



February Hero Profile 2019



Children's Bill of Rights #2: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each eat healthy and plentiful meals every day.

FEBRUARY'S HERO
Deanna Smaw

PASSION
Empowering new moms and dads in feeding their babies

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE DEANNA
Creative

NOMINATED BY
County of San Luis Obispo
WIC Program

Deanna Smaw is a champion for children and families, helping women to be in the healthiest position to nourish their newborns as well as themselves.

In her role as a Public Health Aide, Deanna provides participants in the WIC Program (Women, Infants and Children) with nutrition guidance, breastfeeding support, and health education. This not only includes pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, but also parents and caregivers of children as they grow from birth to age 5. All of WIC's services, extending to food vouchers and health care referrals, are provided at no cost to eligible individuals.

Deanna's colleagues say she brings enthusiasm, kindness and creativity to her work each day. She makes every parent and child feel special—and ensures that the WIC appointment is a comforting place of support. Whether it's a classroom or an office, Deanna is innovative and thoughtful in making that space warm and inviting. A father walked into the WIC clinic with his baby one day, and Deanna said to him "I admire you for raising your baby." He responded appreciatively, "Nobody has ever said that to me." She has even used her sewing talents to make breastfeeding

scarves for dozens of moms, and has given away a number of her umbrellas to clients who came in on a rainy day.

Families in need often face many obstacles. Deanna and all the members of the WIC staff team work together to help to break down walls and give hope and encouragement to parents in need of support during a critical and intense time of life for them and their babies.

After 16 years of service with SLO County's WIC program, Deanna will retire at the end of February! So it's all the more fitting that our community can honor her contributions, and celebrate her new beginning.

**Thank you, Deanna.
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.



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