



September Hero Profile 2017

Children's Bill of Rights #9: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each make and keep healthy relationships with friends.

SEPTEMBER HERO

Julie Martin

PASSION

Helping new parents build strong friendships and support systems

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE JULIE

Connector

NOMINATED BY

**San Luis Coastal Adult School
Parent Participation Program**

Julie Martin is a champion for children, connecting families and children with each other in friendship, while teaching valuable parenting skills.

Since 1997, Julie has been a toddler teacher for the Parent Participation Program with the San Luis Coastal School District Adult School. Parents and children attend class together, sharing challenges and successes, and bonding during the process. As an instructor, Julie leads discussions and activities, which include indoor and outdoor play filled with sensory experiences, language, art, music and movement. Julie focuses on bringing the adults together, as she knows they can be a very important resource for each other.

Colleagues describe Julie as a true friendship builder, who fosters bonds with—and for—people. Julie started in the Parent Participation Program herself as a mom of three. With one of her daughters, Julie formed a group of friends in their infant class, and they all continued the entire program together through their children's entries into Kindergarten. The group then gathered at Julie's house each year on the first day of school. Four of the babies, now young women, stayed friends throughout school and STILL see each other regularly!

Julie-- is a kindred spirit. Inspired by her own experience, Julie sets the stage for the parents in her classes to develop lifelong friendships for themselves and their children. She encourages her students to meet up for playdates outside of class, and takes a personal interest in the families she works with.

Julie positively touches so many others' lives, yet she would tell you SHE'S the lucky one. Connecting families with each other and with wonderful opportunities to enjoy together in the community-- is Julie's personal and professional passion.

**Thank you, Julie.
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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