



**NEWSLETTER**  
**SUMMER 2024 EDITION**  
**ISSUE 23**

*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.*



**INSIDE THIS EDITION:**

Message From Our Executive Director	2
2024 Cal Nonprofit of the Year	3-4
Wings Over Malibu	5
SEA the Success	6
ESF Announcements	7
Staff Highlights	8-9
Updates	10
Upcoming Events	11

The Emily Shane Foundation's **SEA (Successful Educational Achievement) Program's mission is to empower underserved, disadvantaged middle school students in the mainstream classroom at risk of academic failure, by providing them with the resources they need to thrive in middle school and beyond.** We provide individualized academic tutoring and mentorship, and we work hard to build relationships that are positive and have a lasting impact. Our objective is for these children to be successful students, helping lead them to achieving their goals and dreams. Participants are guided on a path to success in school and in life.

**YOU can make a difference for a student.**  
 Visit our [website!](#)



**Daniel, 7th Grade, with mentor/tutor Suleyma, The STEAM Academy @ Burke, Pico Rivera** **1**

# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SEA Program Community,

What a year it has been! As the 2023-2024 school year comes to a close, I am filled with pride, gratitude, and enthusiasm for the future.

The most significant news is that our foundation has been named a "2024 California Nonprofit of the Year" by our state senator Ben Allen. This honor is a testament to the tireless dedication of our staff, the profound impact of our work, and the power of community support. This recognition inspires me for the future, hopeful that this honor will shine a brighter light on our mission and pave the way for sustainability into the years ahead.

Our annual signature fundraiser event, Wings Over Malibu 2024, was a resounding success, surpassing all previous years! We are grateful for the generosity from all our supporters. The impactful stories shared by our students at the event, Alvino and Rebeca, and those captured in Joey Ren's video, reminded us of why this work matters so deeply. The funds raised from Wings Over Malibu will directly benefit our SEA Program, and we are delighted to see this upward trajectory.

The positive momentum continues with the launch of our new school site in Northridge, where CSUN students began making a positive impact as mentor/tutors for students at Northridge Middle School. As we look to the 2024-2025 school year, we will continue at this new site. We eagerly anticipate expanding our reach to John Adams Middle School, our second site in South LA, where the need is great and our presence will undoubtedly be transformational.

On April 15, we warmly welcomed Mary Fernandez to our staff in the position of SEA Program Assistant Coordinator. Mary is working closely with Genesis and me. She will be instrumental in addressing our need to elevate our effectiveness and has hit the ground running.

While our students enjoy a well-deserved summer break, we remain hard at work, preparing for the school year ahead. From contract renewals, our summer newsletter, hiring next year's mentor/tutors, analyzing 2023-2024 statistics, planning our fall fundraiser, and much more, our dedication never waivers; neither does our workload!

I am particularly keen about exploring the development of an app to have a "one stop shop" for all involved with our SEA Program - mentor/tutors, students and parents.

To every individual who contributes to our mission, I extend my deepest thanks. Your support is the lifeblood of our SEA Program, and you are the reason we are able to truly make a difference in the lives of our students. Meeting them at our "end-of-school-year" events, hearing their stories of success and growth are the results of the power and purpose of our work.

As summer is upon us, I reflect with gratitude upon a memorable and successful school year, and I am filled with inspiration for the next.

Thank you for being part of the SEA Program community, for believing in our mission, and for changing lives.

Warmly,  
Ellen Shane | Executive Director

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS: THE EMILY SHANE FOUNDATION NAMED A 2024 CALIFORNIA NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR!

We are so proud to have been named a 2024 California Non-Profit of the Year by our state senator Ben Allen. This recognition is significant as it confirms the significance of our mission of educational equity and its impact.

Our mentor/tutor and student relationships are at the core of our mission. Our SEA Program matches struggling, underserved middle school students with motivated and caring university students, who work with them individually to foster a bond that unlocks the potential within each student. They are not just academic tutors, but they are also personal cheerleaders, coaches and guides. This combination of tailored support paves the way to success and brighter futures for the students we support.

