In 2010, thirteen-year-old Emily Rose Shane was killed by a suicidal driver on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. Our foundation exists to honor her memory.

# July 2015 Newsletter





## Summer is here!

Our final "End of School Year" celebrations were completed the first week of June. We are still waiting for some final grades to assess our SEA students' performance this year, but have results that will be profiled in this newsletter that we are proud to share.



End of School
Year Party at
Ocean View
Junior High. Our
SEA students
made a poster
thanking us!



HYDRONALIX, INC won a 2015 Tibbetts Award for the EMILY device

Based in Green Valley, Arizona, Hydronalix manufactures their flagship product, the EMILY, named in honor of Emily Rose Shane. The inventor of the EMILY is the father of one of Emily's dear friends. They met after her family moved to Malibu where both were in eighth grade. EMILY is a robotic lifeguard, and has already won numerous awards for its innovation. This device is used all over the world by fire departments, lifeguards and the Navy. Receiving one of the 2015 Tibbetts Awards has only added to the prestige of this product and furthers the accolades that this invention very much deserves. The Tibbetts Award is presented to small businesses and/or individuals judged to have a visible technological impact on the socio-economic front. EMILY has won numerous other awards including Invention of the Year by Popular Science (Security Category) in 2010 and 7<sup>th</sup> best Invention of the Year by Time Magazine in 2011.

# Highlights from the second half of the 2015 school year include:

SEA commenced in Pico Rivera at North Park Middle School! Under the direction of high school juniors Andrew Perez (junior at Loyola High School) and Justin Uribe (junior at El Rancho High School), we started a new model of SEA using highly ranked high school juniors and seniors as mentors. Justin and Andrew tackled the implementation requirements for SEA and with the involvement and support of Principal Priscilla Rodriguez, SEA began the week of April 20. We held orientations for the group of 12 SEA students, in addition to an introductory meeting for their parents/guardians. What is exceptional is that when first approached about this expansion, we originally declined the opportunity, as Ellen (SEA's president) was already overstretched with the oversight of the existing 9 SEA sites. She felt it would be impossible to manage an additional site, with all that this entailed. However, at their urging, Ellen guided both Andrew and Justin in outlining all necessary to implement SEA, and aside from the mentor interviewing and required trainings and student/parent orientations,

they took the reins to make it a reality. What is most impressive is both Andrew's and Justin's drive to bring SEA to their community. After seeing too many of their peers "head down the wrong path" and end up on the streets or choosing gangs and drugs as a way of life, they wanted to make a difference in the community they call home. Recognizing that middle school is a critical time to direct students towards academic success, and to "catch" those who are falling through the cracks or making poor choices, they were passionate about bringing SEA to Pico Rivera. This is a community where the percentage of those with a Bachelor's degree is 8% (National average is 28%); those with a high school diploma are 67% (National average is 81%). We applaud their efforts and will continue SEA at North Park Middle School next year and into the future. Principal Rodriguez wisely chose students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade to begin SEA. They will continue next school year with their same mentors, having established a rapport and comfort level to pick up and continue in the 2015-2016 school year.

## Our New Website is Up!

The Foundation's new website has many new features, including the long awaited ability to enter all good deeds from any mobile device. Mentors can now immediately help students post their required good deed per mentoring session from their cell phones or ipads. Visitors to the site can now view posts recognizing

student successes, view videos, etc. Check out the new "Friends of the Emily Shane Foundation" which allows for donations to be made at any level of giving, with levels being identified by types of butterflies (our Foundation's symbol). If you have not yet visited, please do: emilyshane.org. Please join us in posting our good deeds!



Alanna Quinn
(mentor and
Area
Coordinator
for
Westchester)
wrote a
beautiful thank
you note to
Ellen for how
appreciative
she was to
work for such
an amazing
cause.

