

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF HUMANITY  
**ONE STORY AT A TIME**



[www.myhero.com](http://www.myhero.com)

“ There is a great and perhaps decisive battle to be fought against ignorance, intolerance, and indifference in the world. ”

-Edward R. Murrow



**The MY HERO Project's mission is to use media, art and technology to celebrate the best of humanity, one story at a time.**

The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education organization that works to empower people of all ages to realize their own potential to create positive change in the world.

Since 1995 myhero.com has provided millions of visitors a safe online venue to discover and share essays, art, audio and films that celebrate heroes around the world. Our website features positive role models from diverse backgrounds who work for peace, human rights, and to protect the environment. MY HERO hosts a website, salons, festivals and media arts workshops to further our mission. Our award winning programs raise awareness of amazing local and global heroes working to solve the great challenges our time.

Teachers in 197 counties use our library and resources to promote cross-cultural understanding, media literacy and awareness of the accomplishments of pioneers in the fields of education, science, technology and the arts.

Support from individuals, foundations, and corporations keep our growing online media library and digital story telling tools freely accessible to classrooms, families and community organizations worldwide.

**Please join our global learning community!**





# PARTICIPATE

TELL THE WORLD ABOUT YOUR HERO

STORIES  
MUSIC  
FILMS  
ART  
VR



[myhero.com](https://myhero.com)

*"Through MY HERO, students learn to become reporters and filmmakers celebrating unsung heroes in our midst."*

*-Cheikh Darou Seck, Educator  
Martin Luther King Jr. School for Girls,  
MY HERO Global Exchange, Senegal*

# STORIES

Professional writers, individuals, teachers and students contribute inspiring stories to our growing library of heroes from all walks of life. Prizes are awarded to students for outstanding stories.

MY HERO's online library hosts thousands of stories, including bilingual essays, about all kinds of heroes from family members to global leaders.





Slater meets her hero Jean Michel-Cousteau

Filmed on location on Catalina Island by The MY HERO Project.  
Check out her short film and essay on MY HERO

## MY HERO

# SLATER JEWELL-KEMKER

Slater Jewell-Kemker is an environmental activist. Mentored by The MY HERO Project at a young age, she was able to meet one of her heroes, Jean-Michel Cousteau. Her debut feature

documentary is about the rise of the global youth climate movement and kids on the front lines of climate change.

[myhero.com/Slater](https://myhero.com/Slater)

*"The MY HERO Project taught me the power of storytelling. It's endlessly inspiring to me as an artist (and at a deeper level, as a human) to see the empowered community of young storytellers that MY HERO has fostered impact their own communities and bring a little bit more love, understanding and tolerance into a world that so badly needs it."*

Slater Jewell-Kemker

# DIGITAL STORYTELLING

**MY HERO** provides digital online tools for visitors to publish web pages that honor heroes around the world using text, images, audio and films. Students can create a digital portfolio of their work on MY HERO. Teachers can organize online media playlists for students to explore selected content from our ever-growing internet archive.



**Slater Jewell-Kemker**

**MY HERO REPORTER** since 1997, Slater is an environmentalist, activist, filmmaker, and beekeeper. Her feature documentary, *"ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE: My Decade in the Global Youth Climate Movement"* is a call to action around the world.

