



# April Hero Profile 2017



**Children's Bill of Rights #4:**  
As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each be and feel safe everywhere we go.

**APRIL'S HEROES**  
**Clint Cole & Mark Fontecchio**

**PASSION**  
Teaching kids about positive life choices

**ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE MARK & CLINT**  
Dedicated & Determined

**NOMINATED BY**  
San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office

## Clint Cole and Mark Fontecchio are champions for children, helping hundreds of young people learn important life skills and stay on the right path.

Both Deputies with the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office, Mark and Clint implement the GREAT program (Gang Resistance Education and Training) in schools across the county. GREAT teaches 6th grade students how to prevent bullying, respect others, make good life choices, manage anger and resolve conflicts.

Mark, a GREAT Instructor, has been in law enforcement more than 30 years, 4 years with the Sheriff's Gang Task Force, and the last 13 as a School Resource Deputy. Clint, a GREAT Instructor as well, also spent several years as a School Resource Deputy, and is currently a Detective at the Sheriff's Office. Both men share a passion for empowering young people by providing valuable tools to help them become successful in life. GREAT now reaches 1,000 students in schools county-wide, every year.

Seeing the program's impact, Mark and Clint launched the first ever GREAT Summer Camps (now called the

Sheriff's Youth Summer Camps), week-long day sessions that teach life skills to middle schoolers-- through classes, games and activities. The camps are free to any student who lives in unincorporated areas of SLO County. Community donations, acquired by the Deputies, provide healthy lunches for the participants-- also at no cost.

Deputies Mark Fontecchio and Clint Cole are devoted to their jobs and communities, and want to help children realize their potential, become good citizens, and contribute in meaningful ways to society. Truly, this dedicated team is doing GREAT work for our Central Coast families.

**Thank you, Clint and Mark.**  
**You are true Hands-On Heroes.**

*Look for more on all of our Hands-On Heroes on COE-TV Channel 19!*



Hands-On Heroes is a special recognition of dedicated individuals who believe in and support the Children's Bill of Rights, an achievable vision that our children grow up with healthy minds, bodies and spirits that enable them to maximize their potential. This program is coordinated by First 5 San Luis Obispo County in collaboration with local organizations that make a difference in the lives of children in our community. To find out more about First 5 and the Children's Bill of Rights, please visit [first5slo.org](http://first5slo.org).



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