

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.

Meet CLASP's New Program Director

It is a great pleasure to introduce **Cristina Antonioli**, CLASP's new Program Director.



Cristina and Chris

Cristina was born and raised in Detroit, MI. She and her husband, **Chris**, spent their lives in Michigan until a career opportunity for Chris moved them to Claremont.

When Cristina saw the ad for CLASP's Program Director in the Courier, she submitted her application and resume. She had been teaching both in person and online since arriving in Claremont. She said, "I knew I wanted to stay in education and work with at-risk students, but I didn't necessarily want to teach in a classroom. I knew I wanted to get back in the trenches, but I wasn't sure what that looked like." As you'll read below, her educational background and experience made her an easy first choice for the Program Director position.

Cristina graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and worked for a consulting firm and computer graphics company before going back to school to earn an MA in Teaching. She enjoyed 25 amazing years teaching mathematics. During that time she worked extensively with at-risk students and developed a real passion for helping them reach their fullest potential.

Cristina's husband, Chris, works with Lewis Management Company, and their daughter, Wobi, is a junior at CHS. Dylan, Chris's son, recently moved to Claremont from Arizona. The family dog, Honey, completes the new Claremont family.

Cristina's many interests include playing pickleball, exercising, cooking, listening to music, reading, travelling, and entertaining.

When asked what she was looking forward to as CLASP's Program Director, Cristina replied, "I am looking forward to becoming a more active and contributing member of the Claremont community. I love working with young people and the young-at-heart. I hope I can really make a difference."

We are pleased to report that she has made a wonderful contribution and difference already!



Thanksgiving Cookie Decorating Project

Cristina Antonioli brought cookie decorating kits from Trader Joe's for the kids at WP, GS, and CPC. She said, "I thought this was an easy and fun way to do something festive and fun during snack time."

WP Tutor, Max Collins gave the project two thumbs up! Max is a student at Harvey Mudd College, and he tutors with CLASP to fulfill a community service requirement.



TUTOR CORNER

Anita Klein



Every Monday and Wednesday you will find Anita sitting on a bench next to the entrance of the Wheeler Park facility. She waits for Maria Martinez, the Site Supervisor, to bring the students from Vista Del Valle Elementary School.

According to Maria, who appreciates all that Anita does for her students, "Anita arrives 30 minutes earlier than the other tutors to help prepare snack time for all the students. She helps serve water, pass out snacks, and clean up. She also tutors students." Asked to describe Anita in one word, Maria, without hesitation, said, "Awesome!"

Anita loves the connection she develops with the students. Asked about the best part of tutoring children, she replied, "I love listening to them, reading with them, and acting like them sometimes." Victoria, the student Anita tutors twice per week this year as well as online last year said, "Anita is always kind and helpful."

Before retiring in 2004, Anita worked 42 years as an office manager at Cal Poly Pomona, serving four presidents. Desiring to volunteer to promote education, Anita consulted her good friend, Barbara Shelly. Barbara, having tutored ten years, recommended her to CLASP. When asked how she would encourage others to tutor, Anita said, "You need to spend time with young people who need help and are unable to get help at home. You need to care."

Former Program Director Jan Creasey Honored at CLASP Annual Party

On November 14th, 170 guests gathered to celebrate CLASP at the home of Devorah Lieberman, President of University of La Verne, and Roger Auerbach. While guests mingled and enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres, the talented Michael Ryan and Friends provided beautiful music.

Recently retired Jan Creasey, who served as the CLASP Program Director from 2015 to 2021, was the honored guest of this special event. Jan received certificates from Claremont Mayor, Jennifer Stark and from a representative of Congresswoman Judy Chu.



New CUSD Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Wilson was introduced. He commended CLASP for working with Claremont's most vulnerable students and said how much he is looking forward to working with everyone at CLASP.

Frank D'Emilio, CLASP President, thanked the sponsors, board, staff, and tutors who make CLASP such a special organization. Frank also introduced the new CLASP Program Director, Cristina Antonioli.



The Program culminated in a drawing for \$500 of Chamber of Commerce Gift Cards which was won by Betsy Weinberger, and 14 guests went home with beautiful centerpieces designed by Rhonda Prout.



Kudos go to party co-chairs and CLASP Board members Nancy Ambrose and Cindy Sullivan for organizing this wonderful event. Thanks also to our incredible volunteer caterer, Robin Leonhard, and her sous chefs, Karen Rosenthal and Ellen Hamilton for the food and to the rest of the party committee who worked tirelessly to ensure a successful event: Carol-Lee Marshall, Arlene Pirolo, Greg Shapton, Sarah Smizer, and Teddie Warner.

And a special thank you to the 80 generous sponsors and to all CLASP supporters for their generosity and commitment to the children we serve.

Sponsors of Celebrate CLASP 2021

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Lynne Marsenich & Rick Tsujimoto
Carol-Lee Marshall & Ben Dewald
Dean Nishimura
Alice Oglesby
Claire & David Oxtoby
Don Pattison
Arlene & Frank Pirolo
Rhonda & Randy Prout



The new CLASP year has begun, and we continue to adapt our program due to COVID. This year we are operating in a, "Hybrid" format where upper grade students are working mostly online

while younger students meet with their tutors in person. Our staff and tutors work tirelessly to meet the challenges of assisting students amid ever changing mandates and protocols.