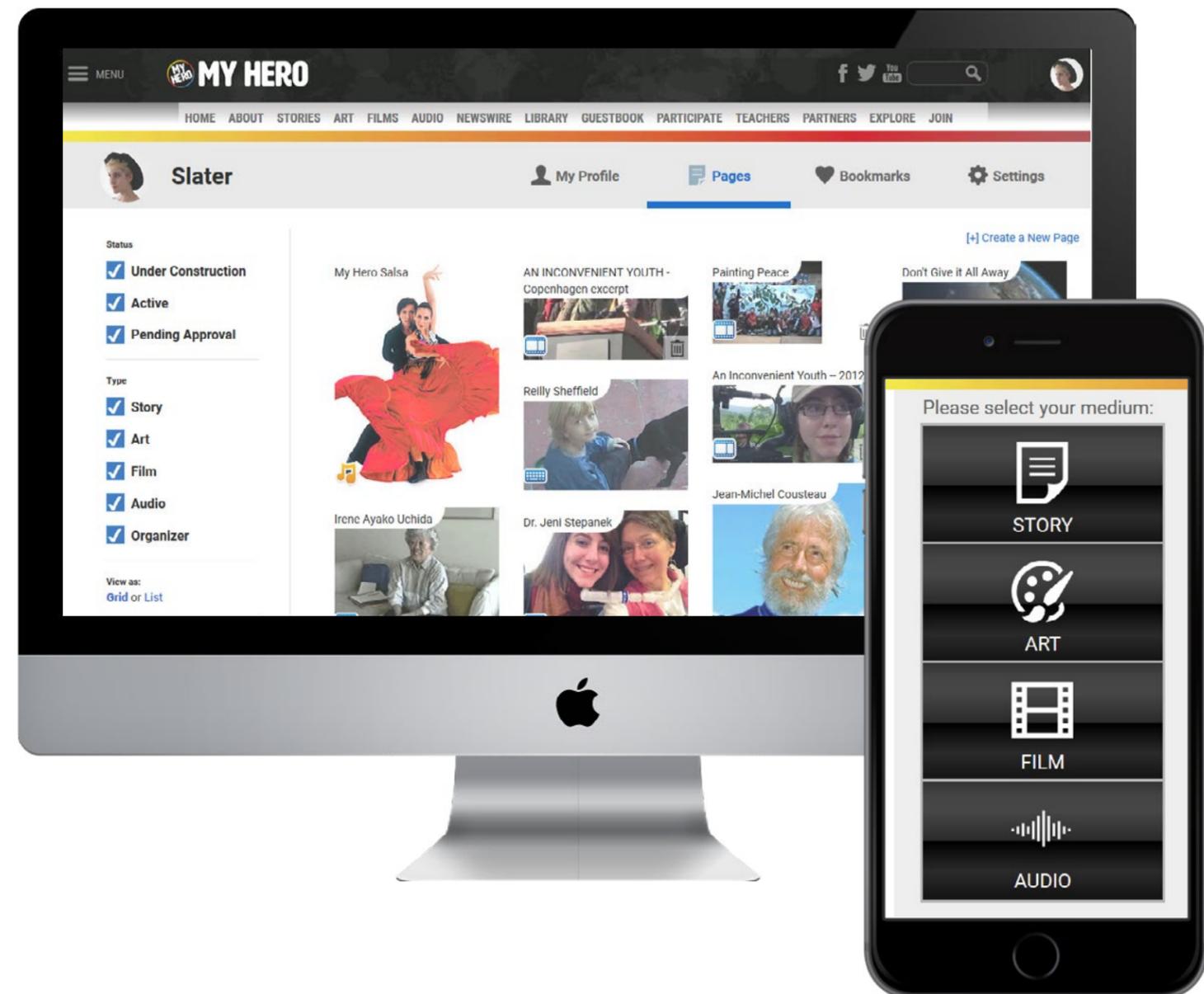


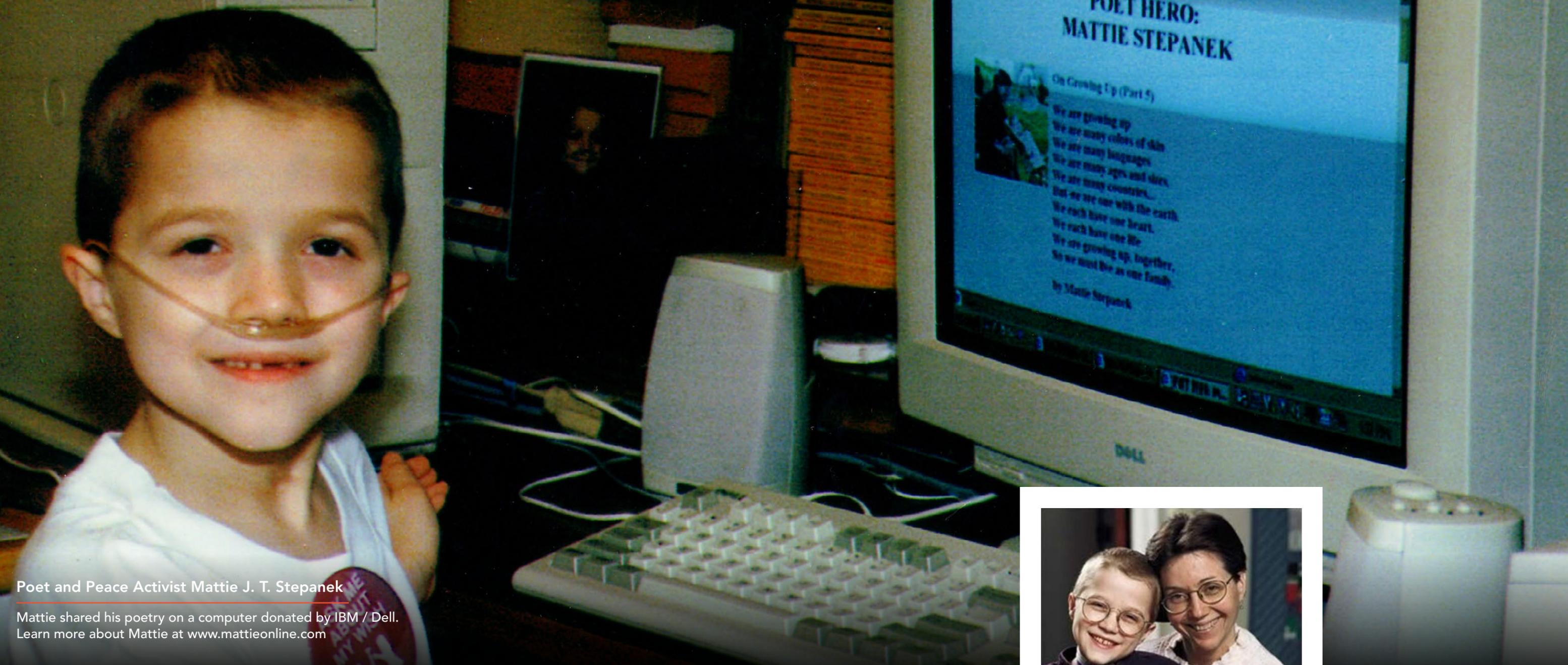
**Media Mentoring**

Slater Jewell-Kemker helping with MY HERO outreach in Nepal

## MENTORING

MY HERO bridges the digital divide - mentoring teachers, students and activists to tell their hero stories. We support underserved communities by providing technology training and a safe venue to share stories.





Poet and Peace Activist Mattie J. T. Stepanek

Mattie shared his poetry on a computer donated by IBM / Dell.  
Learn more about Mattie at [www.mattieonline.com](http://www.mattieonline.com)

## MY HERO **MATTIE J. T. STEPANEK**

**Mattie J. T. Stepanek** shared his poems and vision for peace with MY HERO, inspiring visitors around the world.

[myhero.com/Mattie](http://myhero.com/Mattie)

*"It was about 20 years ago when MY HERO chose to honor Mattie who was only 6 years old at the time, as a poet hero. MY HERO gave Mattie, a little boy, a platform for sharing his HEARTSONGS, his messages of purpose, purpose for himself and purpose for all of us. When Mattie died in 2004 just before his 14th birthday MY HERO was a place where global neighbors could turn. They were able to share comments and thoughts about Mattie. About their grief and about their ongoing hope for peace rooted in lessons they had learned from this little boy."*

*-Jeni Stepanek,  
Recipient, MY HERO 2016 Humanitarian Award*

MY HERO  
**MOHAMED SIDIBAY**

Mohamed Sidibay is a former child soldier who is now a teacher, global peace activist and MY HERO ambassador.

