



Newsletter:

Winter 2024 Edition

ISSUE 22

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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Initial group of SEA Program students, Wright Middle School, Westchester, at their student orientation with Executive Director Ellen Shane and SEA Program Coordinator Genesis Guerra

[Click here to support our mission!](#)

Make a difference in a student's life!



The Emily Shane Foundation's mission is to empower underserved middle school students through personalized academic coaching and mentorship. We foster positive relationships that inspire dreams, unlock potential, and champion educational equity while promoting kindness in the world. The foundation's "Pass it Forward" motto encourages kindness and social consciousness, as each student performs one good deed per session and shares it with their mentor/tutor.

SEA makes a difference in the lives of the children we serve.

Your support has changed lives! Read below:



A Message From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of The Emily Shane Foundation,

2024 is here! I have much to share, as 2023 is now behind us. We at ESF positively anticipate this new year and second school term.

Our staff, guided by our experienced and excellent SEA Program Coordinator, Genesis, has done a great job in all areas related to coordinating our SEA Program; she helps direct all marketing, PR, social media and most importantly, the mentor/tutors working directly with our students. In addition, our Area Coordinators report directly to her; she ensures that their sites are operating to maximum effectiveness.

After considering assessments and discussing how we can improve effectiveness, we have put measures in place to have an increased and constant tracking of our students' grades with an emphasis on checking out for improvement in all students with failing grades. After a period of 2 – 3 weeks, these are red flagged to find out why. In addition, we are monitoring absences more closely than ever as the consistency in sessions is directly related to improvement and success. Another key element we began instituting this school year is aiming for direct and more frequent communication with our students' parents/guardians. Our goal is for the best results possible!

We are growing – both internally and externally! We are now seeking a second full-time SEA Program Coordinator to work alongside myself and Genesis. With 12 sites and new ones commencing, this is a necessity.

Some of what is to come in 2024: a new version of our SEA Program working in partnership with a STEM high school in Rosemead, plus an expansion to Northridge with our new partnership with CSUN and the dire need for our work in that area, beginning with Northridge Middle School, an LAUSD school. As we just renewed our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LAUSD, this facilitates our commencing at any school within the district. In addition, we are in talks to commence at another school district.

All this is fantastic! Your support is making it possible for us to expand to reach the many students in need who fit our profile. We recently highlighted a December Wall Street Journal article that emphasized how critical a time middle school is; [click this link](#) to read it.

It is entirely due to those who fund our work (via donations, attending our events, and grantors) who make it possible to change our students' attitudes, motivation and lives. To all who do so, we are so grateful. Our stats this school year indicate that 67% of our students are Hispanic/Latino and 27% are African American – total of 94% of SEA Program students are brown and black. Our work is focused on empowering these children from underserved backgrounds and communities to have every opportunity to realize their dreams and goals. Education is the ticket to make that a reality!

Please mark your calendars for Thursday evening, April 18 for our annual “Wings Over Malibu” fundraiser event. It is always a fun, warm and meaningful evening! Look out for messaging about it. Should you be interested in sponsorship, please contact me directly at: ellen@emilyshane.org.

Lastly, I must convey special thanks: First, to Lenise Soren of Sorenity Rocks, MALIBUGIVES and TranformativePlays. She opened her heart and her store to ESF for our fall fundraisers, and we are grateful. She is so generous and plans many events to help support ESF through her own charitable work. If you are local, look out for messaging about soundbaths and other events that she will be presenting that will help benefit our foundation. Second, heartfelt gratitude to Jessica and Derek Newman, who made it possible for ESF to merit a significant grant just as the New Year was upon us – what a perfect way to end 2023 and look to all that 2024 will bring!

Warmly,
Ellen Shane
Executive Director

FALL EVENTS

3 Heart Strings - September Fundraiser



Bree, Julia, Anna, and Rachel with ESF Executive Director Ellen Shane at a 3HS tabling event

For the third year, ESF presented a fundraiser during the month of September 2023 in collaboration with the nonprofit Three Heart Strings. Run by high school students, this charity creates and sells unique bracelets and other products for selected charitable causes. Each month, a different cause is supported. This year, 3HS included an ESF bracelet set and sticker sheet. The ESF items were available to purchase at both in-person tabling events and online. The bracelets are still available online on their website. All sales

will benefit ESF's SEA Program.

Please visit: <http://bit.ly/ESF3HS2023> to purchase!



