

# REACH Foundation

*IT'S FINALLY SPRING*

## Message from the President

We have fantastic news to share with our entire REACH community!

The REACH Foundation has been selected by Senator Steven Choi as a 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year! This prestigious recognition is part of the annual California Nonprofits Day celebration taking place on May 21st.

While we are absolutely thrilled and deeply honored by this recognition, we know that this achievement belongs to all of us. It reflects the incredible dedication of:

- Our passionate volunteers, interns and ambassadors
- Our generous donors & community partners
- Our committed board members since 2012
- Our supportive district partners
- And most importantly, the amazing families and students we serve every day

This recognition highlights the vital government-nonprofit partnerships that strengthen our community and support our students' educational journeys. As just one of more than 100,000 nonprofits registered in California, we're humbled to receive this distinction from Senator Choi.

## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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- Get Involved!

In 2012, when California faced a budget crisis that led to deep cuts in education affecting after-school programs, a visionary group of parents led by Julie Nibali founded the REACH Foundation. Since then, our IMPACT has been transformative:

- We've disbursed nearly half a million dollars to 20 programs in Athletics, Academics, and the Arts
- We provide \$20,000 in grants annually to support educators
- We serve approximately 17,000 students district-wide
- We are entirely self-funded, operating efficiently with 20,000 volunteer hours annually

REACH is more than just a foundation—we're a community of dedicated professionals, parents, educators, 45 interns/ambassadors, and approximately 50 community partners working together to create opportunities for every student to discover their unique strengths and passions.

This recognition will help us continue expanding our programs and deepening our impact throughout our PYL community. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you who has supported our mission. Stay tuned for more details about how we'll celebrate this honor together as a community!

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Gisele T. Nguyen  
President



## Spotlight on Success

### 2025-2026 President-Elect Elizabeth Chan

Elizabeth Chan is currently a junior at Valencia High School and will be entering her senior year in the fall. She has been a part of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) since kindergarten. A fun fact about Elizabeth is that she is the youngest of three sisters. For the past two years within REACH, she has served as the lead intern coordinating the annual Jog-A-Thon and currently holds the position of Vice President of Marketing. As she prepares to take on the role of President, Elizabeth is committed to fostering a close-knit community where interns not only gain valuable experience through programs and events but also grow personally, develop leadership skills, and collaborate meaningfully with one another.