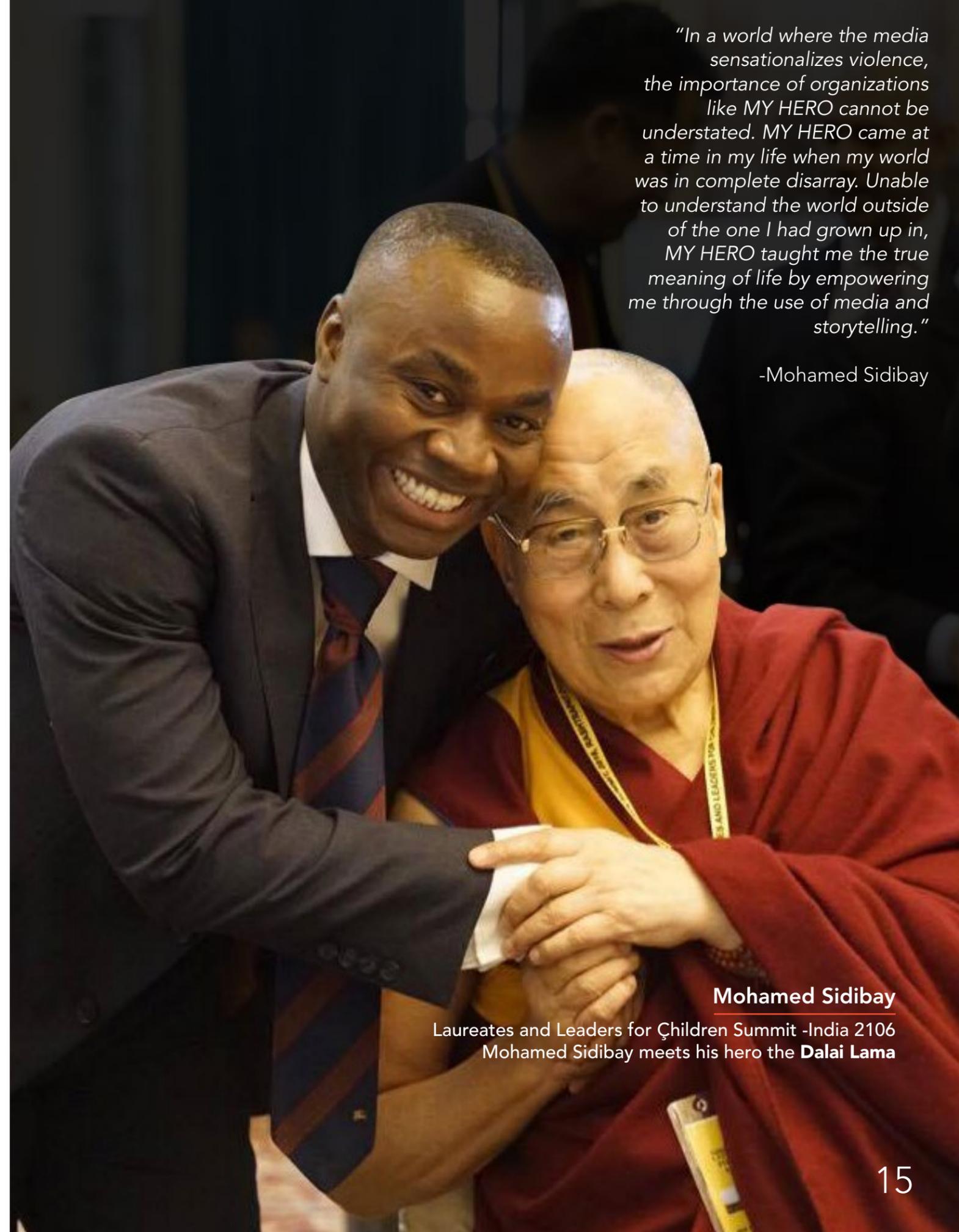
“People spend so much time highlighting our differences, we actually forget how similar we are...people find it easy to separate themselves and just say, ‘It’s not us, it’s them, and I can’t relate to their problems.’ I speak to give a name and a face behind the stories.”

-Mohamed Sidibay

[myhero.com/Sidibay](https://myhero.com/Sidibay)

*“In a world where the media sensationalizes violence, the importance of organizations like MY HERO cannot be understated. MY HERO came at a time in my life when my world was in complete disarray. Unable to understand the world outside of the one I had grown up in, MY HERO taught me the true meaning of life by empowering me through the use of media and storytelling.”*

-Mohamed Sidibay



**Mohamed Sidibay**

Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit -India 2106  
Mohamed Sidibay meets his hero the Dalai Lama

Wangari Maathai

"I will be a hummingbird.  
I will do the best that I can."  
-Excerpt: "dirt! THE MOVIE."  
Best of Fest, MY HERO 2010  
International Film Festival

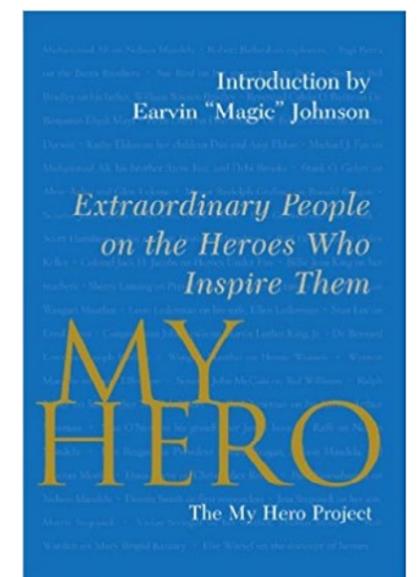


MY HERO

## WANGARI MAATHAI

Wangari Maathai is founder of The Green Belt Movement, an organization that has mobilized thousands of Kenyans, mostly women, to plant more than 30 million trees across the country, providing much-needed firewood, lumber, shade, and food.

"Women have an innate sense of service. It is part of who we are. We give rise to new life by nurturing it inside us for nine months. Then we bring it forth and feed it with our own milk, with our own body, and eventually, our own self. My mother was the first strong woman in my life. I know that it was she who instilled in me a true sense of my own power and my responsibility as a woman..."



Excerpt: MY HERO: Extraordinary People  
on the Heroes Who Inspire Them.