Actor Jonathan Banks showing off his newly purchased 3HS bracelet

Crystallizing Success

On November 16, 2023, ESF presented our annual fall fundraiser, this year titled "Crystallizing Success" as it was held at Sorenity Rocks, a store that sells incredible crystals of all sizes, in addition to other items. We are so grateful to Lenise Soren of Sorenity Rocks, MALIBUGIVES, and Transformative Plays, as she so generously sponsored the event. Along with wine sponsors Sura, Malibu Soltice, Hoyt Family Vineyards, and Lenise's amazing team, the event was delightful for all who attended. The weather cooperated, and guests enjoyed selected wines, light bites, healing stations (such as sound and crystal healing), and an accompanying online silent auction. The evening featured beautiful harp music performed by Radha Botofasina.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who generously donated their talent and time to make Crystallizing Success a memorable evening. We would also like to thank our event sponsors and donors* for their valuable contributions and all who participated in our silent auction.



ESF Board Chair Michel Shane and Executive Director Ellen Shane with Lenise Soren of Sorenity Rocks



SEA Program mentor/tutor Kumari who spoke at Crystallizing Success



Lenise Soren of Sorenity Rocks



Crystallizing Success



Executive Director Ellen Shane with harpist Radha Botofasina

Shop and Heal at Sorenity Rocks

We are incredibly grateful to Lenise Soren for her unwavering support of our nonprofit charity. She came up with the idea to present a "Shop and Heal" event at Sorenity Rocks, which we thought was a lovely gift to our SEA Program. It was held on December 16, 2023. A percentage of all sales that day were generously donated to our SEA Program. The Reiki and other healing offerings were such a treat to all who stopped by the store. Lenise's steadfast belief in our mission and her efforts to support our work are greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing this partnership in 2024 and beyond!



Lenise Soren with Executive Director Ellen Shane and Board Chair Michel Shane



Shop and Heal Tabling

HIGHLIGHTING SEA PROGRAM STUDENTS



Nina, 8th grade, Westchester:

"Nina received an award at school for growth in reading and math. I am very proud that the school is recognizing her improvement."

- Jennifer, MT

Robert, 7th grade, Thousand Oaks

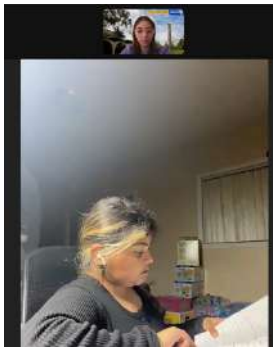
Robert was struggling to keep up with the coursework and often felt discouraged. However, with the help of his mentor/tutor Nevign, Robert has found the support he needs to succeed. Nevign has been working closely with Robert to help him understand difficult concepts and develop effective study habits. As a result, Robert is now feeling confident and prepared to take on the challenges that the rest of the school year will bring.



Ashley, 7th grade, Pico Rivera

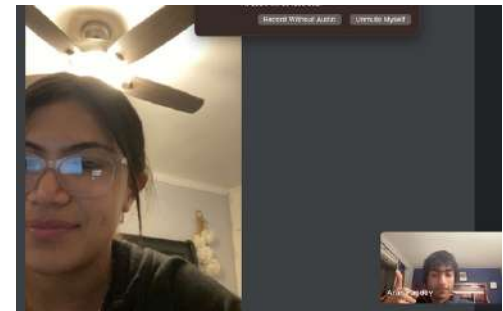
Ashley has improved in all core subjects, including science, math, and history, and feels prepared to finish the year strong! With the help of her mentor/tutor Karina, she has been able to stay on track and passed her math class for the first time in her middle school career, going from a D- to a C+ in just 2 weeks. "We got started late in the semester, but she has already shown great effort and attitude!"

-Karina, MT



Camila, 8th grade, Pico Rivera

Camila was struggling with failing grades and motivation to finish her school work. With the help of her mentor/tutor Aran, they have worked tirelessly to identify the root causes of her academic struggles. Aran has worked with Camila to develop a personalized study plan that focuses on building her confidence and improving her skills. Through dedication and perseverance, Camila has been able to turn her grades around in science, going from an F to a C+, and looks forward to 8th grade promotion.



Logan, 8th grade, Westchester

"The SEA Program is one of the best things that ever happened to me - my tutor (Kumari) helped me get my grades up in time last semester."

