitment to providing students with both academic support and mentorship, fostering not just better grades but personal growth. Through the SEA Program, I've had the opportunity to help my students develop organizational and study skills tailored to their unique learning styles, building their confidence and amplifying their strengths. It's incredibly rewarding to see the

direct impact of our one-on-one sessions as students overcome challenges and succeed in ways that once felt out of reach."

EMILY

AREA COORDINATOR & MENTOR/TUTOR,
RIO DEL VALLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, OXNARD

"The most rewarding experience as a mentor/tutor and area coordinator has been the ability to create a supportive environment where mentor/tutors can collaborate to ensure our students' progress throughout the school year. My favorite memory as a mentor/tutor was interviewing one of my students and hearing them talk about how I have helped them so far in the program. It was rewarding to hear them acknowledge the effort I have put in."



ASHLYNNE

AREA COORDINATOR & MENTOR/TUTOR,
JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL, SOUTH LOS ANGELES



"I love working for The Emily Shane Foundation because you can see the changes that happen in children's lives when they have someone who believes in them and encourages them, especially when they genuinely need it. It can be hard to ask for help, particularly for those coming from homes that can't afford a mentor/tutor on their own. I'm so grateful I can help and take some of the stress off their families by providing this extra support for free. The core of this program is good and necessary

as many of these schools don't have the resources to assist students who have fallen behind their peers. Everyone deserves the same chance at an education."

SO MUCH OF OUR WORK IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS



ARTURO MUYSHONDT

VOLUNTEER DATA ANALYST

Arturo began volunteering as a data analyst for The Emily Shane Foundation in 2022. He is committed to spreading the mission of ESF because he believes in "the importance of helping all children access additional support in school. These children are the future of this world, and every child deserves the resources to succeed." As a data analyst, Arturo's research plays a vital role in helping ESF evaluate the impact of the SEA Program on students across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. His insights not only demonstrate the program's effectiveness but also guide continuous improvements, ensuring that the SEA Program can better meet the needs of the students it serves.



KELLY KINCAID

ESF FUNDRAISER COMMITTEE MEMBER

Since 2016, Kelly's volunteer journey with the Emily Shane Foundation has been a testament to her unwavering commitment to educational empowerment. Kelly is adaptable and willing to help in any way, supporting the ESF efforts to build confidence, improve academic performance, and create opportunities for students who need it most. Her approach reflects a deep belief in the foundation's work and a genuine desire to make a meaningful difference in young students' lives.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUTGOING ESF BOARD MEMBER:



KATHY LANDMANN

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to outgoing board member Kathy Landmann, who has been an integral source of support and generosity since the inception of our Foundation. While Kathy is stepping away from the board, her passion for our mission remains strong, and she will continue to support and participate in our events. We are deeply thankful for Kathy's valuable contributions to our cause and are excited to keep her involved in our work moving forward.



FOUNDATION HAPPENINGS

ROAD SAFETY DIVISION IS PAVING THE WAY!



In addition to supporting the academic success of our SEA program students, The Emily Shane Foundation is committed to raising awareness about the dangers of speeding and roadway hazards along the Pacific Coast Highway. Through the development of school programs, partnerships with local organizations, and the creation of educational resources, we empower youth to make safer choices behind the wheel. The Foundation's Road Safety Division has also reviewed CalTrans' draft plan and is actively advocating for legislative changes to enhance safety on the PCH.



From l to r: Dermot Stoker, Captain Jenn Seetoo, Chris Frost, Senator Ben Allen (behind Chris Frost) Malibu Mayor Doug Stewart, and Michel Shane (ESF Board Chair).

ESF AND VERIZON PARTNER TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



The Emily Shane Foundation is proud to announce our new partnership with Verizon through their Digital Inclusion Program. This collaboration will provide students, who lack access to WiFi at home, with the resources they need to complete homework and participate in remote SEA Program sessions. This partnership brings us one step closer to our mission of bridging the resource gap in underserved communities. The initiative will initially benefit Malibu Middle School, John Adams Middle School, St. Anne School, and

Northridge Middle School, with hopes to expand to more schools. It aims to positively impact students by keeping them connected and engaged in their education.

CATCH UP WITH ESF IN THE NEWS

The Malibu Times

One year later, Malibu community honors Pepperdine students with a candlelight vigil

Pepperdine University

Graphic

The Emily Shane Foundation Hosts Fall Fundraiser: Wings and Waves of Achievement

The Malibu Times

Michel Shane: The precious gift of life: A holiday message from Pacific Coast Highway



CBS Los Angeles, KCAL NEWS

Emily Shane Foundation recognized as California's nonprofit of the year

DID YOU KNOW?

You Can Support our Foundation Every Time You Shop at Ralph's



1. Go into the Ralph's app.
2. Click on the "Rewards" section, then click "Community Contributions."
3. Type in "The Emily Shane Foundation" and be sure to click "Save."

For more information, [CLICK HERE!](#)

This allows you to turn your usual purchases into contributions to help make our SEA Program possible. Thank you!



"IN EVERY FLUTTER AND
EVERY FLIGHT, EMILY, ALL
OUR EFFORTS ARE FOR YOU
—MAY YOU ALWAYS FIND
YOUR WINGS."



EMILY ROSE SHANE
08/09/1996 - 04/03/2010





WE ACKNOWLEDGE ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING WINGS AND WAVES OF ACHIEVEMENT POSSIBLE!



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Caroline Arnold, Author
Castelli's Ristorante
Cline Cellars
Corison Winery
Desert Adventures Kayak Las Vegas
Domenico's Italian Restaurant
Feel Beauty
Fiesta Village
Flappers Comedy Club
Fountain Valley Skating Center
Four Seasons Westlake
Gagosian Beverly Hills
Geffen Playhouse
Go Kart World
Gorjana
Hollywood Ballet

Hollywood Wax Museum
Irvine Improv
Irvine Lanes
Island Packers Cruises
Jacuzzi Family Vineyards & The Olive Press
Jana Design Interiors
Kidspace Children's Museum
King's Seafood Co.
Laemmle Theatres
LA Kings Ice at Pickwick Gardens
LA Opera
Lucky Feet Shoes
Mama's Comfort Food and Cocktails
Mehrnoosh Architecture/Urban Design
Musical Theatre West
My Delight Cupcakery
New West Symphony
Olio e Limone Ristorante
Oxnard Performing Arts Center
Pacific Park Santa Monica Pier
Panera Bread
Pasadena Playhouse
PEJU Winery
Perry Ellis

Petersen Automotive Museum
Santa Monica Playhouse
SGR Skin Studio
Six Flags Magic Mountain
Skirball Cultural Center
Sky Sailing, Inc
South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa
Spirit Cruises
Tahoe Donner Skiing
Theatre Palisades
Theatre West
The Canyon - Agoura Hills
The Fountain Theatre
The Huntington
The Op Games/USAopoly
The Saban Theatre
The Soraya at CSUN
Tieks
Trim Salon
USS Midway Museum
Wallis Annenberg Center for the
Performing Arts
Wheel Fun Rentals
Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum

All funds raised help support The Emily Shane Foundation's SEA (Successful Educational Achievement) Program which empowers the lives of underserved middle school students across Los Angeles.

*We attempt to acknowledge everyone who contributed to making this event possible and apologize for any errors or omissions.

A Special Thank You to Pepperdine University

A sincere thank you is extended to Emily Schmidt-Goldstein for her invaluable contributions in bringing our auctions to life.

Want to communicate with us or follow our journey? We'd love to hear from you!

Please send an email to INFO@EMILYSHANE.ORG

or visit us at any platform below