[myhero.com/Wangari](http://myhero.com/Wangari)

MY HERO

## ESTHER WOJCICKI

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Esther Wojcicki is a journalist, educator, and author of the book "Moonshots in Education." She was the recipient of the MY HERO 2016 Global Educator Award.

"If you believe in them, they believe in themselves. Basically what I do in class is to apply TRICK, which stands for: Trust, Respect, Independence, Collaboration & Kindness, which is what I think belongs in every class. You can't do anything without trust."

-Esther Wojcicki

[myhero.com/Woj](http://myhero.com/Woj)



*"Thank you MY HERO for helping me spread my message worldwide. I am so honored to get this award, and I will cherish this and will share this with all my students. Thank you for everything you are doing."*

Esther Wojcicki

Esther Wojcicki  
is an outstanding journalist,  
author and educator,  
and recipient of the MY HERO  
2016 Global Educator Award

MY HERO  
**EVA HALLER**

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Eva Haller is a philanthropist, activist, and mentor.

“My greatest joy is to help young people when they’re struggling with a good idea, with clearly something that could make a difference. I love to help them.”

-Eva Haller

*“I am so impressed by the outstanding work of MY HERO. 20,000,000 people visit their website annually to see the filmed profiles of extraordinary role models. Stories of survival, courage, and inspiration are shared and amplified through MY HERO’s website and film festival.”*

-Eva Haller

[myhero.com/Eva](https://myhero.com/Eva)



**Eva Haller**  
featured in MY HERO's  
Women Transforming Media blog  
and in an award-winning documentary  
“Eva Haller: A Work in Progress”

*"In these times, with such violence and intolerance swirling around us, it is The MY HERO Project that keeps us together... I will continue to support, love and honor the work that you do, because you represent the very best of what the world needs right now."*

-Ron Kovic



MY HERO 2013 International Day of Peace Celebration

Ron Kovic is interviewed by Robert Sheer, journalist, USC professor and editor of TruthDig.com. Every year, Ron presents the Peace Prize at The MY HERO International Film Festival.

## MY HERO RON KOVIC

Ron Kovic is an author, artist, and peace activist. His best selling autobiography, "Born on the Fourth of July" became an award winning feature film.

"Despite all our differences, there is a powerful connectedness to our humanity—a deep desire to reach out with kindness, with love and great caring toward each other, even to our supposed enemies, and to bring forth 'the better angels of our nature'—that is undeniable and cannot be extinguished, even in death."

-Ron Kovic

[myhero.com/Kovic](http://myhero.com/Kovic)

MY HERO  
**DANIEL ELLSBERG**

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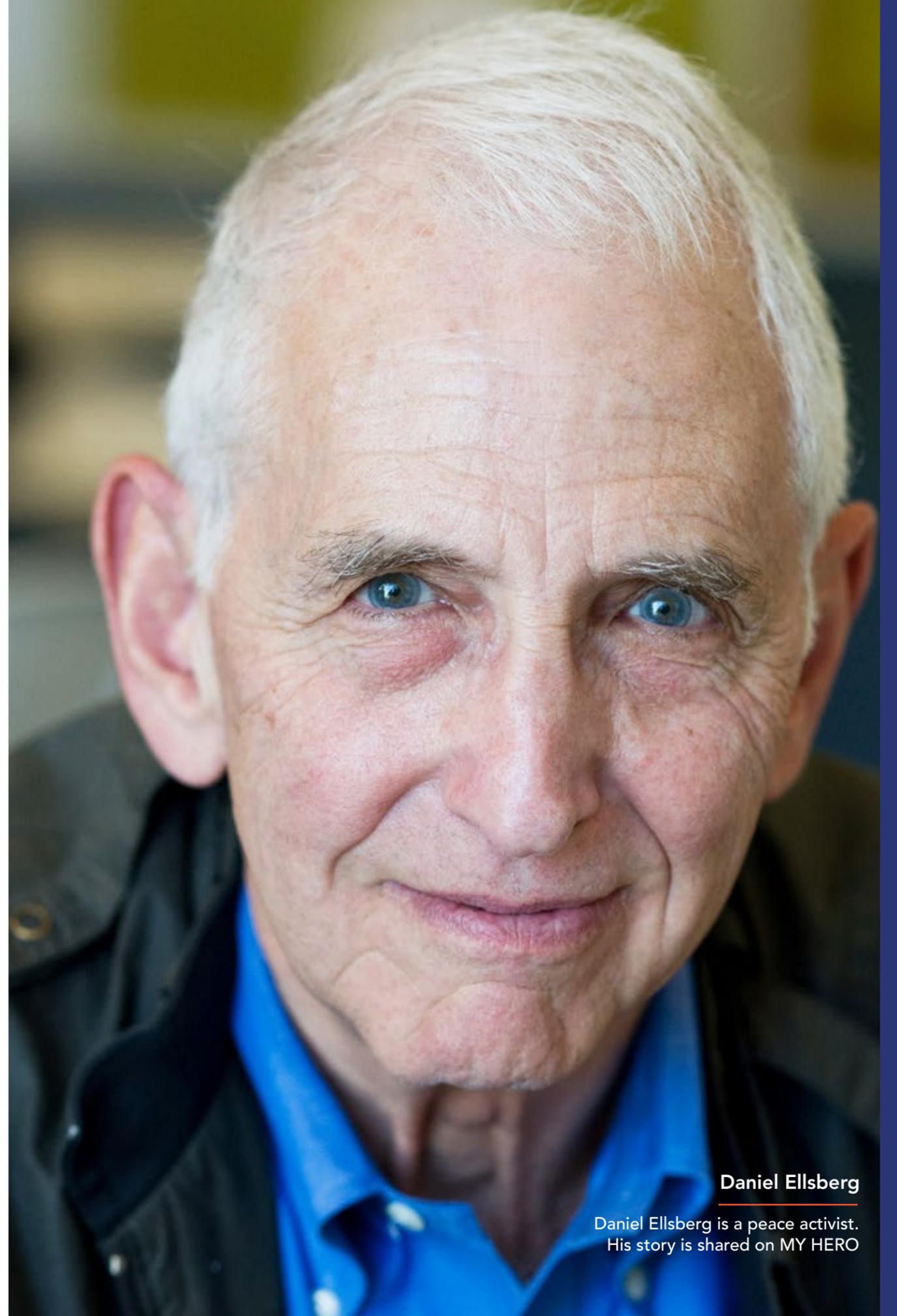
Daniel Ellsberg is an outspoken champion for whistleblowers working for the cause of peace.

