



October Hero Profile 2018

Children's Bill of Rights #10: As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each know that adults and peers listen and support us as individuals while we grow, and respect our diverse cultures, backgrounds, circumstances, talents, sparks and passions.

OCTOBER'S HERO
Amy Kardel

PASSION
Enriching the community by supporting youth exchange students

ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE AMY
Resourceful

NOMINATED BY
Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo de Tolosa



Amy Kardel is a champion for children, contributing her time to see that our kids and communities grow through cultural exchanges.

For years, Amy has been a steady force behind the scenes for Rotary de Tolosa, running its sister school exchange program in Germany since 1999 and the Rotary Youth Exchange Program since 2006. Through a variety of roles, Amy has been instrumental in finding host families, conducting interviews, supporting both inbound and outbound students, organizing counselors, and ensuring students connect with each other through monthly meetings.

Amy recognizes that our world is a better, more connected place when we strive to open global doors for opportunity, learning and cultural understanding. Everyone benefits—the exchange students, their host families and all of us who live, work, visit and play on the Central Coast.

Amy has hosted meet-and-greets and socials for alumni of the German program, increasing the endowment to more than \$150,000 for the German School Committee to offer scholarships that help offset exchange fees. She

heads up the program's annual certification process with the U.S. State Department, and handles the important task of ensuring compliance with visa regulations.

Thanks to Amy's efforts, Rotary de Tolosa has sponsored and/or hosted students from Taiwan, Brazil, Japan, Germany, Belgium, China, Denmark and Spain. These travel experiences are life-changing for our children—creating long-lasting friendships, broadening horizons and offering valuable lessons that resonate well into adulthood. Peers say Amy is an inspiration to all who know her, and someone on whom you can count to get any job done. Perhaps it's no wonder... her favorite song is "It's a Small World."

Thank you, Amy.
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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