



December Hero Profile 2017



Children's Bill of Rights #12: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each be encouraged to dream big, to grow through challenge and mistakes, and to always live with hope and aspiration.

DECEMBER'S HERO

Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer

PASSION

Getting children immersed in and excited about words, books and beyond!

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE MARGARET

Passionate

NOMINATED BY

**County of San Luis Obispo
Public Libraries**

Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer is a champion for children, helping them learn and grow through library programs and partnerships with community organizations.

For 12 years, Margaret has been a driving force within SLO County's Public Libraries. As Youth Services Coordinator, she leads all library initiatives for children, teens, their parents and caregivers. Her dedication and enthusiasm have resulted in a wide array of engaging educational events that expose children to new experiences and ideas in literacy-rich environments. One example: Brain Play, which introduces families to puzzles, Lego tables, puppet theaters, and other hands-on activities for imaginative fun.

Margaret is all about joint projects! She works with the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County to provide snacks and lunch to hundreds of children at the library's summer reading programs when school nutrition programs are not operating. She recently helped to connect the local WIC program with grant money from Central Coast Funds for Children, giving 1,300 preschoolers a bag with books, along with early literacy tips for families. With a California State Library grant, Margaret was able to provide seven library

staff teams with Brazelton Touchpoints early-childhood development training, which focuses on showing parents and caregivers how to see themselves as their child's first teacher. Margaret collaborates with the SLO Children's Museum to give children a free day-pass to the Museum when they sign up for their first library card. AND, Margaret started a summer reading program for youth at the SLO County Juvenile Services Center, providing them with valuable learning opportunities during a particularly vulnerable time in their lives.

Colleagues say the depth of Margaret's love for literature and little ones matches the impact she has on our communities throughout the county.

**Thank you, Margaret.
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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