

REACH Foundation

January



Message from the President

Dear Friends of REACH,

I am at awe of how fast the year has went and how much REACH Foundation has been able to accomplish during the first half of this school year. From the multi-district Madrigal Middle School Cross Country Invitational to the inspiring From the Inside Speakers Series, REACH has made a significant impact in our PYL district and community. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our collective team—our Board, interns, and countless supporters—who work tirelessly to bring each program and event to life. As the new year starts REACH's internship program is looking for hardworking and courageous students who are driven to serve our community. We currently have over 35 interns, and I have the special privilege of leading our team to support the events and programs REACH has to offer. Applications to our amazing internship programs that has taught me so much will be opening soon and we can not wait to receive applicants who are ready to be challenged!

Thank you,

Elizabeth Chan

Internship President

www.reach4pylusd.org

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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2025
Best of Placentia

2025



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Best of Placentia

Spotlight on Success

Emily Chi, Intern

Emily is a REACH Foundation intern whose work blends creativity, leadership, and commitment to service. As the Director of the Imagination Team, REACH's creative writing program for elementary students, Emily helps students build confidence and express themselves through storytelling. She is also involved with the media team and the From the Inside committee, contributing to both creative and organizational efforts across REACH. As a sophomore at Esperanza High School, Emily is the founder and president of mental health club BLOOM Society, serves as a PTSA co-publicist, and is member of the Academic Decathlon. Beyond campus, Emily mentors through Big Brothers Big Sisters, interns with the Youth Mental Health Academy, and collaborates on publishing projects with UCI. In her free time, Emily enjoys baking desserts, volunteering at a local cat shelter, and writing award-winning art and poetry. In the future, Emily hopes to attend a college where she can explore questions of human behavior, justice, and the meaning behind stories, with the goal of using creativity and education to serve others and make a lasting impact.



The Care Closet

The REACH Foundation is proud to support the Care Closet at Esperanza and El Camino Real High School, which is designed to promote student well-being and preparedness. The Care Closet provides students with access to essential items, reinforcing the belief that when students feel prepared, they are better positioned to succeed in school. Stocked with school supplies, hygiene products, clothing, and shoes, the Care Closet not only provides materials, but also offers students a space rooted in care, respect, and support. By offering everyday necessities, the Care Closet helps reduce barriers that may inhibit students' ability to fully engage in their education and school community. At the REACH Foundation, we believe that supporting the whole student is essential to long-term success. The Care Closet embodies this by ensuring that every student feels prepared and has access to resources that support them as both a student and a person. Both locations of the Care Closet play an important role in empowering students to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Visit the REACH Foundation [Website](#) to learn more and get involved.



Upcoming Events and Programs



INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN

Currently, the REACH Foundation is home to nearly 40 high school interns across the PYLUSD district, including Valencia, El Dorado, Esparanza, and Yorba Linda High School. Anyone interested in supporting REACH's programs has the opportunity to interview for the position soon in January! We welcome everyone from all backgrounds and disciplines: graphic designers, leaders, volunteers, and logistics organizers! Our very own executive intern board will also be heading the interview process. Click this [link](#) to apply.



FLL SOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Through hands-on STEM challenges, First Lego League helps students develop teamwork, leadership, and strong problem-solving skills.

This year, REACH Foundation is sending two teams to SoCal Championships, where they will compete against other topnotch teams. Both CTRL ALT ELITE and the F.I.R.E. Sharks won Grand Champions at the Regionals competition, and are working hard in preparation for Championships. Come watch our FLL teams compete on Sunday, January 18th at Capistrano Valley High School! Learn more about FLL [here](#).



SHAM ROCK N' RUN

The annual Shamrock'n Run will take place soon on March 15, 2026! This year, the event will focus on fitness with the slogan, "Run with Heart: Where Every Mile Benefits Health & Education!"

