



July Hero Profile 2017



Children's Bill of Rights #7: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each learn and master ideas and skills in and out of school that inspire us, help us understand and be ready for our place in the world.

JULY'S HERO
Pat Maduena

PASSION
Ensuring children go to school with confidence and a love of learning

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE PAT
Resilient

NOMINATED BY
San Luis Obispo County
Office of Education

Pat Maduena is a champion for children, creating a classroom filled with love, encouragement and imagination that helps young learners and their families feel empowered and connected.

As a Site Supervisor for the San Miguel State Preschool Programs, Pat generates unique opportunities for children and parents, fostering a sense of belonging that extends from the classroom—to the school campus—to the community.

Pat has been with CA State Preschool since 2003, after working in early education with the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District. Colleagues say Pat understands the cultures and needs of children and families living in San Miguel; she is known to go door-to-door and extend a personal invitation to her preschool. Pat helps parents achieve their goals for their children and themselves by breaking down barriers within the diverse population of San Miguel-- whether it's helping a Mixtec-speaking mother communicate her hopes for her child with preschool staff, or inspiring preschool parents from all backgrounds to build a "family of families" through shared volunteer activities and social events.

When several families were struggling financially, Pat joined with other community agencies to provide quick, on-site access to basic food and clothing. Pat's efforts eased the anxiety of these families and their children—who were then able to show up for school ready to learn after a nutritious breakfast and dressed in new clothes.

Pat emphasizes early literacy in her classroom through the "Raising A Reader" program, hosting family literacy nights and connecting children and caretakers with the local library. Peers say Pat is a gift to our Central Coast, with her incredible heart and big smile as she greets little ones every day.

**Thank you, Pat.
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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