“Many people regard my father as a hero. And he is my hero as well.... I know that my father, too, was inspired by witnessing others, some well known, others obscure and uncelebrated. It is a very high responsibility to remember and honor such stories. In the chronicle of conscientious actions, one candle lights another.”

-Excerpt from Robert Ellsberg's MY HERO essay written for his father on his 80th Birthday.

Presented at the MY HERO 2014 Salon @ Jazz at Lincoln Center

[myhero.com/Ellsberg](http://myhero.com/Ellsberg)



**Daniel Ellsberg**

Daniel Ellsberg is a peace activist.  
His story is shared on MY HERO

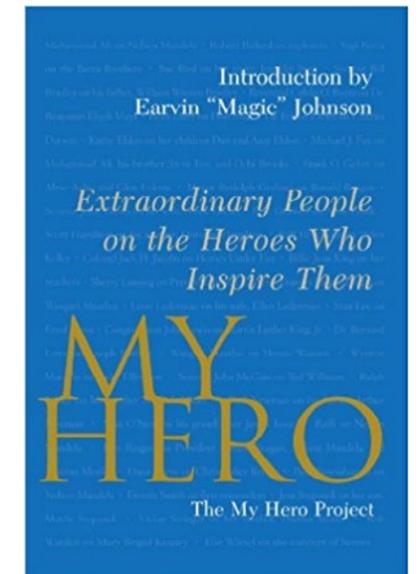
Author and Activist

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Elie Wiesel is the author of *Night*.

## MY HERO ELIE WIESEL

Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel was an American Romanian-born Jewish writer, professor, political activist, Holocaust survivor, and Nobel Laureate. He was the author of 57 books and contributed to the MY HERO book.

"My heroes are those who stand up to false heroes. If I had to offer a personal definition of the word, it would be someone who dares to speak the truth to power."



Excerpt: *MY HERO: Extraordinary People on the Heroes Who Inspire Them*.

