



# September Hero Profile 2019



**Children's Bill of Rights #9:** As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each make and keep healthy relationships with friends.

**SEPTEMBER'S HERO**  
**Sylvia Armendariz**

**PASSION**  
**Helping build lasting friendships among her students**

**ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE SYLVIA**  
**Calm**

**NOMINATED BY**  
**Georgia Brown**  
**Elementary School**

## Sylvia Armendariz is a champion for children, working closely with them as they make the delicate and pivotal transition into "big kid" school!

This is Sylvia's 15<sup>th</sup> year at Georgia Brown Elementary in Paso Robles, where she has been an integral part of the school's Dual Language Immersion Program. As a kindergarten/ 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Sylvia eases the anxieties of some of our youngest students as they navigate their new surroundings for learning and growing. Never is this more evident than when Sylvia leads summer Kindercamp, where kids start to form long-lasting friendships with other little ones, and learn how to interact in group settings. Sylvia recognizes the value of social and emotional readiness, self-esteem and the ability for preschoolers to establish strong bonds with peers.

Sylvia helps children work through their feelings and resolve conflicts. With one student who was struggling with challenging behaviors, Sylvia worked patiently one-on-one with the child and family involved. As a result, the student became more engaged and began to thrive in school.

Sylvia's soothing demeanor is her hallmark quality, and she is supportive and encouraging of all students to build friendships within both native and second languages— using the environment as a bridge instead of a barrier in her class. Family is paramount to Sylvia, and so her classroom atmosphere mirrors this priority. She is a native Spanish speaker and Paso Robles resident-- now teaching within the same district where she was once a student herself! The Central Coast is lucky to have Sylvia making such a positive impact on the early years of children's educational experiences and peer relationships, which in turn provide a crucial foundation for life.

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

*Look for more on all of our Hands-On Heroes on COE-TV Channels 2 and 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).



Design: Verdin