

Communications & Outreach Update

September 23, 2026





first5slocounty When children thrive, communities thrive. 🧡 We were proud to be co-presenters at the recent First 5 California Summit, joining partners from across the state for an inspiring session about how California Jobs First regions are leveraging economic development investments to address the critical child care shortage—and recognizing early learning and child care as foundational economic infrastructure. Grateful for the opportunity to connect children, families, workforce, and economic mobility in the same conversation. Because investing in young children is investing in California's economic future. 🌱 Learn more about First 5's involvement at: <https://www.first5slo.org/uplift-regionwide-child-care-coalition.php> [Pictured left to right: Maggie Payne, First 5 SLO County | Shelly Masur, Low Income Investment Fund, Bay Area Jobs First Collaborative | Cristina Blevins, First 5 Orange County, Orange County Regional Investment Initiative | Wendy Wendt, First 5 SLO County] @first5california

Good Morning SLO

Grace Central Coast

September 24 2026 | 7:30 - 9 a.m.



STEVE SCHMIDT

SLO's Motel Inn: The World's First Motel



WENDY WENDT

Childcare is Vital to a Thriving Local Economy



EMILY HOFFMAN

40 Years of Lindamood-Bell Learning



JOEL PETERSON

The Status on SLO County's Wine Country



JULIA VAISAROVA

Fostering Youth Development: SLO Children's Museum



ANNA BRANNEN

The Revival of Gus's

SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

CHILDCARE IS VITAL TO A THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY

Join **Wendy Wendt**, Executive Director of First 5 SLO County, to learn about the critical role that the availability of childcare plays in local economics. Wendy brings over a decade of experience at First 5 SLO and has built a career focused on collaborative community-building.





Way Upstream:

*The Story of First 5's Journey
As a Champion for Young
Children and Families*



WENDY WENDT's decade-plus as Executive Director at First 5 San Luis Obispo County is built on a career focused on collaborative community building across various fields, including education, the arts, housing and homelessness, philanthropy, immigration, and healthcare. Under Ms. Wendt's leadership, First 5 SLO County has founded initiatives to broaden business community attention on early childhood priorities, most notably a Family-Friendly Workplaces Program in partnership with local chambers of commerce. She has served on Boards of the First 5 Association of California and the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, and now is on the grantmaking committee of the Community Foundation SLO County.

SEPT 24

Thursday
1:30PM-3:00PM



VIRTUAL TRAINING

NO pre-registration required!

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3801806881?pwd=nFoR7ya8CwSc5dltsSiCnqQNatqbQl.1&omn=86317413255>

Meeting ID: 380 180 6881
Passcode: TMHA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Barry Johnson at bjohnson@t-mha.org

IN LOVING MEMORY



First 5 SLO County

★ Favorites · 19 hours ago · 🌐



Today, we join countless others whose hearts are heavy remembering Dolly Parton—a true luminary whose greatest gifts reached far beyond music. For so many children and families, Dolly's legacy is found in something beautifully simple: a book, a bedtime story, a child's growing imagination, and the precious moments families share while reading together. Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, millions of children have been given the gift of books and the message that their dreams matter. Thank you, Dolly, for giving every child a chance to dream bigger—and for helping families create memories, one book at a time. Your vision, kindness, generosity, and music will continue to shine through generations to come. ❤️



Hoy nos unimos a innumerables personas que sienten una gran tristeza al recordar a Dolly Parton, una auténtica figura destacada cuyos mayores dones fueron mucho más allá de la música. Para muchísimos niños y familias, el legado de Dolly reside en algo maravillosamente sencillo: un libro, un cuento antes de dormir, la imaginación en desarrollo de un niño y los momentos preciosos que las familias comparten mientras leen juntas. A través de la «Imagination Library» de Dolly Parton, millones de niños han recibido el regalo de los libros y el mensaje de que sus sueños importan. Gracias, Dolly, por dar a cada niño la oportunidad de soñar a lo grande, y por ayudar a las familias a crear recuerdos, libro a libro. Tu visión, tu amabilidad, tu generosidad y tu música seguirán brillando a lo largo de las generaciones venideras. ❤️ 📖



Today, we join people around the world in mourning the loss of Dolly Parton—a beloved artist, philanthropist, and extraordinary champion for children.

