



August Hero Profile 2017



Children’s Bill of Rights #8: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each explore a variety of experiences—in arts, nature, culture and music—that illuminate the world’s natural beauty, richness and human creativity.

AUGUST HERO
Kunchang Lee

PASSION
Empowering youth through dance, music, theater and beyond

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE KUNCHANG
Extraordinary

NOMINATED BY
Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation

Kunchang Lee is a champion for children, sharing his own artistic gifts with children and encouraging them to be their true, authentic selves.

For the last 13 years, Kunchang has worked as an instructor with the Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation, a non-profit academy whose mission is to enrich the lives of area youth with free classes in the visual and performing arts. Kunchang teaches guitar, piano and break dancing; he studied under Ralph Grasso, a guitarist/composer for motion pictures, television and records.

Colleagues say Kunchang is extremely generous with his time and talents, teaching to the whole child— heart, mind, body and soul. He works steadily and softly to help each of his students build self-esteem and a positive self-image. In one case, Kunchang inspired a young dancer, through the spirit of “I can!”, to start teaching the children in her own low-income apartment complex how to dance, sing and be part of a musical production. Her efforts gave these children a creative outlet, a sense of purpose and a fun, healthy routine.

When another student was disrupting her class, Kunchang’s delicate demeanor helped her learn how to listen and be respectful of others. Under his kind guidance, she discovered what was special about her own self and the arts.

Year after year, Kunchang has proven to be a dedicated youth advocate and a respected role model for students all over northern San Luis Obispo County. His alumni always remember him, and peers and parents alike say that his influence on the community grows with each child whose artistic passion he helps to ignite.

**Thank you, Kunchang.
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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