

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

NOVEMBER 2019

As a parent, can you imagine how difficult it is to watch your child struggle? From an early age, our son showed signs of being different from other kids. Formal testing in preschool told us Shawn had Autistic-like characteristics, and later he was officially diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

For kids with learning challenges, finding the right school can make all the difference. We were turned away by three schools ... We felt desperate. Kindergarten was looming. Finally, a principal suggested Bethany School in Long Beach because they had the **Opportunity Program** — a perfect fit, he said, for Shawn.



And he was right! The **Opportunity Program** has been a true blessing for Shawn and our family. The proactive program set Shawn up for success in school — there was no more school anxiety, and this dramatically affected the quality of our family life.

At last year's 8th grade graduation — as Shawn proudly walked across the stage — my heart was bursting as I thought about how far he has come. I truly believe that if Shawn hadn't been in the **Opportunity Program**, he would be in a very different place academically and socially.

This fall Shawn began his freshman year at Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science, an accelerated public high school in Long Beach, California. He has made friends, receives extra support while currently maintaining a 'B' average, and has joined two clubs: Aerospace and the Rocket Club.

His self-esteem has soared!

The **Opportunity Program** gave us hope that there was light at the end of the tunnel, and Shawn has emerged as a confident young man. **For the past 30 years donor support has enabled families to realize dreams for their children ... and our family experienced this first hand.**

We've watched as every dollar given to **Opportunity Schools** is poured into teachers, interventions and trainings that change the lives of students forever.

Our hearts are grateful ...

Michelle and Peter

P.S. Meet Shawn in *Opportunity Schools'* 4-part email video series ... coming soon to your email inbox!

CHANGING THE LIFE OF A CHILD FOREVER