Reflecting on his decision to honor us with this award, Senator Allen shared, “I served on the school board when we tragically lost Emily Shane 14 years ago on PCH. I’ll never forget it. That Ellen and Michel have been able to turn that unthinkable loss into such a powerful force for good is commendable and inspiring. The data is clear: students served by the Foundation’s individualized tutoring and mentorship programs are more likely to graduate high school and enroll in college and less likely to miss school or turn to illegal substance use. I am pleased to honor Emily’s legacy by recognizing this life-changing work.”



**ESF Executive Director Ellen Shane & Board Chair Michel Shane proudly holding up 2024 California Non-Profit of the Year Certificate**



## NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR – CONTINUED:

Ellen Shane, our Executive Director, expressed her gratitude for this recognition, emphasizing the dedication of the staff and mentor/tutors in making a profound difference in students' lives. She states, “To receive this recognition from Senator Allen is deeply humbling and validates our vital work. We are incredibly proud to be named a Nonprofit of the Year and grateful to all who have supported us on this journey.”

As we celebrate this recognition which affirms the importance of our work, we are keen to continue and pursue our mission of educational equity.

Thanks to CalNonprofits, Senator Ben Allen, and all our supporters for marking our work to date and inspiring our commitment to continue to pave the way to a brighter future for our students.



**ESF Executive Director Ellen Shane & Board Chair Michel Shane inside California's Senate Chamber**



**Inside California's Senate Chamber**

# WINGS OVER MALIBU

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR SPONSORS

## Presenting Sponsor

Hydronalix, INC.

## Gold Sponsor

Malibu Home Health

## Silver Sponsors

Oak Forest Recovery  
SoCalGas

**Wine Sponsor:** Hoyt Family Vineyards

**Musical Serenade:** Malibu Middle School Musicians

**Featured Band:** Little Dume

We presented our 9th annual spring fundraiser gala event on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at Duke's Restaurant Malibu in the private Ocean Room. Thanks to all who participated to make it our most successful "WOM" to date!

Highlights included SEA Program student speeches, a video featuring students, their parents and mentor/tutors, and a school site liaison, all sharing the positive experience of our SEA Program.

To all our WOM guests and those who participated in both our live and silent auctions, we express our deepest gratitude to you for being so generous.

YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES!

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE WOM 2024 VIDEO.](#)**

\*Please see a list of event sponsors and donors to our live and online silent auction at the end of this newsletter.



Alvino (8th Grade), a SEA Program student speaker at WOM from Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet with his family



Live auction



The stunning view from Duke's private event room where WOM was held



Local Malibu band Little Dume performing

# SEA PROGRAM: STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



Jeremiah, 8th Grade, Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet, Westchester

Thanks to the unwavering support of his mentor/tutor Ella, Jeremiah realized remarkable academic progress in math and science this year. A notable achievement is his significant improvement in long division, an area where he previously struggled. Jeremiah reflects, "The SEA program has helped me to become more responsible with my work. My mentor/tutor Ella is a nice person who always encourages me to get my work done and be responsible."

Jeremiah will be promoting to high school this summer and left the SEA Program passing all of his classes!



Mia, 6th Grade, Malibu Middle School, Malibu

"What's changed for me since having a mentor/tutor is that my grades have improved," reflects Mia. "It's helped me get my work done on time, feel confident walking into class, and overall, it's boosted my confidence." Since working with her mentor/tutor Emma, Mia has raised her science grade from an F to a C- and her history grade from a D to a C! She ended her academic year passing all of her classes.



Mateo, 7th Grade, John Adams Middle School, Santa Monica

Since working with his mentor/tutor, Mateo was able to improve his failing grade in math to an A by the end of the academic year! His mentor/tutor Lelosa noticed that Mateo is now more confident and eager to complete his work. Additionally, he has become more open and sociable, as he joined the program being shy and finished the program being more outgoing.



