



# April Hero Profile 2018



**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 HERO**  
**Tom Dobyms**

**PASSION**  
**Protecting the safety and well-being of at-risk youth**

**ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE TOM**  
**Impassioned**

**NOMINATED BY**  
**CASA of San Luis Obispo County**

**Tom Dobyms is a champion for children, basing his life's work on the belief that every child has a right to grow up in a safe, permanent home.**

As Board President for the Court Appointed Special Advocates of San Luis Obispo County (CASA), Tom leads and supports dozens of volunteers appointed through the judicial system to advocate for the best interests of children experiencing abuse or neglect. There are currently near to 450 young people in SLO County under the court's jurisdiction.

Tom recognizes the critical, loving influence of each and every CASA volunteer-- often the most consistent adult in the child's life during a very difficult stage. Volunteers spend valuable one-on-one time with their assigned child, getting to know them and becoming their voice in court— so as to ensure that their needs are met.

Tom has a strong history of putting the youngest among us-- first. Prior to joining the CASA Board in 2013, he spent 22 years on the Board of Orangewood Children's Foundation, a nonprofit in Orange County with a similar mission to end the cycle of abuse among at-risk children and families.

Colleagues say Tom knows that a community is only as healthy as its children. That's why he has proven to be such a staunch ambassador of CASA, helping to promote and raise awareness and funds for the organization. Tom's idea to hold quarterly luncheons with volunteers has resulted in higher retention rates and has given members an important opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and be reminded of how much they -- and their efforts -- are appreciated.

No matter the task or ask, Tom's devotion to local children is enthusiastically evident when he says "It's all about the kids!"

**Thank you, Tom.**  
**You are a true Hands-On Hero.**

*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).

