

# Uncommon Good

SEPTEMBER 2026

EDUCATION | HEALTH | ENVIRONMENT

## Meet Allison: Building a Career. Building a Future.

**Allison Jimenez-Olmedo**, a Connect to College (C2C) alumna, has recently completed her first year at Brown University as a pre-med student. Allison has wanted to become a physician since her childhood diagnosis of alopecia. Her initial medical appointment for alopecia felt incomplete and left her with many questions and fears. She eventually switched doctors and saw what genuine care looked like. Watching her new doctor use trial and error to find the right dosage for her condition sparked Allison's love for the experimental, problem-solving side of medicine.

Allison joined C2C in seventh grade and matched with a tutor and a mentor and received college preparation support from staff.



As an alumna, Allison has sought support from Uncommon Good's Health Career Pipeline, seeking guidance on building clinical hours for a strong application to medical school. Recently, Uncommon Good connected her with Dr. Justin D'Agostino, an active participant in our Medicine for the Economically

Disadvantaged (MED) L.A. Care PLRP. Dr. D'Agostino agreed to host Allison for shadowing opportunities over the summer.

During her first shadowing shift, Allison observed how Dr. D'Agostino built patient relationships with new and long-term patients alike. She was

surprised by his depth of knowledge and loved how his engagement with patients and their medical histories felt like

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**"[C2C staff] really did push me to apply to as many colleges as I could and gave me the confidence to believe that I could be accepted. I had lots of help when writing my college essays, and I was given a personal college advisor... Their support will be something I can never truly repay them for."**

*Continued on page 2...*

## Meet Allison

*Continued from page 1*

detective work. Allison is excited to continue shadowing until she returns to Rhode Island in the fall.

Allison's story demonstrates that our students and their families will always be part of our community, whether they are newly enrolled or have already graduated from C2C. We are so proud to call her an alumna and to continue to support her success.

# Community Alliance for Urban Sustainable Agriculture (CAUSA)

We're growing, and not just on our farms...

In early 2026, Uncommon Good secured funding for and installed a custom-designed, energy-efficient, climate-friendly 15' X 15' walk-in cooler for our CAUSA urban farm, food recovery, and pantry program. The cooler has doubled our capacity to store and distribute food to our community. After a record-breaking 2025, CAUSA continues to grow, feeding more people and distributing more fresh fruits, vegetables, and nonperishable staples to our community than ever before.



