

**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.

**CLASP Paves the Way To Student Success**



**Jonathan Levario**

Jonathan Levario, an engaging 7th grader at El Roble Intermediate, attended tutoring at Blaisdell Park for three years. Jonathan remembers his tutor, Alan Jack, well: “Whenever we worked together on math, which was the hardest subject for me, he would give me an example problem and he made sure there were breaks after each assignment.”

He enjoyed the one-on-one relationship with his tutor. “You accomplished more because you weren’t distracted by other students; you were with your tutor. My tutors were friendly and helpful.” After about three months, Jonathan noticed that he was less nervous and more comfortable taking a test. “Math was the hardest, he said, and that is where I made the most progress.”

Jonathan found the transition to middle school easy. “I felt like I was ahead and self-confident., he said.” Now, as a poised and successful student, he is thinking even beyond high school to college, he hopes to become—you guessed it—a mathematician.

Sydney Martinez, a current junior at Claremont High, has had a strong relationship with CLASP, having been tutored at the Claremont Presbyterian Church site from 2nd through 6th grade. She is now a tutor herself. “In the beginning, I wasn’t enthusiastic about going to tutoring after school, but after I developed a bond with my tutors, my attitude changed.” She particularly remembers the bond she formed



**Sydney Martinez**

with her 4th grade tutor: “I felt more comfortable asking questions. She was kind and genuine.”

Sydney noted that, over time, she made the greatest improvement in her math skills. “My grades were much improved. I ended up among the top of my class in math.” She describes herself as a shy young girl. “CLASP helped me develop conversational skills, especially with adults.” Currently Sydney is making a difference as a tutor at Wheeler Park. “Giving back after experiencing it myself, I felt I could improve students’ attitude toward learning, as well as their performance.”

Equipped with strong math skills and quite a few coding classes, Sydney plans to study computer science in college. She is an active member of the CHS theater program, something that shy little 2nd grader would find amazing.

Alex Serrano, who has completed his general education requirements at Citrus College, is headed for Cal Poly in the fall. He greets his interviewer with a strong handshake, then reminisces about his two years at Claremont Village Apartments. “CLASP gave me a space to complete my homework and interact with other kids.”



**Alex Serrano**

Spanish was Alex’s first language, and he struggled with English grammar. He says “My tutor gave me an extra push to become a better writer. “I remember that Jim [Keith] was on me to get organized, clean out my backpack, and put things where I could remember them.”

Those organizational skills helped him make the transition to middle and high school.

Alex tutored others at CLASP during high school and college. “I enjoyed giving back,” he said.

He currently enjoys his work in the after-school program at Condit Elementary, helping students with homework and guiding them in activities like improvisation. Alex looks forward to completing a degree in education, and becoming a teacher. “I enjoyed my time at CLASP because it helped me become a more positive person, ...and a more confident student.”

### Laura Bouamrane



Laura joined CLASP about nine years ago, when Charlene Martin recruited her. Her involvement soon became a family affair. Her aunt, Betsey Coffman, had already been tutoring; and Betsy recruited her mother, Marjorie Bray.

A Claremont native, Laura has developed a keen interest in people, places and politics. She has visited over 20 countries, advised international students at Cal Poly Pomona, and is currently earning a Ph.D. in comparative politics at Claremont Graduate University.

At the Claremont Village Apartments center, Laura loves the opportunity to work with students from diverse cultures. She found it heartwarming to watch a young girl patiently translate homework for a recently arrived fellow student from Vietnam. "The kids work together and help each other," she says. "It's very positive and productive."

She is impressed by the children's passions, like the Afghan fourth-grader who's hooked on Harry Potter books and precisely mimics Harry's British accent from the movies. Laura has tutored long enough to see her students grow up, move on to high school and college, and return—to tutor, to pick up their younger sisters and brothers, or just to say hello.

After all these years, Laura enthusiastically endorses CLASP. "It's very rewarding. You feel you've made a contribution. And you're with a diverse group of people who are focused on the same goal—student success."

## University Club Values CLASP

Thanks to a happy coincidence, The University Club of Claremont has become one of CLASP's most loyal benefactors. In fact, this partnership began a decade before CLASP was formed.

In 1995-1996 Richard S. (Dick) Kirkendall and Graydon (Gray) Bell joined forces as co-chairs of the University Club's Scholarship and Grants Committee. Both had dedicated their lives to education. Dick had been superintendent of the Claremont Unified School District and Gray had been chair of the physics department at Harvey Mudd College. That year, in response to the top need identified in Claremont's first Youth Master Plan, two after-school academic-support programs for elementary students in CUSD opened their doors: Claremont Tutorial

Centers and the Youth Wellness Center. Dick and Gray immediately recognized the need to support them through the University Club.

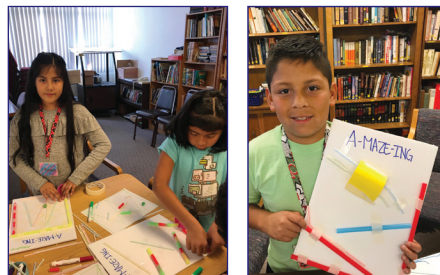
By 2005, theirs were two voices among others successfully urging the two programs to merge. The result was CLASP. The University Club has generously donated to CLASP and its predecessors every year since the mid 1990s.

Although Gray passed away in 2010, Dick continues to serve on the Club's Grants Committee. Asked why he has so faithfully supported CLASP, he said:

"It's a natural part of what we should be doing, and I'm personally invested in it. It's a tremendous way to bring the community into doing these things. Not many communities have this kind of commitment."

