



December Hero Profile 2019



Children's Bill of Rights #12: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each be encouraged to dream big, to grow through challenge and mistakes, and to always live with hope and aspiration.

DECEMBER'S HERO
Magda Mancilla

PASSION
Helping young families overcome cultural barriers

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE MAGDA
Empathetic

NOMINATED BY
Promotores Collaborative of San Luis Obispo County

Magda Mancilla is a champion for children, empowering their parents and caregivers to overcome life challenges and thrive in their communities.

For 13 years, Magda has been a bi-lingual preschool teacher with the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education at First 5's early-learning center in Oceano. Her journey began decades ago in Mexico, where she learned from her father the importance of taking time to offer assistance to less fortunate neighbors and to encourage people to maintain hope during times of struggle. Magda now carries that same sense of "el lo servicial" – helpfulness – by giving her students and their families the courage to dream big and reach for a better life here in the United States.

Magda cultivates a nurturing connection with each child in her class, knowing firsthand the obstacles and anxiety many immigrant families experience as they try to connect to the larger community. She respects and supports students of diverse cultures and backgrounds, and has a gift for helping them find their spark! Magda always makes herself available as a teacher and a support

person— linking parents to educational opportunities and resources that serve to strengthen their family units. She is a trusted listener whose kindness and empathy help to create safe space and open lines of communication.

Magda is a true advocate and role model in our Central Coast community, demonstrating through her actions how we can better support immigrant children-- with delicate attention and a disarming presence. Magda proves daily that we are stronger together, and that our individual differences are an asset to the greater good that we can achieve in solidarity with each other.

**Muchas gracias Magda.
Eres toda una heroína ejemplar.**

Look for more on all of our Hands-On Heroes on COE-TV Channels 2 and 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.



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