Joshua, 8th Grade, Colina Middle School, Thousand Oaks

Joshua's time with the SEA Program has been a complete success! "The SEA Program has helped me do my assignments on time and feel prepared for tests! I saw my math grade improve over 20 percent!" With the help of his mentor/tutor Nevign, Joshua will be promoted to high school with all As and Bs!

"I believe that Joshua will pursue higher education because of the SEA Program!"  
-Mentor/Tutor Nevign



Ashley, 7th Grade, Rivera Middle School, Pico Rivera

"The SEA Program keeps me motivated to complete my assignments and study. My mentor/tutor Karina has a great sense of humor, matches my energy, stays positive, and shares my love for Hello Kitty," Ashley shared. Together, they tackle challenging concepts, with Ashley initially hesitant to interrupt Karina. Now, she confidently asks for clarification, especially in math. Ashley's grades have improved from an F to a B- in history and from a D+ to a C in math!



Nina, 8th Grade, Wright Middle School, Westchester

Nina looks back on her experience in the SEA Program and expresses, "The SEA Program has helped me get better in classes (math, history etc.), helped me gain confidence, and drove me to do good deeds everyday. My mentor/tutor is very understanding, patient and kind." Together, Nina and her mentor/tutor dedicated numerous sessions to grasping challenging math concepts like  $Y=MX+B$ . Nina raised her grades from an F to a B in science, from a D to a B in history, C to an A in math, and a C- to an A in English!

# THE EMILY SHANE FOUNDATION STAFF HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

Please Join Us in Welcoming Our New SEA Program Assistant Coordinator:  
**Mary Fernandez!**



Mary is a USC graduate in Sociology and American Studies and Ethnicity. Her experience growing up in an underserved community underscores her dedication to understanding societal dynamics and cultural diversity. Prior to joining ESF, Mary worked in the public health and mental health sectors. She has a passion for serving the needs of others.

Mary is committed to serving the Los Angeles community and uplifting the underserved, a purpose she aims to fulfill through her work with us. Recognizing the transformative power of mentorship, Mary aims to bridge the gap between underserved communities and educational equity, and her role will see her working closely with Genesis and Ellen in our SEA Program. We enthusiastically welcome Mary and eagerly anticipate the positive impact she will undoubtedly bring to our mission.

## ESF Club Presidents

“My time with The Emily Shane Foundation this year has shaped me so much! Loyola Marymount University is a school incredibly oriented towards social justice and giving back to the community, and the opportunity to connect with so many other people who chose this foundation as their place of employment or place to volunteer is so meaningful. Everyone who works for The Emily Shane Foundation shares common values of mentorship, initiative, and kindness, and I look forward to undertake the president position this year.”



Sasha Gold Moritz  
ESF LMU Club President



Martina Pardo  
ESF USC Club President

Our terrific USC ESF Club President Martina will resume her position in the fall semester following a year abroad. Thanks to Maria Tirado for stepping in as Club President during Martina’s absence. With Maria’s guidance, our USC ESF Club was able to help us source volunteers for the foundation and increase our presence on campus.

## Mentor/Tutor Staff Highlights!

“The Emily Shane Foundation allowed me to give back to surrounding communities in the ways they needed most. It was also a critical part of my personal growth—I improved my listening skills and my collaboration skills, and I improved my connections to those around me. Throughout every challenge I faced, I knew I had an incredibly supportive team of other volunteers and foundation staff by my side.”



Colin Stillman  
USC Mentor/Tutor



Suleyma Galindo  
El Rancho Mentor/Tutor

“My students are wonderful. They are goofy, filled with life, and unique in their own way. Their determination for school is truly admirable. I am very proud of my students, and they have come a long way. I not only got to learn about their academic interests but also their personal life. I am very happy to have been a part of their journey!”

# STAFF HIGHLIGHTS - CONTINUED



Lelosa Aimufua  
Volunteer  
Mentor/Tutor

“Working as a mentor/tutor was incredibly rewarding. Getting to know my student, learn about his fears and his interests, and help him as he grows into a kind, well rounded young man felt like a great way to give back, and made me thankful for the mentors in my own life!”



Nevign Besas  
Cal Lutheran  
Mentor/Tutor

“Through this opportunity I get to work with a variety of people and develop experiences that allow me to hone personal skills that transcend being a mentor/tutor. But most importantly, I get to assist students and be there for them while they tackle different situations academically and personally.”

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## RECOGNIZING EMILY SCHMIDT-GOLDSTEIN EIGHT YEARS OF INVALUABLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE



Ellen Shane, Executive Director of ESF (left), pictured with Emily Schmidt-Goldstein in 2016 at our butterfly fall fundraiser event

Emily Schmidt-Goldstein has been a dedicated volunteer at The Emily Shane Foundation since 2016, playing a crucial role in our fundraising efforts. Her contribution is invaluable. From assisting in our messaging to sourcing auction items for our fundraising efforts, Emily consistently demonstrates her commitment to our cause. We are profoundly grateful for her unwavering dedication and commitment to our mission. We look forward to working with her in the years to come.

She is a gem!

# OUR SEA PROGRAM IMPACT: TESTIMONIALS

## SITE LIASON

## TESTIMONIALS OF PARENTS



**Brianna Goodall, Job Developer,  
Student Employment Services,  
Loyola Marymount University**



**Adan Hot, 6th Grade, Colina  
Middle School, Thousand Oaks**



**Madison Lattimore, 8th Grade,  
Clinton Middle School, South Los  
Angeles receives certificate of  
achievement**

“Collaborating with The Emily Shane Foundation and your team has been amazing! The experience you offer our student employees is beyond measure, I’m sure leaving a lasting impact on local communities and more.”

“Tutoring has been godsent. Grades are getting better, and there are fewer tears at night during homework.”  
-Crysten Sloan Hot, Parent of Adan Hot

“The SEA Program has helped Madison improve her grades and she’s been more successful in class. Her mentor has always been positive and supportive towards Madison’s needs. As well, she’s always willing to help her in whatever subject she needs help with.”

-Tanya Rivera, Parent of Madison Lattimore

## GOOD DEEDS

*To embrace our "Pass It Forward" motto, we request that SEA Program students perform a good deed for every session received. We aim to spread kindness in the world. Here are samples:*

### **Ashley, 7th, Pico Rivera**

“I helped my mom clean the house.”

### **Anthony, 7th, Pico Rivera**

“I gave my saved money to my aunt to help her buy rice.”

### **Roberto, 8th, Thousand Oaks**

“I helped my teacher take stuff to her other classroom.”

### **Nina, 8th, Westchester**

“I stayed after school to work on missing assignments with my friend.”

### **Jeremiah, 8th, Westchester**

“I helped my aunt wash her dogs.”

### **Estrella, 6th, Malibu**

“I helped my friend fix her broken name tag.”

### **Mateo, 7th, Santa Monica**

“I helped my grandma with household chores.”

### **Jose, 6th, South LA**

“I bought my friend ice cream after school.”

### **Julian, 8th, Northridge**

“My mom works really hard. She was tired and fell asleep early, so I did her laundry and cleaned the house. She was really happy because she got to rest.”



# WE'RE GROWING!

## Our SEA Program Has Officially Commenced in Northridge!



Our SEA Program officially commenced at Northridge Middle School this academic school year! Our recent collaboration with CSUN, located close by, allowed us to source mentor/tutors to work with the two initial students we worked with for the last two months of the academic year!

## ESF BOARD CHAIR, PRODUCER OF AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILM!

Michel Shane, Board Chair of The Emily Shane Foundation, has co-created a potent documentary that shines a light on the hidden dangers of the Pacific Coast Highway. "21 Miles in Malibu" is a haunting journey down one of America's deadliest roads, fueled by real-life stories of tragedy and loss. Honored with 14 major awards – including three Silver Tellys, a Remi Award, and the prestigious Accolade Global Film Festival's Humanitarian Award for Outstanding Achievement – this film is a powerful call to action. Witness a movie that will leave you moved and ready to create change. Be part of the solution.