## Enriching Activities Open Doors For Students

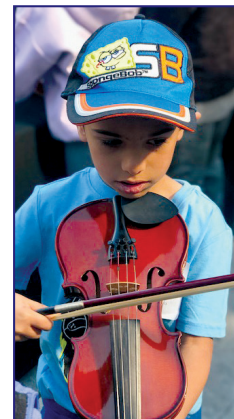
### SCIENCE



CLASP 4th, 5th, and 6th graders learned to think through the engineering process: inquiring, brainstorming, designing, building, testing, and most importantly, improving their designs. Instead of using straws, the older students used foil, cardboard tubes, and tongue depressors to build a track for their marbles. Who knew that learning the fundamentals of engineering could inspire such a fun and engaging activity?

What do you need to become a mechanical engineer? CLASP students discovered that physics, math, and technology are all crucial for successful engineering during the annual Engineering for Kids visit. Their motto is "building a passion for engineering."

Through a project called "Amazing Race," 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders identified and used gravity, acceleration, and inclined planes to design a maze made of straws. Concentrating hard, the students used each straw at a different incline to test how the inclines' angles affected the descent of their marbles, and to see how quickly their marbles could land with a resounding "plop" in the cup at the finish line. Delighted shouts confirmed the success of their ingenious designs.







We have come to the end of a very successful 13th year for CLASP. We provided 7,980 hours of tutoring for 154 elementary school students. How did we do this? We had 266 community, high school, and college tutors.

Through their generous donation of time, knowledge, and encouragement, these tutors have made a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and in the quality of our community.

Our program director, Jan Creasey, once again has provided great leadership and direction to CLASP, making everything run smoothly with the help of office assistant, Sandy Fenton. Barbara Garcia

has come on board this year to assist us with grant writing, in order to bring even greater financial stability to CLASP. We have creative and strong site supervisors and recreation leaders at each site, making certain that both our kids and their tutors have had successful days together.

Our board and committee members, all volunteers, have worked tirelessly to continuously improve CLASP, offering solutions to problems when they arise, and providing support.

I thank all of you who have played a part in CLASP this year. You make CLASP what it is: the critical community-based organization that helps kids succeed!

Greg Shapton

## Nadia



### NADIA

Vista del Valle School, 6th Grade  
Blaisdell Park Center

Someday, she dreams, she may become a detective, or a designer; the possibilities are endless. Meanwhile, Nadia is cultivating her strengths. As site supervisor Cheryl Palmer-Bird says, "She is really soaring academically, is a prolific reader and a budding artist." Tutor Bev Jack confirms it: "She's a reader!" She's flying through Rick Riordan's fantasy series based on Greek mythology and she's fascinated by the World War II Nazi code-breaker, Alan Turing.

As Nadia says, "There are sad things in life, and reading takes them away." So does art. Last summer she saw friends drawing "cartoonish people" and jumped in. She took up piano lessons and photography. Living in an extended family from Thailand, Nadia loves to photograph the herbs and roses in her grandmother's garden.

At CLASP, Nadia says, "I appreciate the tutors. They don't get paid—I really admire that." She values the help they give her, especially with math, where a simple explanation clarifies what was confusing in class. She also admires the other kids and learns from them.

Nadia looks forward to new opportunities at El Roble. "I want to start completely differently," she says. "I want to be a sports manager. And I want to be a bit louder. People see me as quiet, but when I'm with someone I'm comfortable with, I'm loud!"



## ART

The Sawdust Factory, located in Upland, is a storefront offering woodcraft painting and decorating projects for



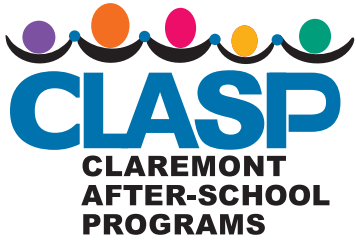
children. Two staff members from the Factory visited all five tutoring sites for the first time this spring, bringing armfuls of paints, brushes, aprons and stamps.

The children chose from among six appealing wooden objects, such as a notepad holder, frame, or treat box. First, they painted the wood, then proceeded to the "costuming" station to add different colored sponge-stamp shapes to their projects. Finally, they reached the "assembly" station, where staff members helped them glue and assemble their personally designed wood structures, and add buttons and bows. The kids were delighted to take home their completed masterpieces.

## MUSIC

"Wing on Wing" was the theme of this year's LA Philharmonic Toyota Symphonies for Youth at Disney Hall, attended by 42 CLASP students and adults on February 24th. Students wandered through the "instrument petting zoo," eager to touch and try out the musical instruments.

The stirring concert followed the story of Essa-Pekka Salonen's quest to design his own music, inspired by the concert hall itself and its architect, Frank Gehry. Visiting the Disney Concert Hall was an event in itself. Experiencing a concert, along with "hands on" art and music, was very special indeed



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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

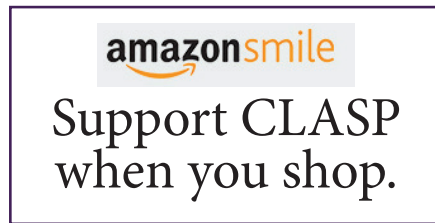
965 W. Arrow Highway  
Tues., Wed., Thurs. 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.  
Grades 1 – 6

### 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



## BOARD

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<b>Program Director</b> Jan Creasey (909) 204-0127 clasp.office@gmail.com	<b>Tutor Coordinator</b> (909) 450-1079 office@clasp4kids.org	<b>Office Assistant</b> Sandy Fenton (909) 736-7457 clasp.assistant@gmail.com
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**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!