



January Hero Profile 2018

Children's Bill of Rights #1: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each live in a stable, comfortable home surrounded by parents, family and other caring adults who nurture us throughout childhood.

JANUARY'S HERO
Janet Wallace

PASSION
Helping give children the best possible upbringing for future success

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE JANET
Positive

NOMINATED BY
Department of Social Services,
San Luis Obispo County



Janet Wallace is a champion for children, sharing her own experiences fostering children so that more of our youngest might find loving, permanent homes.

Her journey began in 2013, when Janet and her husband, William, were the first to apply to become a “Resource Family” for the Department of Social Services in San Luis Obispo County. This new program was implemented by Child Welfare Services to establish a more unified process for licensing foster-family homes, approving relatives and non-relative extended family members as foster-care providers, and approving families for legal guardianship or adoption.

Since their approval, the Wallaces have provided a home for four children in the foster system, one of whom they adopted in March of 2016. Janet is staunchly committed to collaborating with the important individuals in her child's life—even if it means extra effort. Throughout the adoption process, Janet and William continued to work closely with their adopted child's biological parents to organize visitation time.

Peers say Janet understands the importance of permanency for children—that they need a safe, caring home that

provides structure, consistency and predictability. Janet strives to give children a nurturing environment that helps to minimize the impact of trauma, and allows them to enjoy a happy and relatively carefree childhood.

Data show the dire need. On any given day in San Luis Obispo County, more than 360 children are living in foster care, and up to 170 are waiting for placement with a Resource Family—particularly teens. People like Janet are powerful role models. She has devoted her life to helping improve the chances that all children in our community will grow up in stable homes surrounded by caring, nurturing adults.

**Thank you, Janet.
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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