



Looking Back: Fall & Winter Highlights at CARE Los Angeles

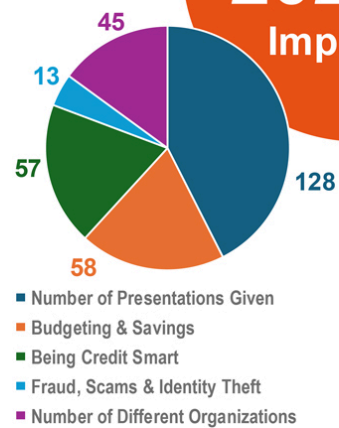
As we move into spring, CARE Los Angeles is reflecting on a productive fall and winter season filled with impactful presentations, strong partnerships, new volunteer presenters, and meaningful moments of connection. From educating students, families, to bringing our volunteer community together, these efforts continue to **educate, elevate, and empower** through financial literacy.



CARE LA Impact Numbers for 2025

WHERE WE'RE HEADED:
GROWTH, INNOVATION & IMPACT

- **NOTABLE ORGANIZATIONS:**
Girl Scouts, Tarzana Treatment Center, Children's Collective, Beverly Hills Public Library, Summer Springboard @ UCLA, Aviva Wallis House
- **SCHOOLS:**
Alliance Marine, Notre Dame Academy, Green STEAM Academy, Cal State Dominguez Hills
- District Wide MOU with Alliance Schools



From Classroom to Camera: Budgeting at Green Design STEAM Academy



In early October, we had the opportunity to collaborate with students at Green Design STEAM Academy in South Los Angeles.

During our Budgeting, Saving & Setting Financial Goals presentation, students didn't just participate - they took the lead creatively. We spent the school day being filmed by students while delivering our budgeting workshop, participating in interviews, and hearing directly from students after the presentation about what they learned.

The result? A short video created entirely by students, capturing their reflections on financial literacy and its importance in their lives. It was a powerful reminder that when young people understand money management early, they feel more confident planning for their futures.

[Watch the student-created video](#)

Fraud, Scams & Identity Theft Presentation

National League of Young Men – Valley Chapter

During the fall, CARE Los Angeles Board Members Sharon Kopman and Rick Wynne presented Fraud, Scams & Identity Theft to more than 100 mothers

and sons with the National League of Young Men (NLYM) Inc. East Valley Chapter.

NLYM serves young men in grades 9–12 through leadership development, community service, cultural experiences, and protocol education. By engaging both students and parents together, the presentation helped families better understand how to recognize scams, protect personal information, and navigate financial risks in an increasingly digital world. There was strong engagement from both students and their mothers, and it was clear to see the impact of the presentation through the thoughtful questions and conversations that followed.



Being Credit Smart at City National Bank



In November, CARE Los Angeles partnered with City National Bank as part of their workshop, “Preparing Today’s Youth via Financial Literacy.” CARE LA volunteer Rhonda Richard presented Being Credit Smart to over 45 LAUSD high school students.



Students were bused in from various high schools across District 1, an area primarily serving low-to-moderate income families. The presentation focused on how credit works, why credit scores matter, and how early financial decisions can impact future opportunities such as housing, employment, and education. Providing this education during high school helps



students build confidence and awareness before they begin making independent financial choices.

CARE Los Angeles Holiday Party Highlights

There's nothing quite like bringing the CARE community together in person and our December Holiday Party was a perfect reminder of how special that connection is! As we wrapped up the year, board members, volunteers, and supporters gathered for a festive evening that celebrated not only our impact, but the people who make it possible.

It was especially meaningful to see new and longtime volunteers connecting, sharing stories, and getting to know one another in such a relaxed and welcoming setting. Guests enjoyed a fantastic wine selection/festive cocktails (the peppermint martini was a favorite!), and great food, including a full fresh sushi bar and holiday bites, creating a fun and lively atmosphere. One of the most meaningful moments of the night was recognizing our Volunteers of the Year: Heather VanRheenen, Seth Horowitz, and Tommy Clayton - whose dedication and enthusiasm help power CARE Los Angeles every day. We look forward to hosting more in-person events that bring our growing community together in the year ahead!