The success of CLASP this year is due in large part to the leadership of our new Program Director, Cristina Antonioli. Cristina has brought experience, energy, and focus which has provided a seamless transition to the position as CLASP grows and changes.

As I have visited our tutoring sites and the smiles on the faces of students, it is clear to me that our staff and tutors provide much more than homework help to students. They are also providing the social and emotional support that students so desperately need after many months away from their teachers and friends. The positive effects of CLASP know no bounds!

I continue to be humbled by the support this community gives to our youth. The pandemic has increased the need students have for academic help and your generosity makes a positive difference in their lives.

Thank you,
Frank D'Emilio
CLASP Board President

Program Director's Message



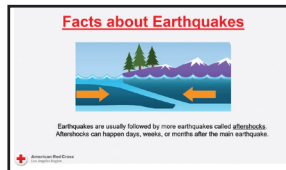
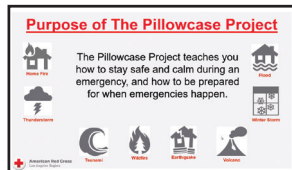
Happy Fall!—This is my favorite time of year, not just because it's finally sweater weather but because I absolutely love the BUZZ of kids and teachers returning to school. There must be

a way to bottle up all that excitement and nervous energy. I smiled and laughed as I watched the kids return to Wheeler Park for the first time in 18 months. They were eager to run around and check out every corner of the building, recounting favorite memories of their time spent there before closing in March of 2020. They were two grades younger when they were there last, and I couldn't help but think that so much

has been taken from them and it's on all of us to help them make up for lost time.

CLASP students and tutors started on September 20th. Since then I have been working through issues alongside CLASP staff, tutors, board members, CUSD teachers, and administrators. The flexibility and creativity exhibited by all of them during the re-opening of CLASP has been immeasurable. Our CLASP team and tutors really do love their tutor kids and it shows in everything they do. I am thankful that I get to do my life's work alongside such dedicated and amazing people.

Red Cross Pillowcase Project/Family Preparedness Education



Thirteen CLASP students participated via Zoom in the Red Cross **Pillowcase Project** on Nov. 12th. Red Cross volunteer presenters **Nat Giraud, Lisa Lee, and Jhoana Ruela Gomez** instructed students on the threat of earthquakes locally and how to be prepared and cope.

The Pillowcase Project is a preparedness education program for grades 3-5

that teaches students about personal and family preparedness and safety skills, local hazards, and basic coping skills. Red Cross volunteers lead students through a "Learn, Practice, Share" framework to engage them in disaster preparedness and survival skills.

Upon completion, students receive a sturdy pillowcase in which to build their personal emergency supplies kit.

Jessica Chaparral Good Shepard Center



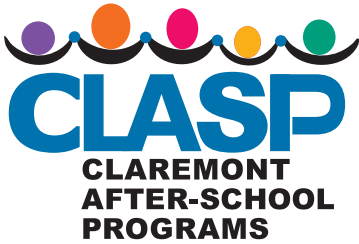
Jessica is an unassuming 4th grade student from Chaparral Elementary School who has been with CLASP for three years. She is a student in the ESL program overcoming the challenge a different language presents. When she started with CLASP, she understood only basic instructions in English.

Jessica struggled with English during her years with CLASP. Through the hard work of **Margaret Russell**, her CLASP tutor the first two years and her current tutors today, Jessica has become more confident.

Cristina Moreno, Site Supervisor at Good Shepard Lutheran Church, states, "Jessica has attained more confidence in herself, she is able to ask questions when she doesn't understand assignments, and her language and reading skills have improved thanks to the hard work of her tutors. CLASP continues to help develop her command of English through her homework, readings, and tutor-student interactions."

Jessica enjoys studying Science, especially learning about plants and animals and drawing pictures of things found in the ocean such as, "Sea turtles and crabs." She considers herself a "Drawer." She aspires to be a police woman because, "They're cool, drive in black and white cars, and help people on the phone." Her hero in life is her mother because, "She helps me with homework and cleans my room."

When asked if she would continue with CLASP next year in 5th grade, she confirmed "Yes! because tutors are helpful, nice, and explain more in detail."



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Tutoring Sites

Volunteer tutors are welcome to join CLASP throughout the school year. Students who have been referred to CLASP by a teacher or principal may enroll at any time if space is available.

IN-PERSON SITES

Claremont Presbyterian Church
 1111 N. Mountain Avenue
 Site Supervisor: Lauren Cassatt
 4th – 6th grades • Tue., Thurs. 3:00-4:30

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 1700 N. Towne Avenue
 Site Supervisor: Cristina Moreno
 1st - 4th grades •
 Mon. 3:00-4:30, Wed. 1:30-3:00

Wheeler Park Recreation Center
 626 Vista Drive
 Site Supervisor: Maria Martinez
 1st – 4th grades •
 Mon. 2:45-4:15, Wed. 1:15-2:45

Wheeler Park Recreation Center
 626 Vista Drive
 Site Supervisor: Cristina Moreno
 5th - 6th grades • Tue., Thurs. 2:45-4:15

VIRTUAL SITES

Claremont Village Apartments
 965 W. Arrow Highway
 Site Supervisor: Jim Keith
 2nd – 6th grades • Mon., Wed. 3:15-4:45
 2nd - 6th grades • Tues., Thurs. 3:15-4:45



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Tutor Coordinator
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 office@clasp4kids.org

Ways to support CLASP

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www.clasp4kids.org
 (909) 204-0127