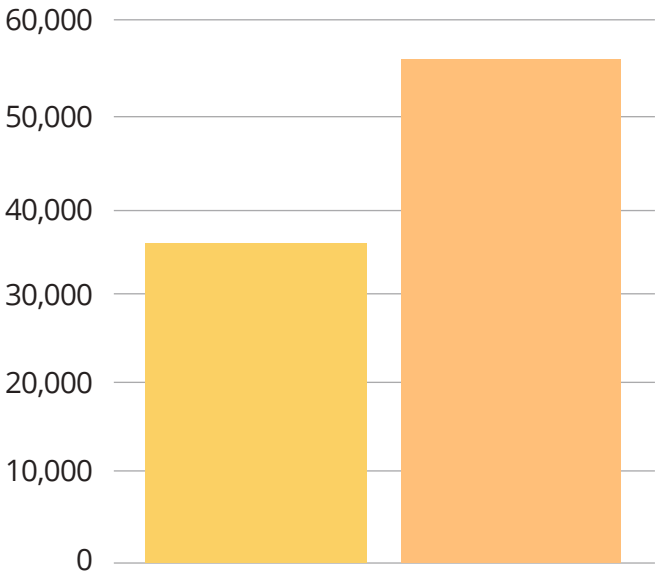
CAUSA Cooler Exterior



CAUSA Cooler Interior

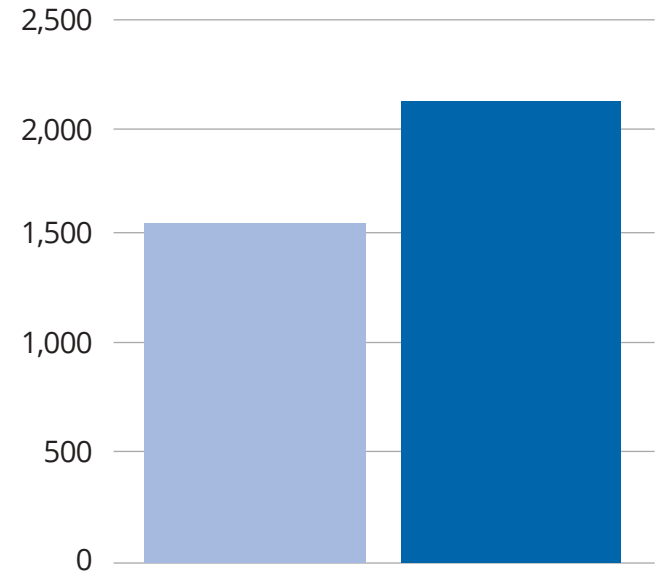
### Pounds of food distributed

● Jan - June 2025    ● Jan - June 2026



### People fed through CAUSA

● Jan - June 2025    ● Jan - June 2026



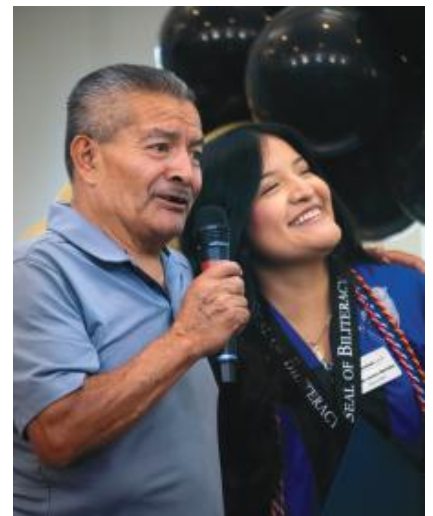
# Connect to College (C2C)

## Class of 2026 – Off They Go!



*Class of 2026 graduates*

Our graduating class of 2026 averaged six years of enrollment in the Connect to College (C2C) program. They had a 100% acceptance rate to four-year universities, achieved an average GPA of 3.84, and were collectively awarded more than \$1.39 million in financial aid. This fall, these 39 C2C graduates will matriculate at universities near and far, from Cal Poly Pomona and UCLA to Columbia and NYU. We are incredibly proud of their success.



## Connect to College Activities

### Field Trips

As part of Uncommon Good's summer programming, we offer educational field trips to cultural venues so that students can engage with art, history, and the natural world. In June, Connect to College students explored The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino. In July, we toured the Autry Museum of the American West in Griffith Park and organized a beach clean-up at Bolsa Chica State Beach.



*Students admire The Perseverant Prophet by Raqib Shaw in The Huntington Art Gallery*

### Dyslexia Workshops

Uncommon Good's dyslexia team will be hosting two workshops this fall—open to all community members.

**September 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm–6:30 pm | Dyslexia 101  
At The Round Building, Claremont  
United Methodist Church.**

**Dyslexia 101: What are the signs and symptoms of dyslexia? What are the myths that persist? How can parents, teachers, and community members best support students who have dyslexia?**