- Logan

Jose, 6th grade, South LA

Jose faced challenges with his grades and lacked motivation to pay attention in class. However, with the help of his mentor/tutor Colin, he improved his grades while gaining a better understanding of the concepts taught in class, especially in math. Jose's hard work with Colin has paid off, as he was able to go from an F to an A by the end of the fall semester! Colin and Jose share a close mentor-mentee relationship, and Colin has successfully helped build Jose's confidence in class.



Quotes

Our Site Liaisons Say...

Monique, School Counselor, STEAM @ Burke, Pico Rivera

"Thank you for mentoring and supporting our students! We are so grateful to collaborate with the SEA Program and truly see the impact on our students."

Markie Simmons, Club Director, The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Conejo Valley

"This is my third school year working with the SEA Program. The tutors that have come to my Boys and Girls Club have all been awesome and have cultivated a strong relationship with their students, making the students feel comfortable and excited to learn. All the parents of my students have been so happy with the results, and along with my staff, I have noticed a growth in confidence for these students. I look forward to many more years of partnership with the SEA Program!"

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 teacher pick up trash after class."

Joshua, 8th, Thousand Oaks

"I lent my friend a sweater because they were cold."

Logan, 8th, Westchester

"I helped my mom cook dinner - we made chicken breast and broccoli."

Zion, 6th, Malibu

"I helped my sister with her homework."

Marilee, 7th, Pico Rivera

"I helped clean the cafeteria."

Foundation Happenings

New Model of our SEA Program to Commence in Rosemead

A brand new model of our SEA Program is slated to commence this year. We will be hiring and training vetted high school students attending Bosco Tech, a STEM-based high school, to work as mentor/tutors. They will be supporting local middle schoolers who match up with our SEA Program participant profile and will volunteer to help them improve in math, along with other subjects of difficulty. Don Bosco Technical Institute was established in 1954, and we are proud to partner with this respected high school. The first middle school to be served by Bosco will be St. Gertrude the Great; talks are ongoing to add Epiphany Catholic School in South El Monte, too.



LAUSD MOU Renewal

We are happy to announce that our Memorandum Of Understanding with the Los Angeles School District (LAUSD) has been renewed for a five-year period. This enables our SEA Program to be brought to any middle school within the district. We currently operate at three; as Northridge Middle School is an LAUSD school, it will soon be four.

SEA Program Slated to Commence in Northridge in 2024

We are poised to bring our SEA Program to Northridge Middle School this school year. Our recent collaboration with CSUN, located close by, will allow us to source mentor/tutors to work with the students. Initial steps are now in the works, with the aim to start this school year.

Our MeWe Page: Up and Running

If you have not yet checked out the social media platform MeWe, we encourage you to do so! Our foundation now has a presence on MeWe. Click the link below to view it: <https://mewe.com/ellenshanefounda/feed> We welcome you to support ESF by "following" us on this platform, in addition to the others where we have a presence: X (Formally known as Twitter), Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

SEA PROGRAM STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



Erin Calder
Loyola Marymount University
The Emily Shane Foundation
Area Coordinator

"I have been working as an Area Coordinator for almost one year now! The position has offered me crucial management experience by overseeing the mentors and students at my school site, not to mention the chance to be part of a wonderful effort to help struggling students do their best. Seeing students reach their progress milestones is one of the most rewarding things!"



Peyton Cohane
Loyola Marymount University
The Emily Shane Foundation
Social Media

"I choose to work with The Emily Shane Foundation due to their strong mission and goals to help underprivileged students not only succeed in the classroom, but outside of it too. This is what makes the SEA Program so unique as students receive not only academic help, but also are provided with necessary mentorship."



Emma Cruz
University of Southern California
The Emily Shane Foundation
Mentor/Tutor

"As a mentor/tutor with The Emily Shane Foundation, I have learned how to teach with patience and utmost respect for a young student struggling. Teaching a young student and seeing how important it is to them to get better has been a humbling and rewarding experience. I have learned how to listen and make a plan of action to help my student learn and grow."

ESF Club President Announcement

Please join us in welcoming our new USC club president for this academic term, Maria Tirado! We thank Martina Prado, who served as club president and is currently studying abroad this year.



Maria Tirado
University of Southern California
The Emily Shane Foundation Club
President 2023-2024 School Year

Maria has dedicated her time and effort to The Emily Shane Foundation for more than two years. During her time as a member, she has served on the E-Board alongside the previous president Martina. After witnessing the foundation's impact firsthand, Maria has taken on the role of president with enthusiasm and a strong desire to make a difference. She is committed to seeing the foundation's mission fulfilled and believes that by expanding the club's reach on the USC campus, they can create an even greater impact.

