



# March Hero Profile 2017

**Children's Bill of Rights #3:** As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each have the basics for our daily life—clothing, transportation, and supplies for school, outside interests and activities.

**MARCH'S HERO**

**Sandy Richardson**

**PASSION**

Helping to ensure that no one goes without life's basic necessities

**ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE SANDY**

Supportive

**NOMINATED BY**

Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO)



## Sandy Richardson is a champion for children, supporting their families in crisis situations by getting them financial help to cover essential needs.

A retired teacher, Sandy is the Founder and President of SLO County Womenade, a non-profit network that donates items, time and money to provide basic necessities to Central Coast families. Womenade is supported by donations and is run solely by volunteers, including Sandy.

Womenade was born 14 years ago in Sandy's home at a potluck among friends, who locked arms with a vision to fill a critical need in our community. Since then, more than \$664,000 in Womenade funds have helped struggling families pay for dental and medical care, diapers, baby formula, furniture, rent, clothing and beyond. Just one example: when a family was forced to travel out of town for medical assistance, Sandy personally worked to get them a double stroller to ease the commute with their little ones.

Sandy plays many roles. She coordinates need requests with donors and stores the items in her own home until they are delivered to families. Sandy's collaborative

spirit and go-to nature endear her to the agencies from whom she gets referrals, including schools, medical professionals, and organizations like CAPSLO, Family Care Network, Martha's Place Children's Assessment Center, and People's Self-Help Housing.

Under Sandy's leadership, Womenade has created a valuable support system to help stabilize and strengthen families—and our community as a whole. Peers describe Sandy as forward thinking, innovative and caring. She always finds a way to make things happen when other help is not immediately available to families during times of need.

**Thank you, Sandy Richardson.  
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](http://first5slo.org).



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