In 1995, Dolly Parton started mailing books to children in her home county to inspire children to love reading in honor of her dad, who couldn't read or write.

In 2009, **United Way of San Luis Obispo County** brought Dolly's mission home here on the Central Coast by launching the **Imagination Library** program. Every month, **1,635 children** in San Luis Obispo County find a free, bilingual, new book in the mailbox — because of neighbors like you who fund it, and a woman from Sevier County, TN who started it all. To date, **55,279 books** have been mailed to local kids!

Carry Dolly's Legacy Forward



Help us carry Dolly's work forward

Dolly's family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, people consider supporting the Imagination Library. We're honored to help carry that request forward here in our community.

A gift to United Way of SLO County stays right here in our community and helps us enroll more local children in the Imagination Library. It costs just \$8 per year to provide the books and postage for one child.



*First 5 Sponsorships
& Support Roles*

AUGUST 1ST-7TH
**WORLD
BREASTFEEDING
WEEK 2026**



*A Sustainable Start,
Strengthened by Support* 

World Breastfeeding Week



**San Luis Obispo County
Lactation Services**

WIC 805-781-4344	In-person & phone consults
TWIN CITIES HOSPITAL 805-434-4644 adventisthealth.org/central-coast/events/	In-person in-Patient & Clinic consults.
FRENCH HOSPITAL 805-541-2229 dignityhealth.org/central-coast/locations/frenchhospital/services/maternity/breastfeeding-support	In-person in-Patient & Clinic consults. PMAD & breastfeeding support groups. Prenatal & postpartum classes.
SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL 805-540-7939 adventisthealth.org/central-coast/events/	In-Patient consults.
MARIAN HOSPITAL 805-730-3388 dignityhealth.org/central-coast/locations/marianhospital/services/maternity/breastfeeding-support	In-person in-Patient & Clinic consults. PMAD & breastfeeding support groups. Prenatal & postpartum classes.
GROWING WITH BABY Andrea Heron growingwithbabyslo.com 805-543-6988	In-person and virtual consults. In-person breastfeeding support group.
MAMACITA MIDWIFERY Lisa M. Boyd 805-235-5790 mishellwhitacre.com 805-400-8231	Home visits, phone & virtual consults.



www.centralcoastbreastfeeding.com

BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH



PROVIDER TRAINING



In Recognition of National
Breastfeeding Month

**Lactation Support
& Referral Pathways**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH
12-1PM ON ZOOM



SAVE A LIFE!!!

Donate your excess breast milk to
Mothers' Milk Bank



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
11AM-3PM

GROWING WITH BABY

1230 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo

- Complete medical history questionnaire
- Frozen milk donations up to 9 months old accepted
- Enjoy light refreshments & Donor gift
- This is a free event & open to the public
- Blood draw will be done at a later date

Click here or contact
Leslie at 805-440-1271
for additional info:



Center for
Family
Strengthening



 **CENTRAL COAST**
BREASTFEEDING COALITION

 **FIRST 5**
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



In celebration of World Breastfeeding Week 2026

Walk, Connect & Celebrate at Sinsheimer Park

Join us in community for a family-friendly walk!
Connect with other families on their breastfeeding journeys and win prizes. Everyone is welcome!

In collaboration with community resources such as SLO County Mobile Library & Car Seat Program, CAPSLO Help Me Grow and more!

Tuesday, August 4
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sinsheimer Park (900 Southwood Dr, SLO)
We'll meet at the picnic tables and then walk together

FREE Event!



Paso Robles Main Street Association & Central Coast
Hispanic Business Association event. . .



