



May Hero Profile 2018

Children's Bill of Rights #5: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each enjoy daily physical activity and time outdoors.

MAY'S HERO
Sarah Sullivan

PASSION
Creating safe play space for children with special needs

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE SARAH
Committed

NOMINATED BY
Parents Helping Parents



Sarah Sullivan is a champion for children, working to make sure ALL children have access to outdoor space that is safe, inclusive and fun.

For the past five years, Sarah has worked tirelessly with Parents for Joy, an Atascadero-based support group for families who have children with special needs. Sarah's connection to Parents for Joy comes straight from the heart. She is adoptive mom to Keagan, a fun-loving 10-year-old with Cerebral Palsy and Autism and Xander, a 1-year-old with Down Syndrome.

Parents for Joy's main goal is to build "Joy Playground," an all-inclusive place for children to play and socialize. Fundraising continues for the playground, which has two primary purposes: 1) to provide a secure universal-access play environment that is safe and suited for children with sensory and/or physical challenges, and 2) to foster a sense of community so that children of ALL abilities can play together.

Sarah has stepped up as a leader in the quest to help see the project to fruition. Her efforts are based on the belief in "life without limits for people with disabilities." As Xander's and

Keagan's mom, Sarah is well aware of the restrictive nature of many traditional playgrounds and is passionate about establishing all-inclusive options in local neighborhoods. Her enthusiasm has ultimately brought together Parents for Joy, Parents Helping Parents, United Cerebral Palsy of SLO, and civic leaders to turn vision-- into reality.

Thanks to this collaboration and Sarah's unstoppable commitment, organizers broke ground for "Joy Playground" this month, and it's expected to open before the summer of 2019 in Atascadero's Colony Park. A sure win for our entire Central Coast!

**Thank you, Sarah.
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.