Starting in the morning and ending in the late afternoon, participants have a variety of courses and entertainment to look forward to: the 5K and 2K race, square course, live music, and countless booths showcasing local sponsors. Be sure to spread the word and sign up for this very special occasion! Learn more through the REACH Foundation [Website](#).

Recap of Events and Programs



MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY MEETS

On December 5, 457 middle school athletes joined together for a 2 mile race spanning across Craig Regional Park! From 6th to 8th graders, these students won a total of 80 medals. In particular, Yorba Linda Middle School dominated the 6th/7th Grade Girls race, while Tuffree Middle School achieved great success in all three of the 6th/7th Grade Boys, 8th Grade Girls, and 8th Grade Boys heats! A special thanks to all those who participated and we look forward to continuing this running success in May at the Middle School Track Meet!

FROM THE INSIDE: STRUGGLES TO SUCCESS

On Friday December 12th, students, teachers, and community members met at the fourteenth biannual event, From the Inside. It was a memorable time, dedicated to honoring stories of success despite hardship. The speaker panel featured five valued members in our community, including keynote speaker Will Truong. Each told their stories of resilience, instilling in listeners the message that success comes from the response towards failure, not the lack of failure itself. This event was powered by the REACH Foundation Interns, namely Ava Liang, Evelyn Yao, and several student moderators. Through relateable stories of overcoming failure, From the Inside once again strengthened the bond between students and the community, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.



Volunteering & Scholarships



"Helping Hand" Scholarship

The "Helping Hand" Scholarship from Scholarships360 gives future college students from low-income households the chance to win \$1,000! This includes high school seniors, as well as current college and graduate students. Applicants must write a 250 word essay telling their story as a low-income student, and how the scholarship would help their educational journey. Both the essay quality and interaction on Scholarships360 of each application are considered. The application is due on February 28, 2026, and can be found through the [Scholarships360](#) platform.

"Making Waves" Scholarship for Women

The \$1,000 "Making Waves" Essay Scholarship supports high school, undergraduate, and graduate student women who are pursuing their dream, no matter how big or how small. Open to female U.S. citizens and permanent residents, the scholarship prompts applicants to write an essay about an inspirational female figure in their lives. Applications are evaluated on both essay quality and the applicant's overall engagement on the Scholarships360 platform. The application closes on March 31, 2026. Get a headstart and apply now!



Did You Know:

- The REACH Foundation has disbursed over \$500,000 to student programs, budgeted \$20,000 annually for educator grants, and \$6,000 for PTA Jogathons
- R.E.A.C.H stands for Resources for the, Enrichment of, Academics, Arts, and Athletics for our, Children to reach their ultimate, Heights
- REACH encompasses 20 Award-winning Academic, Arts, and Athletic Programs

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

- Instagram: @REACH4pylusd.org
- Facebook: REACH4pylusd.org
- Website: www.reach4pylusd.org

Interested in becoming an intern?

- Applications for the annual program opens from January 15th to Feb. 15th for the next academic year.
- Check out www.reach4pylusd.org for more insight

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!

REACH Interns 2025-2026

Communications VP & Publisher: Megan Wang

Contributors: Zoe Ahn, Angela Yao, and Ms. Gisele Nguyen

Intern President: Elizabeth Chan

REACH TEAM 2025-2026: Elizabeth Chan, Carolyn Suh, Evelyn Yao, Megan Wang, Vince Kim, Brendon Nguyen, Kaley Carpenter, Zoia Patel, Shaurya Nangare, Julia Wong, Collin Shum, Nathan Tang, Maiah Sharma, Angela Yao, Skylar Snyder, Megan Tran, Lauren Gei, Bella Huang, Zoe Ahn, Rustin Limoochi, Theo Tran, Ella Wong, Megan Tran, Anish Khant, Makhayla Gill, Sajni Shah, Aly Baranick, Lance Low, Allyson Tam, Aarav Patel, Jyllian Panya, Emily Chi, Samihan Shaligram, Charlotte Mar, Ava Liang



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 entrepreneurship."