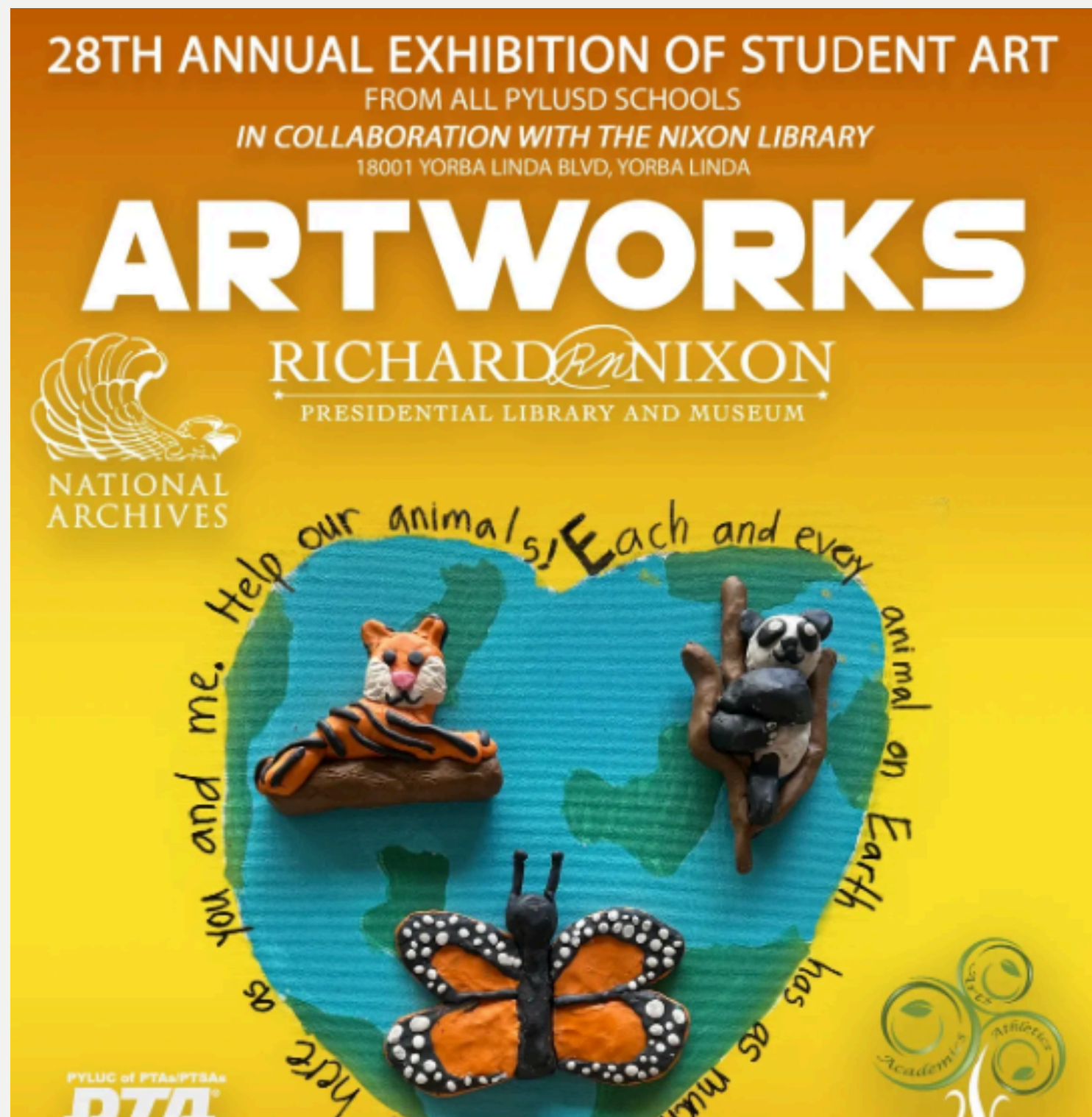


## Shamrock 'n Run Success:

On March 16th, Yorba Regional Park was filled with excitement as families and students from across the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District came together for the REACH Foundation's 13th annual Shamrock 'n Run. This spirited community event featured something for everyone—from a 5K and 2K run/walk to the high-energy SQUARE Obstacle Course Competition. Proceeds from the event support a range of impactful programs for PYLUSD students, including the Middle School Track Meet, STEAM Clubs, and Healthy Lifestyle initiatives. Live performances by Emily Kashou & The Chicken Nuggets on Tuesday, the Tuffree Middle School Drumline, and Chloe O'Brien kept the atmosphere lively throughout the day. Emcees Allan Cason and Brooke Aston Harper brought energy and enthusiasm, helping to keep spirits high. To top it all off, participants were greeted at the finish line with the warm and welcoming scent of pancakes, freshly served by the Kiwanis Club of Placentia. It was a day of movement, music, and meaningful community connection.



# Upcoming Events and Programs



## 2025 ARTWORKS

The REACH Foundation proudly announces the 28th annual student art exhibit, Artworks 2025.

Students' artworks, ranging from preppy K to high school, will be showcased at the Richard Nixon Library from April 1, 2025, to April 28, 2025. Through the gracious generosity of the Richard Nixon Library, admission is free and open to the public. Viewing hours will be open from 10am-5pm, with the exception of the Opening and Closing Ceremony in which times will be at 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

The First Lego League program educates students in designing, constructing, and programming LEGO-based robots to accomplish thematic objectives, and investigate real-world issues and come up with creative solutions. The program places a strong emphasis on collaboration, originality, and the fundamental principles of inclusiveness, innovation, and discovery. Teams will participate in the Spring Showdown on May 3rd, where they will be given a surprise critical thinking task within the competition to complete surrounding the ocean-related theme called "Finding Roboto. If your child is interested in participating, they are able to sign up for the fall season coming up shortly in 2025!





# Volunteering & Scholarships



## SKECHERS FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

SKECHERS is providing scholarships for ten eligible students. Those eligible must be highschool seniors who have a minimum 3.0 GPA and are U.S. citizens; they must demonstrate financial need. Selected students will be awarded \$5000. The deadline is April 30th, and more information can be found on [Scholarship360.org](https://Scholarship360.org).



## SKECHERS ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP

SKECHERS will be providing scholarships to high school seniors who have a minimum 3.0 GPA and are U.S. citizens, who played a sport in eligible and plan on furthering that sport in college. 5,000 dollars will be granted to ten eligible seniors. The deadline is April 30, 2025 and more information can be found on [scholarships360.org](https://scholarships360.org).

# Get Involved

Stay connected and informed by following us on social media and visiting our website regularly. Here's how you can stay engaged:

- Instagram: @REACH4pylud.org
- Facebook: REACH4pylud.org
- Website: [www.reach4pylud.org](http://www.reach4pylud.org)

We are excited to see what this school year holds and look forward to working together to create meaningful and impactful experiences for our students. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the REACH Foundation.

Warm regards,

The REACH Foundation Team

P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Together, we can make this year extraordinary!



# Powered By

## REACH Interns 2024-2025

Communications VP & Publisher: Emily Pasillas

Intern President: Natalie Tang

Executive Team: Elizabeth Chan, Aly Baranick,  
Carolyn Suh, Evelyn Yao, Lauren Gei, Ashley Gee

Interns: Brendon Nguyen



Our Intern program is a transformative opportunity designed to empower students with real-world experience and leadership skills. The Foundation supports selected highly engaged Interns to foster "innovation, imagination and intrapreneurship."