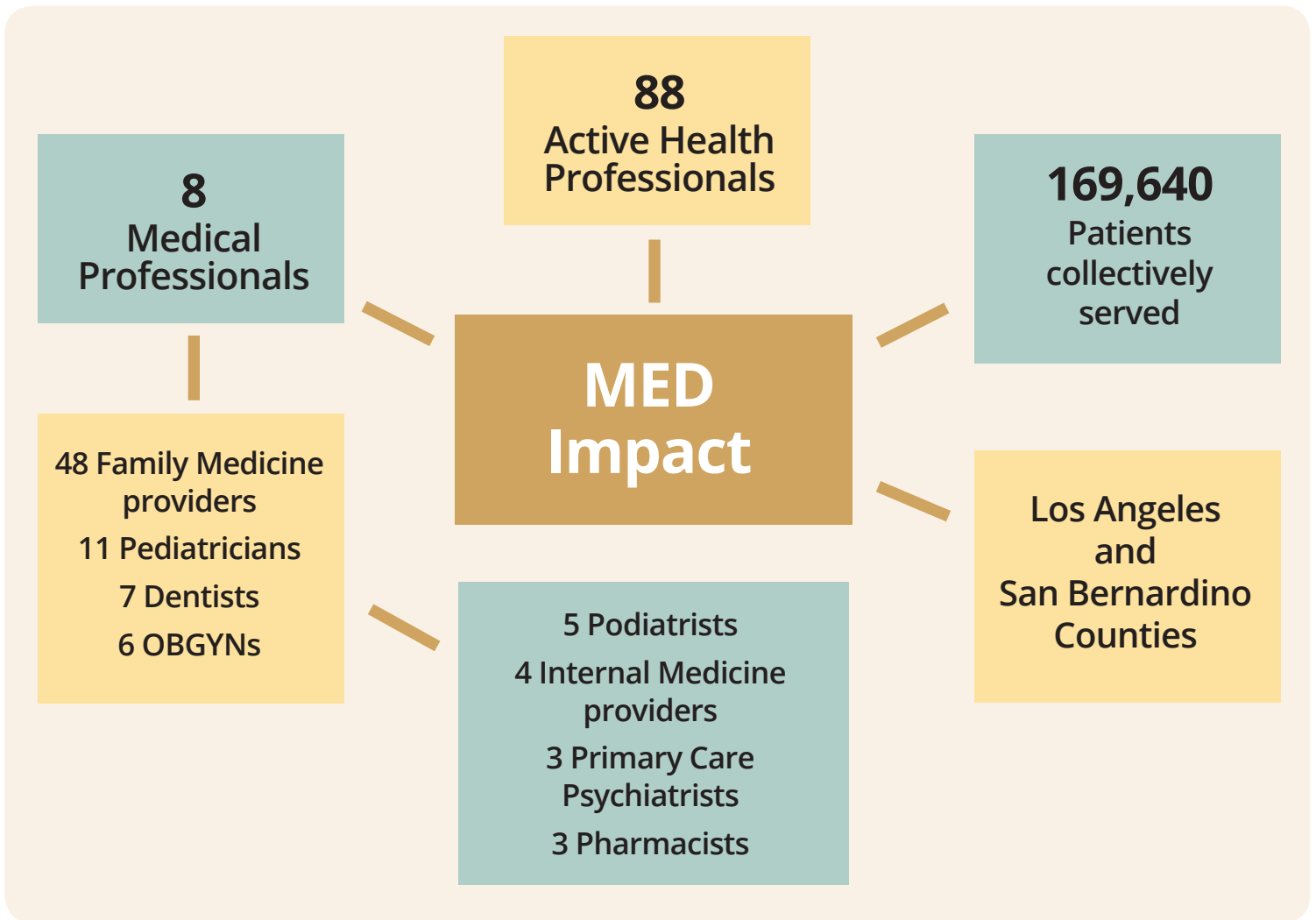
**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm–7:00 pm | Dyslexia Simulation  
At The Round Building, Claremont  
Methodist Church.**

**Dyslexia Simulation: What does it feel like to be a student with dyslexia? In this workshop, participants will walk in the shoes of students with dyslexia—as we read, spell, listen, take notes, and experience learning as someone who has dyslexia.**

If you would like to join us at one of our upcoming workshops, please RSVP to:

[dyslexiateam@uncommongood.org](mailto:dyslexiateam@uncommongood.org).

## Medicine for the Economically Disadvantaged (MED)



### Behavioral Health Stipend Program

This summer, Uncommon Good's MED program launched the Behavioral Health Stipend Program (BHSP). In response to the severe shortage of behavioral health clinicians in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, the program will provide financial assistance to Associate Marriage & Family Therapists (AMFTs) and Associate Clinical Social Workers (ACSWs) who are working towards licensure. BHSP will also provide financial incentives to licensed clinicians who mentor and supervise associates. By providing financial support to behavioral health professionals working in low-income communities, Uncommon Good helps keep therapists and social workers where they are needed most, ensuring that patients receive vital low- or no-cost care.

**\$40,000**  
**Stipends**

Two-year commitment



**"California is projected to have a 40% shortage of mental health workers in 2026"**

— California Workforce Development Board

## Nancy Mintie Education Fund

When students and their families join our Connect to College program, we provide holistic support—including providing emergency funds for one-time needs related to rent, utilities, medical bills, and critical education costs.

Over the years, we have seen more of our college students struggle with crises that could end their pursuit of a degree. We have seen a growing number face hunger, unexpected equipment fees, higher transportation costs, and more.

This summer, we launched The Nancy Mintie Education Fund, creating a dedicated source of support for new and continuing college students. Since June, our community has contributed nearly \$22,000 to help students launch their college careers and stay on the path to graduation.