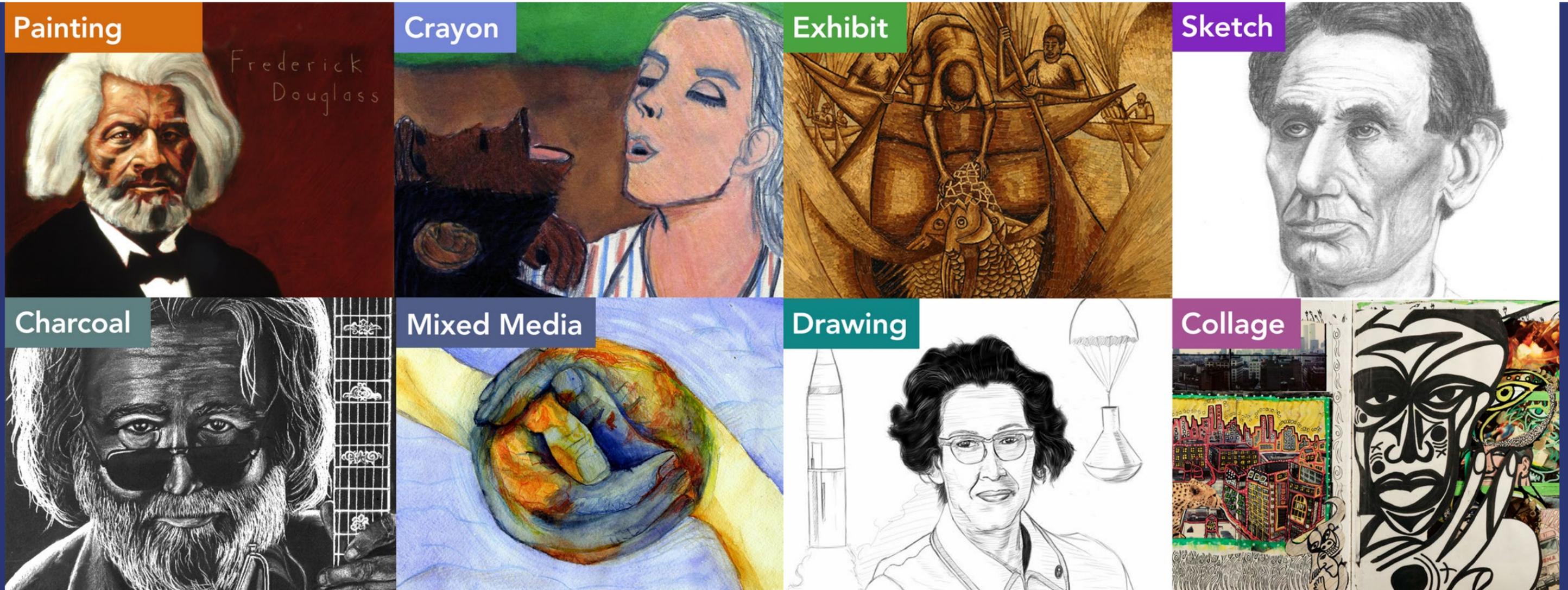
[myhero.com/Wiesel](http://myhero.com/Wiesel)

# ART

[myhero.com/gallery](http://myhero.com/gallery)

Professional and student artists share original artworks on MY HERO. Prizes are awarded for outstanding portraits.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the MY HERO online gallery hosting thousands of works of art.