#### Successes!

We could highlight many successes; from students like Bryan from John Adams Middle School, who with the help of his mentor Kate, went from mostly F's to A's and B's, to Angel and Keven at Global Education Academy in South Los Angeles who were named to the Principal's Honor Roll. We commend Vanessa and Maria at Ocean View Junior High in Oxnard, who are now promoted and about to start high school. Vanessa worked with mentor Mayra and improved greatly in math, where she was struggling. In Malibu, Josue also promoted and credits SEA with helping him obtain the skills and habits he needed to succeed.

Statistically, more than 85% of SEA students' grades improved. Ocean View Junior High in Oxnard, showed a major increase from grades of F's, D's, and C's to B's - 37% to 54%, wow! At Global Education Academy in South LA, there was a significant increase in the 2.5-3.0 GPA range (5% to 21%), which reflect C+'s and B's. In Pico Rivera, where SEA started towards the end of the school year, most students were struggling and averaging F's. With their mentors' help, there was a decrease of F's by 13% and an increase from 12% to 25% of D's. They are moving in the right direction!

Here are some quotes from SEA students, mentors and parents:

Laci at North Park Middle School: "SEA has improved my grades, encouraged me and taught me responsibility."

#### Expansion to Westchester

A chance meeting of Westchester YMCA Board member Wesley Nutten and Ellen Shane at an event led to SEA serving seven students from Orville Wright STEAM Magnet Middle School at the Westchester YMCA. This is a new model for SEA and it proved to be extremely successful. It took over a year to navigate all the necessary paperwork and set up the implementation at the Y. Utilizing students from nearby Loyola Marymount University as mentors, SEA had its own designated room at the Y on Mondays and Wednesdays for one hour after school. We are grateful to Liz Odabashian, who was the Director of Development at the Westchester YMCA, for helping cross the many hurdles necessary to make SEA a reality for these needy students.



Vanessa (left) and Maria (right) Ocean View's 8th grade

Vanessa at Ocean View: "I feel like my mentor is part of my family. They helped me understand the little problems in life and homework."

Malik from Wright STEAM Magnet: "I got more confident."

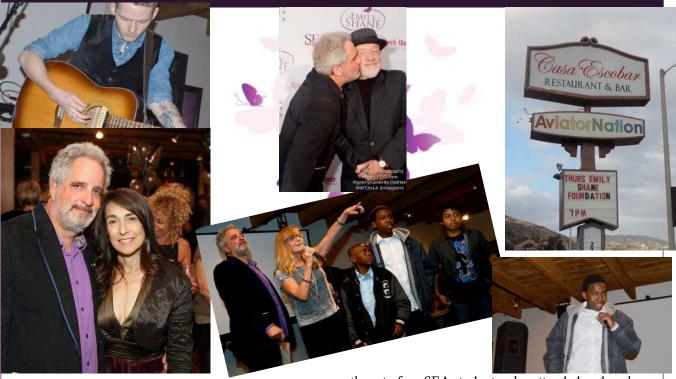
Angel from GEA in South LA: "It affected me by doing great in my homework, grades, and studying. I got A's on mostly every subject. I was surprised. I thought it was impossible for me to do it."

Jalen Smith from St. Anne's School: "My mentor is really nice, she taught me how to learn my way and make good friends. My grades went from all Fs to all Bs. I am no longer shy, I have better study habits and better penmanship."

Manuel at Rio Del Vallee, Oxnard: "SEA helped me with my homework and to get good grades. I improved in math from a C+ to a B+."

# Our First Evening Gala Fundraiser!

Café Escobar, Malibu | May 7th, 2015



Close to 200 supporters for SEA attended our "Stars and Sea" Gala Evening Fundraiser. It was a great success and we thank all who both came and contributed to our SEA Program. This was our first evening event, and we will definitely make this our new tradition. Much gratitude to our fabulous committee – they are a terrific group of women who put in so much effort to make the evening special. They are: Kathy Landmann, Jana Blake, Mary Garrison, Lisa Ellis, Simone Felker, Sharone Karsh, and Libby Jacobson.