Your support makes a difference. Thanks to donors, Grisel will begin graduate school at UC Berkeley this fall, and her story is just one of many.



“Uncommon Good became my primary source for navigating the college entry process in high school and continued to support me through college at UC Berkeley. Although financial aid covered most of my direct costs, I was still limiting myself on groceries and course supplies. Through an Uncommon Good emergency grant, these costs were alleviated, allowing me to focus fully on my studies and engage more deeply in my academic experience. For students facing circumstances similar to mine, financial insecurity can easily distract from educational and career goals, which is why (your) gift plays such a critical role in creating opportunities.”

— Grisel C., Connect to College Alumna, Class of 2020

## Our Mission in the Spotlight

### Recognition for Uncommon Good

On June 30th, 2026, Uncommon Good was recognized by the U.S. Congress, the California State Assembly, and the Claremont City Council. Representative Judy Chu, CA-28, presented Uncommon Good with a Certificate of Recognition for our high standards of excellence and outstanding achievements. Assemblymember John Harabedian awarded the organization a Certificate of Recognition for our “dedication to opening doors and expanding opportunities.” Finally, the Claremont City Council, represented by Claremont Mayor Jennifer Stark, awarded Uncommon Good a Certificate of Recognition for twenty-six years of service to our community. We are so honored to receive these accolades and grateful for the support of these elected officials and community leaders.



*Claremont Mayor Jennifer Stark and Executive Director Randy Lopez*

## Fall Events

### September: Latino/a Heritage Month

Connect to College Parent Meeting

Dyslexia 101 Workshop (9/9, open to the community)

CSU San Bernardino College Tour

Volunteer Cleanup Day (9/19, open to the community)

### October: Dyslexia Awareness Month

MED Mixer

Dyslexia Simulation Workshop (10/7, open to the community)

Dyslexia Student Meetup

Career Exploration with Keck Graduate Institute

CSU Fullerton College Tour

A green poster with the Uncommon Good logo at the top. The text "VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!" is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below it, it says "Join Uncommon Good and the Claremont United Methodist Church for a volunteer day to help beautify our campus." The date and time "SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH 7AM - 11AM" are in a yellow box, along with the address "211 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont, CA 91711". A list of tasks "WE NEED HELP WITH" includes Pruning shrubs, Weeding, and General clean up, each with a checkmark. An illustration of a person in a green shirt and yellow pants cleaning is shown. At the bottom, it says "PLEASE WEAR CLOSED TOE SHOES, BRING A REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE, AND GLOVES AND PRUNING TOOLS IF YOU HAVE THEM. HATS AND OTHER SUN PROTECTION ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED." There are icons for gloves, a water bottle, and tools. The bottom left says "PLEASE RSVP AT THE LINK OR QR CODE:" and the bottom right has a QR code and the text "Volunteer Workday RSVP link or email jteissere@uncommongood.org".

## MISSION STATEMENT

Uncommon Good's mission is to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through innovative programs in education, health, and urban farming.

### **We accomplish our goals by:**

Helping low-income students succeed in school and go to college.

Supporting our students' families with educational, wellness, and mental health programs.

Maintaining a robust urban farming program and food pantry to eliminate hunger and malnutrition among our students' families and others suffering from food insecurity.

Providing educational loan repayment assistance to young doctors to enable them to practice in under-resourced community clinics.



## Engage with Us

There are many ways to be part of the Uncommon Good family.

**Be a Community Ambassador:** Tell others about Uncommon Good and our outstanding students, families, and medical professionals. Get the word out about the UNCOMMONLY GOOD results our programs achieve.

**Become a Tutor or Mentor:** Support a student's academic journey and help them navigate the path to and through college.

**Visit [uncommongood.org](http://uncommongood.org) to apply.**

**Invest in Our Mission:** Your donations help us meet our greatest needs. Donate here: [uncommongood.org](http://uncommongood.org)

**Stay Connected:** Follow us on Instagram (@uncommon\_good)

**Share Your Feedback!** We love hearing from you: [info@uncommongood.org](mailto:info@uncommongood.org)

**Randy Lopez**, Executive Director, [rlopez@uncommongood.org](mailto:rlopez@uncommongood.org)

**Megan Rainey**, Associate Director, [mrainey@uncommongood.org](mailto:mrainey@uncommongood.org)

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**UncommonGood**  
Education Health Environment