

## MISSION

To help elementary-school children enhance their academic, organizational and social skills by providing high-quality after-school programs in Claremont Unified School District neighborhoods.

## Students Helping Students

At CLASP, we not only bring students together from Claremont's elementary schools, we bring tutors together from around the world, across schools and across disciplines. By mid-October we had already signed up 56 college tutors. Here are four of them, from diverse backgrounds with diverse goals, who share the joy of tutoring our learners.

### Ryan McHenry and Nuritza wrap up a current-events project



Ryan, a senior from Tucson at the University of La Verne, is majoring in criminology with an eye toward detective work with the police or FBI. To fulfill a graduation requirement in community service, last fall he tutored at CLASP through a course taught by our program director, Jan Creasey. Although as a child Ryan had been tutored in an after-school program similar to CLASP, doing the tutoring was new to him, and he loved it. He's back again this year.



### Isaiah Bresnihan and Zach play chess after finishing homework

Born in Kobe, Japan, Isaiah tutored at CLASP both last fall and this fall through the federal work-study program at Harvey Mudd College, where he plans to major in math or computer science. Along with a demanding course load, he's juggling three additional tutoring projects—at Upward Bound and Claremont High School and on Harvey Mudd's Homework Hotline.



### Sage Wiltse and Jeremiah practice addition

Sage, from Portland, and Bo, from Baltimore, are Pitzer students earning community-service credits in their Child Development course. Both are science majors with plans to enter the medical field. Sage envisions her future as a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant, working with infants and children. Bo plans to become a pediatrician like her mother. In summers they team up to help children with special needs in Honduras.



### Bo Brand and Alexandra practice subtraction

The four students agree that the greatest reward of tutoring is forming strong relationships with the kids while helping them learn and grow and celebrating their progress. Bo gives an example of a second grader she tutors at Good Shepherd: "When I first met her, she would say, 'I'm so stupid. I can't read.' Today she read four books. She doesn't say she's stupid any more."

Bev and Alan Jack



Beverly and Alan Jack followed very different career paths, yet retirement finds them both at Blaisdell Park, where they have tutored for the past six years. Bev spent 25 years as a special-education teacher at Claremont High, while Alan first served as the chief radiology administrator for Pomona Valley Hospital, eventually retiring from GE as the vascular sales manager for GE Health.

Bev's friend Carole Harter urged her to consider tutoring at CLASP. Bev said yes, having discovered after retirement the joy of working with young children as a special-education liaison for elementary schools. As for Alan, he said "Bev asked me to try it, and it was a fit." He loved the spontaneity of never knowing what the kids might come up with. Alan uses a creative approach to get to know his kids, often beginning a drawing with a few lines and having the student finish it.

For both tutors, the one-on-one relationship is their greatest reward. "I see the light in their eyes when they realize they get it," said Bev. Alan always asks, "Did I help you today?" For him the "payback" from the kids is the most gratifying part.

Bev and Alan expressed hope that their students will develop self-confidence as well as "good study habits and organizational skills, not only to operate independently, but also to learn that it is okay to ask for help."

CLASP Annual Party Honors Students Helping Students

In the late afternoon of November 12, 200 guests gathered to celebrate CLASP at the home of Devorah Lieberman, President of University of La Verne, and Roger Auerbach. Student tutors from Claremont High School, The Webb Schools, University of La Verne and the Claremont Colleges were the honored guests of this special event.

While guests mingled, the talented Jazz Trio of Pomona College provided music. Congresswoman Judy Chu spoke, addressing the importance of the CLASP-community partnership for our students.



Congresswoman Judy Chu (third from right) is joined by Bridget Healy (left) and student tutors.



Jim Keith's "Extra Credit" award.

Naseem Nazari, former tutor from the CHS Interact Club and current CMC student, talked about her experience as a CLASP tutor and board member. CVA's Site Supervisor Jim Keith was given an award for his tireless efforts as Tutor Coordinator. The program culminated in a wine drawing which was won by Susan Lominska.

Kudos go to party co-chairs and CLASP board members Nancy Ambrose and Cindy Sullivan for organizing this wonderful event. Thanks also to volunteer caterers Robin Leonhard and Karen Rosenthal, who donated the elegant hors d'oeuvres, with assistance from Sam Mowbray; to the Fairplex for contributing the wine; to the 58 generous sponsors (see the list below) and to all supporters who contributed to another successful kickoff to the CLASP school year.

