



September Hero Profile 2020

“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.

SEPTEMBER’S HERO

Meghan Burger

HOW MEGHAN SHOWS HER CARE

By being a devoted advocate for quality school-age child care programs

ONE OF MEGHAN’S HOPES

That everyone might see child care as an essential service



Meghan Burger is a champion for children, working with youth for 25 years and living out, every day, her core mission of giving back to the community.

For the last 15 years, Meghan has served as Recreation Supervisor of Youth Services for the City of San Luis Obispo. Her knowledge and leadership have fueled the City’s Sun N’ Fun and Club STAR programs that provide high-quality, consistent, safe care for thousands of children and families on the Central Coast. Meghan’s commitment to top notch summer, before-school and after-school learning environments reflects her strong belief in the nurturing powers of such programs — in many cases offering hope, relief, security and stability for kids.

Meghan says she found her calling early on. As a child, she enjoyed helping younger classmates within peer groups at school — and not much later felt the pull toward social services. At age 19, while still a student at Humboldt State, Meghan started running a nonprofit rec-based child care program. She later spent 8 years as a teacher in Santa Maria.

These life experiences, coupled with her current position working alongside a dedicated team at the City, have only

amplified Meghan’s dedication to making sure that providers get the appreciation and respect they so deserve. The pandemic has forced child care programs everywhere to pivot almost daily, and they are doing so swiftly and innovatively to find solutions for the changing needs in our communities.

Meghan’s inclusive, kind-hearted and conscientious nature is symbolic of our care providers; it’s the reason — now more than ever — that we recognize the essential value of their work in all of our lives.

**Thank you, Meghan.
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.