

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.

# February 2015 Newsletter

Winter Edition



The 2014-2015 school year is in full swing! This year to date, we are operating SEA at 7 schools across 4 different areas of Los Angeles. Three in Oxnard, one in Malibu, two in Santa Monica, and one in South Los Angeles. Our mentors are currently working with 71 children

The SEA Program starts every year with Mentor Trainings and Student Orientations. We ensure our mentors are well prepared to work with their students. All SEA Program participants learn about Emily, how doing poorly in school is not related to intelligence, and that with the right support, results can be improved. In addition, they learn about responsibility, not only for their school work, but in showing up for their mentoring sessions and ensuring they perform and post their good deeds for every mentoring session.



Student orientation at Rio Vista Middle School in Oxnard

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As I write this, we are feverishly working on our new website. We have the structure in place, and are busy loading content. One of the most anticipated new features will be the ability to enter good deeds from any mobile device. Currently, this can only be done on a laptop. It will make it much easier for our SEA mentors and their students. Remember that anyone can post good deeds!

# Our Area Coordinators

Each SEA Area Coordinator manage the school sites that fall within their geographic area. Their responsibilities include everything from scheduling, to conducting new student orientations for students who join SEA

later in the

## **Oxnard: Claudia Rodriguez**

Claudia is a graduate of CSUCI and wants to pursue her master's degree. She was a SEA mentor last year and is continuing this year, while also overseeing the three school sites in Oxnard. She pays attention to detail and is doing an amazing job.



Claudia serving burritos at the SEA Ocean View Holiday party.

## **Santa Monica: Mike Wassef**

Mike is a talented musician, playing guitar and singing with his band named Later Days. He hails from Florida and has been doing charity work for a lengthy time. He manages our two sites in Santa Monica, and since he is a "cool" musician, he easily builds instant rapport with SEA students.



Mike with Ellen at JAMS student orientation.

Mike has a special place in his heart for SEA as he knew Emily.

## **Malibu: Marji Boething**

Marji is an accountant for a family business and is currently volunteering her time by managing SEA in Malibu this year. She balances both with exceptional attention to detail and has truly bonded with her SEA students. We are so lucky to have her helping out this year.



Marji with Ellen

## **South Los Angeles: Stephanie Lopez**

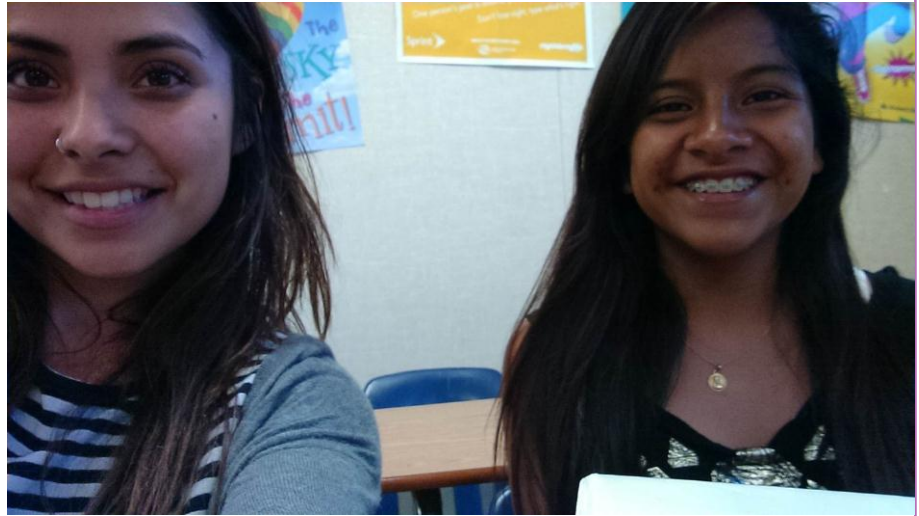
Stephanie is a graduate of California State University, Long Beach. She majored in psychology and minored in Spanish. She has been working at our school site in South Los Angeles (Global Education Academy Middle School) since October 2013 and joined SEA this year. She is mentoring 5 students, in addition to her area coordinator responsibilities and is doing an



Stephanie with Ellen

# Success Stories

**When Maria started working with Alexis...** she had a 2 in math. At times, Maria just could not face doing math, and she would take a “time out” for a walk and fresh air. After that, she would be ready to continue. Alexis discovered that using a white board was more effective for Maria



than working with a pencil and paper. She was able to see her work and the steps that she needed to follow more clearly. Maria was able to transfer the outlined steps on the board to solve questions on her tests. She has now improved from a 2 to a 4, with the highest possible mark being a 5. Maria is fairing well in all of her other subjects, with grades of 4s and 5s. She now turns all of her assignments in on time and comes well prepared for her mentoring sessions. One day, Maria was saddened and was able to share with Alexis the cause of her unhappiness. The role of a SEA mentor is academic, but taking out time to discuss problems is important. Mentors function as someone to trust and confide in. At the beginning of their first session together, Maria was a bit shy. However, this quickly dissolved and by the end of the session, she exclaimed to Alexis, “I didn’t think you were this cool!”