Much gratitude to our MC for the event, film and television star Jonathan Banks. He did a terrific job!

We are so appreciative of our sponsors: Malibu Family Wines donated all the wine for the evening, and Rock Your Hair provided products and the gift bags. Local merchant Beauty Collection also donated gift bags and products.

In addition, we want to acknowledge all those who generously contributed to our silent auction. A special mention goes to Laureen and Greg Sills, who donated 4 tickets to the upcoming Teen Choice Awards. Laureen came up with the great idea of having guests at the event bid on the tickets and give

them to four SEA students who attended and spoke at the event. These students are so excited to have this amazing opportunity. We appreciate all the students who came to share their stories of success with SEA.

Special thanks go to Michael O'Neill for providing all the sound equipment, to Taylor Phelan for donating his musical talent, and to comedian Mike Marino for entertaining us.

#### Pictures:

Top Left: Singer/Musician, Taylor Phelan who donated his time to perform.

Bottom Left: Ellen and Michel.

Top Right: Sign for the event at Café Escobar.

Bottom Right: SEA student, Durron from St Anne School who spoke at the event.

Middle Top : Michel Shane with event MC Jonathan Banks

Middle Bottom: Laureen announcing 4 students will attend the Teen Choice Awards.

# Thank you, thank you!

Sharone Karsh held a Trunk Show/Party at her home on Saturday May 9, and all vendors donated 20% of their sales to the Emily Shane Foundation. We are so grateful to Sharone and all those who attended to support us, in addition to the vendors who participated.

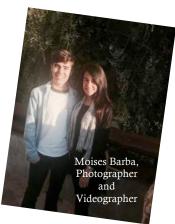
Sharone is a dynamo and a treasured supporter of our cause.





Special thanks to Libby, for all she does for SEA. Despite being on sabbatical to pursue her second masters degree at USC, Libby helps out in many ways whenever she can. She is pictured here with Ellen and SEA participant Karina at Rio Del Vallee Junior High School in Oxnard.

Ellen with Moises, a Pepperdine film student, who spent countless hours taking photos and filming/editing video for SEA this year. He will be away this coming school year to study abroad. We will miss him and wish him a great experience and success in the year ahead.





Pico Rivera Area Coordinators Justin and Andrew, Ellen, and Principal Rodriguez at North Park Middle School.

Stephanie (Area Coordinator for South Los Angeles for the 2014-15 School Year), Ellen and Vivek (volunteer mentor who





Ellen with summer intern Kylee, who is proving invaluable in helping with all that needs to be done for SEA over the course of the summer months. We are so lucky to have her!! Kylee is a Pepperdine student studying business administration and is president of her chapter of Delta Delta Delta Sorority. 5

### Looking Ahead......

We have already begun preparing for the next academic school year. We are in the process of hiring new Area Coordinators in many communities. Stephanie (South LA) is off to grad school; Mike (Santa Monica) moved back to his home state of Florida, Claudia (Oxnard) wants to return to SEA to continue mentoring but needs to step back from overseeing all three sites in Oxnard as she will be pursuing her master's degree. Marji (Malibu) left us in January to put her emphasis and time into a family business.

We'll introduce you to our new AC's in the fall. Interviewing is ongoing at this time.

If you are interested in mentoring or working as an area coordinator, please email ellen@emilyshane.org.

We are always open to feedback and would love to hear from you. You can reach us at: info@emilyshane.org

Have a great summer! We look forward to SEA in the 2015-2016 school year.

Please follow us on our social media platforms:



https://www.youtube.com/c hannel/UCG1ma2mRx4kh-GXOgqsD3aw



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http://esfoundati on.tumblr.com



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# Live 🐩 Laugh 🐩 Love 🐩







In loving memory of Emily Shane

August 9th 1996 - Apríl 3rd 2010





Wishing everyone a great summer! Ellen