ESF Community Partnerships

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:



Go into the Ralphs app.
Click on the "Rewards" section, then click "Community Contributions."
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!

MEMORIAL INSTALLATION AND DOCUMENTARY HONORS EMILY SHANE AND ALL PCH VICTIMS

A “Ghost” Tire Installation Unveiled at the Corner of PCH and Malibu

On November 19, World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victims, “ghost” tires were installed at the corner of Webb Way and PCH in Malibu. It will be in place for six months. The first tire was for Emily Shane, the namesake of our foundation, with 58 others representing those who have been killed on this stretch of highway in Malibu since Emily's death in April 2010. Sadly, since then, another tire has been added. The installation is meant as a warning to all who drive on PCH to drive safely and be cautious on this dangerous stretch of highway, which is also Malibu's “Main Street.”



Documentary Film: “21 Miles in Malibu”

Michel Shane, Board Chair of The Emily Shane Foundation, who is our foundation's namesake's father, produced this documentary film to highlight the impact of the dangers of Malibu's Pacific Coast Highway. The film has won a total of eight Film Festival awards. A screening at Santa Monica College on Thursday evening, January 18, quickly filled to capacity. Other screenings are being planned.



The Emily Shane Foundation - News Bites

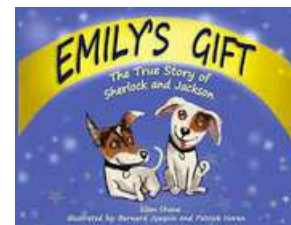
Great News! ESF Has Now Joined the Work/Study Program at USC

We are happy to be now a part of the work/study program at the University of Southern California, which is financially advantageous to our nonprofit charity. We currently have similar arrangements at other universities, including Loyola Marymount University, Pepperdine University, California Lutheran University, and California Institute of the Arts. We know this is a win-win for all involved!



Emily's Gift: Children's Book Partnership with Animal Rescue Nonprofit

Our foundation has partnered with the nonprofit Reducing Animal Stress. A copy of the children's book, “Emily's Gift The True Story of Sherlock and Jackson,” written by ESF Executive Director Ellen Shane, will be included in all adoption kits for all who adopt pets from this organization. The book is delightful and engaging - and a true story!



You can order a copy of Emily's Gift. It is available as an e-book, soft or hardcover, and all versions come in English and Spanish. **Please contact us at: info@emilyshane.org to place your order or for more information.**

All sales of this book help support our SEA Program.

Upcoming Events

Coming Soon:

Dine out at Zinqué Malibu and support ESF!

We appreciate Zinqué Malibu's desire to support local nonprofits. Look out for our messaging to announce an evening when anyone can join us in dining from 6- 8 pm, with a percentage of your bill donated to support ESF.



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WINGS OVER MALIBU 2024
SAVE THE DATE!
OUR ANNUAL GALA SPRING FUNDRAISER EVENT
WILL TAKE PLACE THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024
6-8:30 PM
Stay tuned for highlights and further information!

Slated to once again take place in The Ocean Room at Duke's Restaurant right over the water, Wings Over Malibu (WOM) will feature both live and silent auctions, curated wines, and much more! We look forward to you joining us for a delightful evening.

We are currently seeking event sponsors!

Please contact: info@emilyshane.org

Photos from WOM 2023



Live Auction



Malibu Middle School musicians performing under the direction of Maia Zander

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In Loving Memory



Emily Rose Shane

08/09/1996 - 04/03/2010

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

Please send an email to INFO@EMILYSHANE.ORG

or visit us at emilyshane.org



***List of Sponsors and Donors:**

A special thank you to:

Lenise Soren of Sorenity Rocks and her amazing team for presenting Crystallizing Success on November 16, 2023.

A thank you to:

Harpist - Radha Botofasina
Photographer - Nirav Solanki
Photographer - Suzy Demeter

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Geffen Playhouse
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Snowbird Ski Resort
South Coast Repertory
South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa
Spirit Cruises
Tahoe Donner Association
The Nail Spa at Malibu
The Op Games
The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation
Theatre Extras
Theatre Palisades
Theatre West
Twelve28
USS Midway Museum
Vitamin Barn
Wheel Fun Rentals
Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum