

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.

Introducing CLASP CONNECT

This fall CLASP has pivoted from in-person tutoring at our five centers to one-on-one tutoring with Zoom to help our students with the challenges they face completing schoolwork for their online classes. This new approach is called CLASP CONNECT.



**Bella and Aiden
with their mother, Carla**

Adjusting to online tutoring has been exciting and challenging—a learning experience for staff, tutors and students. Program Director **Jan Creasey**, organized biweekly Zoom training sessions for tutors through September. On October 1, as tutoring began, tutors, parents, and students came to the CLASP office at Claremont Presbyterian Church to register and pick up canvas bags with resources for Zoom tutoring. **The Children's Fund** generously provided these materials.

To spread the word about CLASP CONNECT, we have created a two-minute video for our supporters. We hope you'll enjoy it. The video is on our website at clasp4kids.org and at this link: <https://youtu.be/McbVwGFdT6Y>

Curious to know how students feel about CLASP CONNECT, we asked several of them:

What do you like best about being tutored on Zoom at CLASP?



*Ryan
Oakmont 5th grade*

With our classes at school online, usually teachers don't have office hours, but if you're stuck, at CLASP you can log on at 2:00. There are tutors who can help you learn the material like *Go Math*.



*Ethan
Condit 5th grade*

That's a tricky question. Tutoring can help us with math, like with flashcards; with vocabulary and spelling; with pre-tests; or with dates in social studies. Online tutoring started out glitchy, but now it's getting better and better and better.



*Adrian
Mountain View
5th grade*

I don't think I'd be that good in math without the tutoring. My tutor is helping me turn decimals into fractions. It would be really hard to ask my teacher for help [online] because she's doing morning meeting, then writing, then math, then language arts, then social studies, then she says good-by.



*Sameer
Mountain View
5th grade*

The thing that's helped me most from tutoring online is the homework help. I've been having trouble with my homework. My assignments wouldn't "submit," but my tutor helped me do that. He's helping me a lot with my math. We're dividing whole numbers now.



*Tina
Oakmont 4th grade*

So the best thing is like when you're sick, you can go on Zoom instead of taking a day off. And it's funner doing tutoring at home in my bedroom.



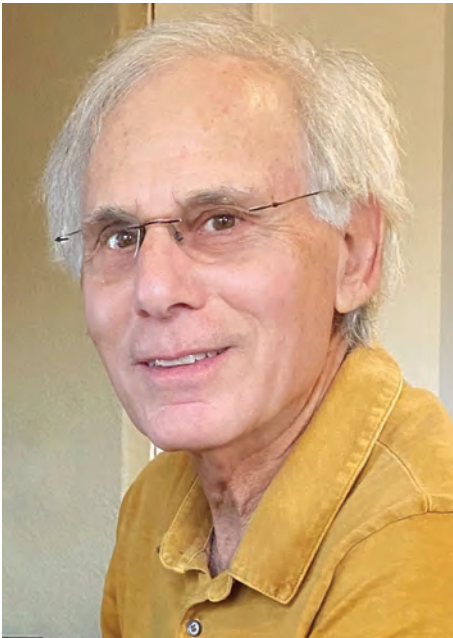
*Omar
Summer 3rd grade*

What's helped me about tutoring online [instead of at a center] is no other people talking, which helps me concentrate more. There's an [electronic] whiteboard feature which also helps us. It's right here.



TUTOR CORNER

Bill Baker



Bill Baker has served the CLASP community as a tutor for three years. The first two years he met in person with his students, but this year, with virtual online tutoring, it's quite a change. Bill says tutors need to learn the technology, and the great staff provides training and ongoing support. He has always enjoyed the kids and the challenge of effectively tutoring them. Asked about the new virtual approach, he says, "It works."

The tutors and their students meet with site supervisors to start each session. Then each pair is sent off to a breakout room. Zoom allows for sharing the screen with an electronic white board that they can work on together. Bill is finding that with math this is a particularly effective approach.

Bill has found all three years working with the kids to be personally rewarding. "This is a great program," he said. He would like to see more retired people brought into the program. In spreading the word, he wants to emphasize that tutors can count on the support all the staff provides, and notes that Program Director **Jan Creasey** is "very patient, a gem."

Volunteer Donates Homemade Desks To CLASP KIDS



Bob with Brayden and Brody



Siyar

Program Director **Jan Creasey** with their plans. "We are going to attempt to fill all requests for desks," Andrea said. Bob is currently donating desks to CLASP and to a school in West San Fernando Valley where their daughter is working.

Nine desks have been delivered to CLASP kids, and five more are on the way. "I get more out of this than the kids do, just being able to do something," Bob said.

Bob and Andrea are funding the project themselves, but they are open to community involvement providing support and making referrals for students who need desks. Whatever happens, they are committed to doing this for the kids. If you would like to help, call Jan Creasey.

One night **Bob Gordon** was watching a news report on TV about a man who was building desks for kids learning at home due to COVID. He noted that schools were sending iPads or computers home, but in many cases the kids did not have desks to work on. Bob decided then and there that this was something he could do. And now he's doing it.