Graphic Novel Project with Greenlight

This season, CARE Los Angeles is excited to collaborate with **Greenlight**, a family-focused financial technology company that provides debit cards and financial education tools to help kids and teens learn how to earn, save, spend wisely, and invest. We've been working together for a few months now on a creative new initiative designed to make financial literacy more engaging and accessible for students.



Through our Graphic Novel Project, we've worked alongside talented high school volunteers and interns to bring key financial concepts like budgeting, saving, credit, and fraud prevention to life through storytelling and illustration. By transforming real-life financial lessons into relatable characters and scenarios, this short graphic novel will serve as an innovative educational tool that reflects CARE's mission.

CARE Los Angeles Internship Program with Claremont McKenna College



CARE Los Angeles is proud to partner with Claremont McKenna College to provide meaningful internship opportunities for students interested in nonprofit work, financial literacy education, and community impact.

We launched this internship program in Fall 2025, welcoming our first interns, Maria Fajardo and Meredith Morello, who quickly became valuable members of the CARE LA team. Throughout the semester, they supported program development, grant research, and marketing initiatives- including helping spearhead the launch of our Social Media Committee. Their experience was so rewarding that both Maria and Meredith chose to extend their internships into Spring 2026.



To continue building this partnership, our Chapter Administrator Joan Marcial recently attended an internship fair at Claremont McKenna College alongside intern Maria, where they shared more about CARE LA's mission and connected with students interested in future internship opportunities.

We are excited to continue growing this partnership with Claremont McKenna College and look forward to welcoming new interns each semester as the program continues to expand.

Volunteer Spotlight Tommy Clayton



Tommy Clayton, a Los Angeles native, was introduced to CARE Los Angeles through Jeff Pomerantz and has since become one of our most active and passionate presenters. Bringing heart, enthusiasm, and real-life knowledge from his work as a financial advisor, Tommy connects with students in a way that makes financial literacy both relatable and impactful.

Tommy often shares that even a small moment of learning can make a lasting difference. As he puts it: “In a room of 30 students, all I need is to feel like I’ve changed one life—just one! Maybe a student will remember that guy who came into the classroom.”

Through his work as Senior Vice President, Private Client Advisor at Bank of America, Tommy is a strong advocate for making financial education accessible to all.. “Financial literacy is important to life and should be taught like driver’s ed—it should be available to everybody!”

Fun Fact: Tommy is proficient in Danish!

Want to Get More Involved with CARE Los Angeles?

Our work is only possible because of the incredible support of our volunteers and community partners - and there are many ways to get involved!

Join a Committee

CARE Los Angeles is growing, and we invite volunteers to get involved through one of our committees:

- **Marketing Committee** – Helps promote CARE LA’s mission through outreach efforts, partnerships, and materials that increase awareness of our financial literacy programs.
- **Social Media Committee** – Supports CARE LA’s online presence by helping create content, sharing updates, and helping us reach new audiences through our social media platforms.
- **Data Management Committee** – Assists with organizing and maintaining CARE LA’s data, including presentation tracking, volunteer engagement, and CRM systems that help us measure our impact.
- **Volunteer Committee** – Focuses on recruiting, onboarding, and supporting our volunteer presenters while strengthening engagement within our volunteer community.
- **Finance Committee** – Provides support with financial oversight and strategic financial planning, while also helping identify potential grant opportunities and funding sources to support CARE LA’s continued growth.

Connect Us with Schools & Organizations

Do you know a **school, nonprofit, or community organization** that could benefit from a financial literacy presentation? We'd love an introduction! Our volunteer presenters offer engaging workshops on topics such as budgeting, credit, fraud prevention, and financial decision-making.

If you're interested in getting involved or making a connection, please reach out to Joan Marcial, Chapter Administrator at joan@carelosangeles.org

Together, we can educate, elevate, and empower even more lives.



EDUCATE. ELEVATE. EMPOWER.

About CARE Los Angeles

CARE Los Angeles is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals of all ages to make informed financial decisions by providing free financial literacy education. We offer workshops on essential money management topics, including budgeting, credit, and fraud prevention. Our expert team of passionate volunteers draws on their experiences as bankruptcy lawyers, judges, and professionals from across the financial spectrum. To date, CARE has impacted thousands of individuals at schools, organizations, and community groups throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

Contact Us

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