## SUPPORT ESF EVERY TIME YOU SHOP AT RALPHS



In case you were unaware, you can effortlessly help support our foundation whenever you shop at Ralphs. It does not cost you anything! All you need to do is sign up from your Ralphs account to choose The Emily Shane Foundation. Just follow the simple steps below:

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

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark your calendar for our Community Fall Festival for The Emily Shane Foundation in partnership with Pepperdine University. This event will take place Sunday, October 20th. Stay tuned for details!



Wings Over Malibu  
2024

You can save the date now for our annual gala spring fundraiser set for **Friday, April 24, 2025**. Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with live and silent auctions, gourmet cuisine, fine wines, and so much more.

Want to communicate with us? We'd love to hear from you!

CONTACT US AT: [INFO@EMILYSHANE.ORG](mailto:INFO@EMILYSHANE.ORG)

VISIT US AT: [emilyshane.org](http://emilyshane.org)

## In Loving Memory



*Emily Rose Shane*

08/09/1996 - 04/03/2010

# **\*Wings Over Malibu 2024**

## List of Sponsors and Donors



### **Presenting Sponsor**

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## **LIVE AUCTION**

Cline Family Cellars

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Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

Jacuzzi Family Vineyards

Pali Adventures Summer Camp

Peju Winery

Porto Elounda Golf & Spa Resort

Sojourn Cellars

The Phoenician

Viking

Zin Bistro Americana

## **SILENT AUCTION**

American Cinematheque

A Noise Within Theatre

Aquarium of the Pacific

Austin Daniels

Battleship USS Iowa Museum

Belly Up Tavern

Beverly Hills MD

Byington Vineyard & Winery

California Botanic Garden

Canyon Club - Agoura

Chance Theater

Chateaux Kumsiashvili Wine

Chipotle

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Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

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Fiesta Village

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Fountain Valley Skating Center

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Geoffrey's

Go Kart World

Gorjana

Hershey Felder

Howdy's Malibu Sushi

Hoyt Family Vineyards

Illusion Magic Lounge

Irvine Improv

Irvine Lanes

Island Packers Cruises

Jack in the Box

Jana Design Interiors

Jay Gibbons

Kidspace Children's Museum

Kiehl's

Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs Hotel

La Mirada Theatre

Linksoul

Los Angeles Angels

Los Angeles Clippers

Los Angeles Kings

Los Angeles Lakers

Lucky Feet Shoes

Malibu Oasis Salon

Mama's Comfort Food and Cocktails

Mehrnoosh Architecture

M. Fredric

Morgan-Wixson Theatre

Moye Thompson Ceramics

Museum of Making Music

Musical Theatre West

My Delight Cupcakery

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles

Newport Landing Whale Watching

New West Symphony

Old Gringo Boots

Olio e Limone Ristorante

Pacific Chorale

Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier

Pala Casino Spa Resort

Palm Garden Hotel

Panera Bread

Pasadena Playhouse

Pasadena Symphony and POPS

Pickwick Ice Center

Porter Valley Country Club

Primal Elements

Saban Theatre

Santa Anita Park

Santa Monica Playhouse

Six Flags Magic Mountain

Skirball Cultural Center

Sky Sailing

South Coast Repertory

South Point Hotel Casino & Spa

Spirit Cruises

Steve Kaufman

Sunrose California Eatery

Tahoe Donner Ski Resort

Theatre Palisades

Theatre West

The Fountain Theatre

The Genesis Invitational

Toy Crazy

Tracy Park Gallery

Trader Joe's

Tra Di Noi Ristorante

Twelve28

Universal Studios Hollywood

USS Midway Museum

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Wheel Fun Rentals

Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum