



# June Hero Profile 2017

**Children's Bill of Rights #6:** As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each visit a doctor, dentist or counselor when needed to help us stay physically and mentally healthy.

**JUNE'S HERO**

**Navid Fardanesh, DDS**

**PASSION**

**Making sure children have healthy, happy smiles**

**ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE NAVID**

**Determined**

**NOMINATED BY**

**Public Health Department,  
County of San Luis Obispo**



**Navid Fardanesh is a champion for children, working relentlessly to ensure that all children in the county get the dental care they need, regardless of their income or type of insurance.**

A licensed dentist for nearly two decades, Dr. Fardanesh decided two years ago to forego his private practice and tackle the broader health care needs of his community by working for the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department.

As the Oral Health Program Manager, Navid has two primary roles. He offers direct services for children - oral screenings, fluoride, cleanings, brushing/hygiene education and care coordination in many settings, including WIC clinics, family day cares, and preschools. He also organizes the County's Children's Oral Health Coalition, which brings together public and private practitioners, community-based organizations, professional dental provider networks, school personnel and more to collaborate on ways to improve the way our community helps growing kids develop healthy teeth.

Colleagues describe Dr. Fardanesh as a model of caring. He readily puts children at ease during oral exams, sometimes the first such experience of their young lives. When he sees

preschool children suffering from serious dental decay, he persists to get them timely treatment. He has developed a rapport with local private dentists, many of whom have offered to help low-income children in need—working around insurance issues and/or providing pro-bono services.

In addition to developing a private-provider referral network for little ones in highest need of dental care, Navid has engaged undergraduate pre-dental students at Cal Poly to support elementary school-based screenings. This project is helping to inspire a new generation of pediatric dental professionals dedicated to making good on our children's right to a healthy start in life.

**Thank you, Dr. Fardanesh.  
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).



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