Paso Robles

Día de los Muertos

Sat., October 24, 2026



Downtown City Park
10 am - 7 pm

Free Admission

For more info: pasoroblesdowntown.org

SPONSORS



FAMILY SHRINES
AWARDS
DANCERS
MUSIC



Vendors
Food
KIDS ZONE
ARTS/CRAFTS

• MISSION PLAZA •
DÍA DE LOS
MUERTOS
— 2026 —



Saturday, October 31

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Folklorico dancers, mariachis,
food and drink, community
booths, costume and face
painting, traditional altars



Hosted by Latino Outreach Council



PARENT-CHILD PARTICIPATION Fall '26 Learning Pod Series

Topics include:

**Art, Movement, Sensory Play,
Yoga, Music & More!**



**September 16th -
October 29th**

7 sessions
PLEASE COMMIT
TO FULL SERIES



NEW PARTICIPANTS - register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/fall-2026-new-family>

RETURNING PARTICIPANTS - register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/fall-2026-returning-family>

Questions? Email: megan.scyc@gmail.com

0-12 months - Wednesdays: 11am - 12:15pm

1-2 years - Wednesdays: 9:30am - 10:45am

2-3 years - Thursdays: 9:30am - 10:45am

3-5 years - Thursdays: 11am - 12:15pm

Ramona Garden Park Community Center

993 Ramona Ave. Grover Beach

Generously Sponsored By:







SUMMER SITE VISITS

*Vision Screenings &
School Nurses Appreciation Dinner*

*Welcome to Our Cal Poly
Public Health Interns!*



SUMMER SITE VISITS

Dental Screenings



Thank you
oral Health



Thank you!
SLO County
oral Health
From Lily



Congratulations!



atascadero_chamber Congratulations to our 2026 Women of Influence North County Awardees! 🎉 (Chosen by you!) Get your tickets today for the WINC Leadership Summit & Luncheon on Tuesday, September 29th at the link in our bio.

Meet the impactful women making waves in our community. 🙌

✨ Alexandra Chamberlain, Executive Director at [@tolosachildrendentalcenter](https://www.tolosachildrendentalcenter.org): With 15+ years of nonprofit work, Alexandra joined TCDC as the organization's first Development Director. She ensures that TCDC provides essential oral health care for thousands of children every year.



[Healthy Smiles, Stronger Futures \\$706,000 Investment](#)

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with [Must! Charities](#). This tremendous investment will strengthen our Dentistry at School(DAS) programs, support facility upgrades in our Paso Robles office, and provide organizational support. Thank you to everyone at Must! Charities for investing in the lives and smiles of children in SLO County.



First 5 SLO County

Published by Misty Marie Livengood · 1m ·

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Thrilled for our partners at [Pregnancy and Parenting Support of San Luis Obispo County](#)! What a heartfelt gift for young children and families in our community. ❤️ [Dasha County of San Luis Obispo Government](#) <https://www.sanluisobispo.com/.../article316940242.html> See less



SLO Tribune

39m ·

Breakout country star from SLO donates \$25,000 to local nonprofit

National Diaper Need Awareness Week is September 14-20. Nearly half of families with a baby or toddler don't always have enough diapers on hand.

NATIONAL DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK

**HELP IS
AVAILABLE**

Struggling to keep up with diapers? Connect with our partners at Pregnancy & Parenting Support of San Luis Obispo County - for help. ❤️
ppsslo.org (805) 541-3367



Pregnancy & Parenting Support
of San Luis Obispo County



Advocacy in Action



**HELP BRING AN
INCLUSIVE SPLASH
PAD TO
JOY PLAYGROUND**

**BE PART OF SOMETHING
THAT LASTS**

it's time to complete the vision of Joy Playground-creating a space where children of all abilities can experience the **JOY** of water play, together.



**EVERY CHILD DESERVES A PLACE
to laugh, play, and belong**

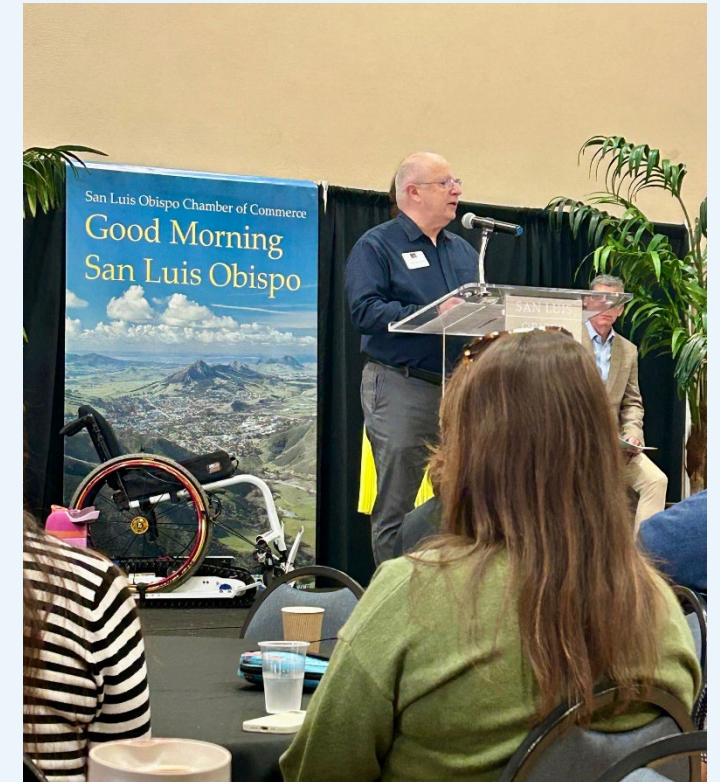
Join us at city hall
on **September 22nd**
6pm as we urge
the City of
Atascadero to help
Parents for Joy and
Parents Helping
Parents bring this
dream to reality







**San Luis Obispo County
Family-Friendly Workplaces**





FIESTA DE REGRESO A LA ESCUELA

BACK-TO-SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA!



Saturday, August 1

10:00 - 2:00

Cuesta College, SLO

en Cuesta College, SLO

sábado, 1 agosto | 10:00 - 2:00 | Entrada gratuita

Exciting performances, food trucks,
character meet & greets,
games, and more! Free admission & parking.

Juegos, actuaciones emocionantes,
camión de comida y más!



SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT INSTITUTE

FALL 2026



ROOTED TOGETHER

Empowering Families, Schools, and Communities to Support Children with Disabilities

Join Parents Helping Parents and the SLO County SELPA and CAC for our annual special education parent institute. It is a day filled with learning and connection.

September 26, 2026
Loma Vista Community School
San Luis Obispo
9:00am-2:30pm

To Register:
Scan QR Code or use the link
tinyurl.com/ParentEvent2026

Free Event
Keynote Speaker
3 Breakout Session Opportunities
Exhibitors of Local Agencies
Snacks and Lunch



805-782-7301
info@sloselpa.org
Se habla español

INSITUTO DE PADRES ~ EDUCACIÓN ESPECIAL

OTOÑO 2026



ENRAIZADOS JUNTOS

Empoderando a Familias, Escuelas y Comunidades para Apoyar a Niños con Discapacidades

Acompañe a Parents Helping Parents, así como a SELPA y CAC del condado de San Luis Obispo, en nuestro instituto anual para padres sobre la educación especial. Será una jornada llena de aprendizaje y oportunidades para conectar con los demás.

Septiembre 26, 2026
Escuela Comunitaria Loma Vista
San Luis Obispo
9:00am-2:30pm

Para Registrarse:
Escanee el Código QR Code o
use el enlace
tinyurl.com/ParentEvent2026

Evento Gratuito
Discurso Inaugural
3 Oportunidades de Sesiones Paralelas
Expositores de Agencias Locales
Meriendas y Almuerzo



805-782-7301
info@sloselpa.org
Se habla español



PARENTS
& PROVIDERS



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!





See You in October!