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## **Mary-Kate on her experience working with Keven . . .**

“I have been working with Keven for a full semester now. And yes sometimes it is hard to leave my campus and my schoolwork and bike down to Global Education Middle School in the middle of a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon but every, single time I bike back home with a smile on my face and goodness in my heart. Helping Keven with his homework may seem like a mundane task to an outsider but it has been one of the most meaningful experiences in my life. I can see him improve every session, in every subject. If he knows 3 steps in a 20-step problem on Tuesday and he knows 4 steps in the 20-step problem on Thursday, that’s still an incredible improvement. Suddenly, I can see how learning, growing, and attaining information can transform a student and I can see how teaching, guiding, and being present for a student can transform myself. Keven has consistently showed me that



he is willing to work hard, take on challenges, and overcome learning difficulties.”



## Success Stories Continued

Bryan came to Kate with three D's and one F (in science). She truly went the extra mile in contacting his parents and teachers. Kate discovered that one of Bryan's main issues was in language arts - specifically with reading and vocabulary. She brought him a young adult book (The Odyssey) and had him read every night. His dad made sure he

followed through with this. She patiently helped him with his reading and writing skills, in addition to his other subjects. Under her guidance, he turned in all missing assignments. His grades began to improve. Bryan now has all C's, except for that one F in science. The school year is not over! Kate will help Bryan bring that mark up too! Under her guidance, Bryan has improved so much - and in

addition, she has reported that he is now proud when he obtains good marks.



### Introducing Our New Social Media Intern

Paige Prevost (pictured left with Ellen) is managing our exposure in the online media world. Check out our twitter! Paige is a freshman at Loyola Marymount University.

**THANK YOU  
MALIBU KIWANIS!!!**

We were delighted to receive a generous donation of \$10,000 from the Malibu Kiwanis, presented to us at the Annual Chili Cook-off in Malibu over the Labor Day weekend. We are grateful to all the Kiwanis, including the amazing John Payola.



# Special Mentions

Thank you to **Marji Boething**, our Malibu Area Coordinator, for creating and distributing certificates of merit to all SEA students for their individual achievements at our

December party. In addition, Marji generously provided almost all of the food for the Malibu and Oxnard Ocean View SEA Holiday parties.



We also want to acknowledge **Andrea Massion**, who has offered to volunteer and help manage SEA's new venture at E.O Green Junior

High in Oxnard, which is in the planning stages.

Andrea Massion

# Looking Ahead

- \* We are close to commencing in Westchester! Thanks to a chance meeting with Wesley Nutten , a YMCA board member, SEA has plans to begin at that Y, serving middle school students from Orville STEAM Magnet. This should begin in early February 2015. Nutten saw a perfect fit with the Y's desire to reach this age population and a true commitment to serving the community in which the Y is located. The school is down the block from the facilities. We are fortunate enough to source well qualified and passionate mentors through the work/study program at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) to serve this site. We are honored to be a community partner with this very prestigious university.
- \* We are in the process of planning our annual spring fundraiser. Look for a "Save the Date" in your inbox soon! We hope you'll join us for a very special experience, as we evolve from our usual afternoon tea to a gala evening event. More details soon!
- \* Looking for chances to assist?
  - o Opportunities include: volunteers to help students behind grade level with reading in various areas, sponsors for our meetings/parties (approx. \$100 - 150 per site), help at events (checking in guests, clean up), and suggesting speakers or events that may appeal to SEA students. Please contact me at [ellen@emilyshane.org](mailto:ellen@emilyshane.org)

## VOTE TO HELP US RECEIVE A \$10,000 DONATION!

FROM FEBRUARY 10 - MARCH 5 2015 ONLY

Vote for The Emily Shane Foundation

The nonprofit with the most votes wins

Click the link below ON OR AFTER February 10!

If you vote outside of the indicated dates your vote will NOT count.

<http://causes.kindsnacks.com/cause/the-emily-shane-foundation/>



Please share the link with any  
friends and family  
to support our efforts!  
Thank you!



Wishing everyone a great  
second half of the school year!!!  
Ellen

Live 🦋 Laugh 🦋 Love



EMILY 🦋 SHANE

PASS IT FORWARD

*In loving memory of Emily Shane  
August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1996 - April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010*

