

“We Are the Care” is a county-wide advocacy initiative comprised of families, professionals in the early childhood care and education field, civic leaders, TK-12 teachers, higher education leaders, employers, business owners, community members, government employees and elected officials who are partnering together to address our local child care crisis.

OCTOBER'S HERO

Joshua Majors

HOW JOSHUA SHOWS HIS CARE

By supporting faith-based early ed programs

ONE OF JOSHUA'S HOPES

To extend services even deeper into the community



Joshua Majors is a champion for children, leading what some call a shining example of how faith-based organizations play a pivotal role in helping to meet the child care needs of families.

For 5 years, Joshua has served as Pastor of Arroyo Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church, which provides space for the Valley View Children's Center. The center currently has a limited number of slots (due to COVID-19 impacts), but can typically accommodate around 70 children in its early-learning program. Director Jamie Sanbonmatsu credits Pastor Joshua's leadership in cultivating the symbiotic relationship between the center and church—a model that works to the betterment of the entire community. Overhead costs and fees are reduced, and maintenance/cleaning—a shared effort—of even greater importance amid pandemic protocols.

Pastor Joshua's energy, focus and warmth have continued a tradition of trust between church and children's center that goes back to 1985, when Valley View first opened. Director Jamie is now welcoming the children of children she taught when she came on board almost 30 years ago. Two of Pastor Joshua's own children attended the center, and Jamie says it is a familiar sight (under normal

conditions) to see Pastor Joshua singing, sharing stories, playing guitar and even mountain biking with kids and parents. “Family” is what Valley View is all about.

Early education, care and outreach are core values for Pastor Joshua and the faith-based community he leads. Along with the children's center, the church hosts a Life Hope Clinic which offers free dental checks, eye exams, health screenings and more. This summer, a farmers' market of local harvest overflow took place—open to the public. The team approach of Seventh-day Adventist Church and Valley View proves how such partnerships can help fill gaps for growing families—and benefit the broader community as well.

**Thank you, Joshua.
You are a true Hands-On Hero.**

Look for more on all of our “We Are the Care” Heroes at first5slo.org



“We Are the Care” was born from “Where’s the Care?”, a Town Hall hosted in May 2019 by First 5 San Luis Obispo County with the support of local stakeholders. It led to the creation of three task forces dedicated to addressing challenges and identifying opportunities to improve and expand our local childcare system. “Hands-on Heroes” is a recognition program, coordinated with partner agencies, that honors individuals making a difference in the lives of young children and families. The year 2020 highlights Heroes in Child Care. To learn more about “We Are the Care” and “Hands-on Heroes”, please visit first5slo.org.