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As I review our accomplishments this fall, I am thankful that we have many, many caring individuals supporting CLASP. We provide critical help to Claremont elementary-school students who need a

tutor's guidance to step forward on the path of learning, to be exposed to new books and ideas, and to discover multiple ways of seeing and exploring the world around them. This is no easy task, but it is immensely gratifying to see positive accomplishments each day.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as board president of CLASP again this year. Just walk into any of our five centers, and you

will see tutors working with children in caring relationships that make learning come alive.

At our annual Celebrate CLASP party in November, we recognized the special accomplishments of our high-school and college tutors with the theme "Students Helping Students."

Thank you to each of you who gives your time, money and caring to CLASP. We are making a true difference in the lives of our kids. Thanks to our incredible staff, energetic tutors, dedicated board and committee members, and generous donors and supporters. All of you make CLASP happen, and our kids and community are better for it.

Greg Shapton

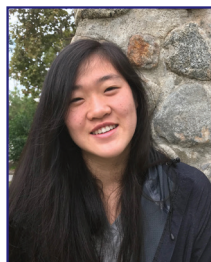
## Teen Leaders Embrace CLASP

Time is a valuable commodity for busy high school students, but CLASP has a way of drawing in even the most over-committed among them.



**Metzli Montero**, a Claremont High School senior, recalls that she first sought out CLASP to fulfill an Interact

Club volunteer requirement, which one tutoring session would accomplish. "I didn't initially consider tutoring because I was worried that I wouldn't have time to incorporate it into my already busy schedule," she said, "but it's funny, because now my schedule revolves around CLASP!" Metzli stayed on to volunteer at CLASP's summer camp that year and the next, and also serves as a student member of CLASP's board of directors.



**Sarah Liu**, a tutor for over two years and now a board member, feels that her youth gives her an advantage in empathizing

with the students she tutors. "I know what the kids are struggling with, including their boredom with homework. I have been through all these things before, which allows me to help the kids improve not only with their schoolwork, but also in their mindset."

Senior **Emily Marks** always wanted to be more involved with CLASP, but hasn't been able to serve as a tutor due to other commitments, so she signed up to chair this year's annual



Interact Club fundraiser benefiting CLASP. "I thought that chairing the fundraiser would be the perfect way for me to show my support for the organization," she said. "I think it's very important for students to take on roles that help all people around them, especially their peers."

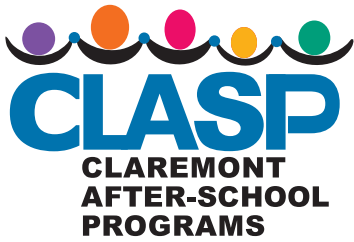
## Valerie



A third-grade student at Sumner Danbury School, Valerie has attended Good Shepherd for tutoring and recreation since first grade. "I like to have fun with math and numbers," Valerie said, "and I want to be a math teacher some day."

"Doing homework alone, you are on your own," Valerie said. She enjoys working with her tutors because "they ask questions, talk to me, and make me think," and with their guidance, she can often come up with the answers herself.

Valerie finds that she almost always has enough time to complete her homework with her tutors, leaving her lots of time at home to play with her dogs and "be free!" Her favorite time at CLASP is recreation, especially when coloring and art are involved. CLASP is an important part of Valerie's day because "tutors can help you, give you snacks, books to read, and you can play outside."



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## Tutoring Sites

Volunteer tutors are welcome to join CLASP throughout the school year. Students may enroll at any time if space is available.

### Blaisdell Park Community Center

440 S. College Avenue  
Mon., Thurs. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.  
Grades 3 – 6

### Claremont Presbyterian Church

1111 N. Mountain Avenue  
Mon., Tues., Thurs. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Grades 4 – 6

### Claremont Village Apartments

965 W. Arrow Highway  
Tues., Wed., Thurs. 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.  
Grades 1 – 6

### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

1700 N. Towne Avenue  
Mon., Tues. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Grades K – 3

### Wheeler Park Recreation Center

626 Vista Drive  
Mon., Tues., Thurs. 2:35 – 4:35 p.m.  
Grades 1 – 3

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### Program Director

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(909) 204-0127  
[clasp.office@gmail.com](mailto:clasp.office@gmail.com)

### Tutor Coordinator

Marit Warren  
(909) 450-1079  
[office@clasp4kids.org](mailto:office@clasp4kids.org)

### Office Assistant

Sandy Fenton  
(909) 736-7457  
[clasp.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:clasp.assistant@gmail.com)

### Ways to support CLASP

- Tutor
- Provide financial assistance
- Donate supplies
- Serve on a committee

[www.clasp4kids.org](http://www.clasp4kids.org)

(909) 204-0127

Please join us to help CLASP kids!