



June Hero Profile 2019



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
Dan Hile

PASSION
Keeping his focus on the vision health of our children

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE DAN
Dedicated

NOMINATED BY
Optometric Care Associates

Dr. Dan Hile is a champion for children, providing our community with a service that ensures kids have healthy sight and are better equipped to learn in school.

For twenty years, Optometrist Dr. Dan Hile has conducted vision screenings for some of our county's youngest children, diagnosing any problems early on— so that they may be corrected promptly before escalating into bigger issues that require more extensive medical care.

The vision screening program that Dr. Hile is a part of is partly funded by First 5, and began through the Lions Club more than five decades ago when mandated 1st grade screenings were launched in the schools. By that age, many children who have untreated amblyopia (lazy eye) or large refractive errors— can experience visually-based developmental delays and permanent vision loss. The current program allows for early intervention and treatment, giving these children improved health and a greater chance for academic success. Dr. Hile has had a huge hand in the overall effort—which translates to more than 76,000 children screened and 4,600 referred for care. Most of this work takes place out of the clinic setting—at preschools and elementary schools, naturally!

Kids and their parents alike sing Dr. Hile's praises. His caring, personable nature quickly puts both children and adults at ease. He connects with—then walks his young patients carefully through every step of the process, to reduce any jitters, and even make them enthusiastic participants!

Dr. Hile is passionate about assessing and quickly addressing any visual barriers that might be hindering a child's ability to thrive in the classroom and in life. This kind of early detection is a win for the entire family and community!

**Thank you, Dan.
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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