Since retiring from his career in optometry, Bob has worked as an administrator, setting up health-care clinics for the uninsured and underserved. But that, too, is on hold for the moment. So Bob has devoted himself to his new project—building 20" x 30" lightweight desks.

His wife, **Andrea**, has been a tutor with CLASP for four years. It was at her suggestion that they approached



Our new CLASP year has begun, albeit differently than in the past. In light of the pandemic we have initiated a new version of our program, CLASP CONNECT, described in these pages. I am so proud of the way Program Director **Jan Creasey**, and her staff, worked all summer to make this happen. I am also grateful to the many community members and students who were willing to step up to tutor students in this different way.

Recently the *LA Times* ran an article about the greater need for tutoring now that schools are operating online.

The article reported on the disparity between upper and lower-income families in accessing tutoring for their children.

This is especially important now, since it is precisely the one-on-one connection that teachers are finding difficult to provide online. As in the past, CLASP continues to offer critical academic help to those students who need it most.

We could not continue this program without your incredible support. Now, more than ever, I thank you for your commitment to CLASP.

Thank You.
Frank D'Emilio

Camila
Mountain View Elementary
Claremont Presbyterian Church



Camila is an active sixth grader who under normal circumstances would be enjoying jazz and tap dance classes along with school and tutoring at CLASP. Now she does her back bends (all the way to the floor!) at home, and often joins her mother for a long run after virtual classes.

Camila says her friends would describe her as fun, silly, outgoing, and so inspired by her teachers that she is considering becoming one after college. Reaching for the stars, Camila also hopes to dance, both tap and jazz, on Broadway.

And school? "Online learning is fun," Camila says. "I miss interacting with my friends and teachers, but I still enjoy learning."

Camila began twice-a-week virtual tutoring with CLASP CONNECT this fall. "It feels great. The tutoring helps, and the tutors are nice. My tutor, **Bill**, showed me a rhythm to use when learning the multiplication tables. My grades are going higher with the extra help."

Camila looks forward to going back to school with her friends when it is safe to do so. Until then, she will make the most of virtual school, and CLASP's homework help.

Thank You To Our Supporters



We missed seeing all of you this fall at our annual *Celebrate CLASP* party, but we are very grateful for your continued generosity. We look forward to celebrating together next year!

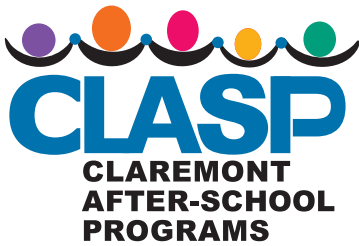
Facing the challenges of online learning, the children we serve need your support this year more than ever. If you make your 2020 gift to CLASP of \$250 or more before December 1, your name will be entered in the drawing for \$500 worth of Claremont Chamber Gift Cards. Your gift will help CLASP students as well as Claremont merchants.

And please note:

Change to tax law: If you take a standard deduction, singles can deduct \$300 of charitable contributions; couples can deduct \$600.

Company matches: If you work for a company that participates in matching funds, please think of CLASP. Last year **State Farm Companies Foundation** and **Edwards Lifesciences Foundation** made sizeable contributions.

Amazon shopping: If you designate CLASP when you are shopping through **Amazon Smile**, the company's foundation will donate 0.5% to us.



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Claremont CA 91711

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Tutoring Centers

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.

Blaisdell Park Community Center

440 S. College Avenue
Tues., Thurs. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Grades 4 – 6
Site Supervisor: Cheryl Palmer-Bird

Claremont Presbyterian Church

1111 N. Mountain Avenue
Tues., Thurs. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Grades 4 – 6
Site Supervisor: Lauren Cassatt

Claremont Village Apartments

965 W. Arrow Highway
Mon., Wed. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Mon., Wed. 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
Grades 1 – 6
Site Supervisor: Jim Keith

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

1700 N. Towne Avenue
Tues., Thurs. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
Grades 1 – 3
Site Supervisor: Cristina Moreno

Wheeler Park Recreation Center

626 Vista Drive
Tues., Thurs. 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
Grades 1 – 3
Site Supervisor: Maria Martinez



BOARD

Nancy Ambrose
Harriet Archibald-Woodward
Frank D'Emilio
Maury Feingold
Bridget Healy
Afiya Imam
Bev Jack

Henry Krieger
Toby Leier
Margaret Lofgren
Carol Lee Marshall
Jack Mills
Dean Nishimura
Art Parker

Skylar Segura
Greg Shapton
Cindy Sullivan
Nancy Treser-Osgood
Kevin Ward
Teddie Warner

Emeriti
Adar Belinkoff
Mary Caenepeel
Jeanne Hamilton
Carole Harter
Shirley Butler-Hughes
Claire Oxtoby
Lissa Petersen
Barbara Shelley
Suzan Smith
Amy Stanger

Ways to support CLASP

- Tutor
- Donate
- Contribute supplies
- Serve on a committee

www.clasp4kids.org
(909) 204-0127

YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES

AmazonSmile is a simple way to support CLASP every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you visit AmazonSmile, enter "Claremont After-School Programs, Inc." From then on, for every eligible purchase you make on this site, Amazon will donate 0.5% to CLASP!

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