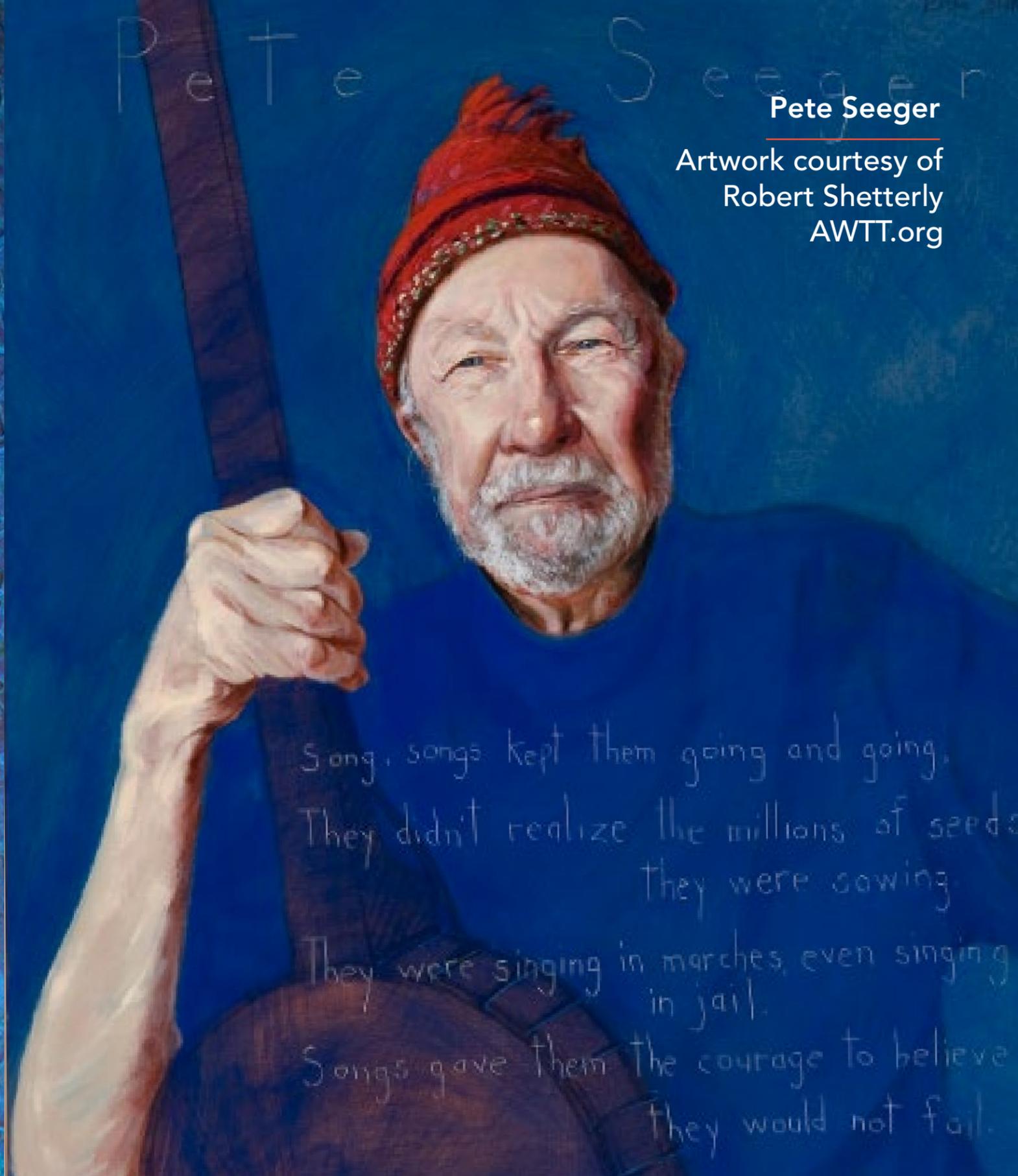
Credits (clockwise from top-left): Frederick Douglass by Robert Shetterly - AWTT.org, Jane Goodall by Samantha Gamble, May Peace Prevail on Earth by Nick Scrypnik - Peace Pals International, Jerry Garcia by Gail G. Slockett

Credits (clockwise from top-left): Feeding me for Life by Julio Lukwago, Abraham Lincoln by Christie Fisher, Self Portrait by Dan Eldon, Katherine Johnson by St George



**African Woman**

Artwork courtesy of  
Fary Sakho  
Senegal



**Pete Seeger**

Artwork courtesy of  
Robert Shetterly  
AWTT.org

Song, songs kept them going and going,  
They didn't realize the millions of seeds  
they were sowing.  
They were singing in marches, even singing  
in jail.  
Songs gave them the courage to believe  
they would not fail.

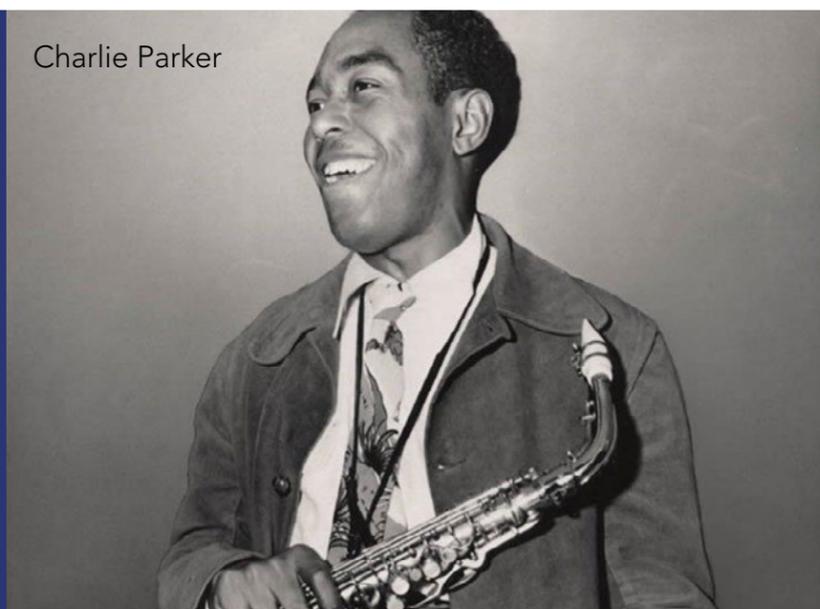
[myhero.com/gallery](https://myhero.com/gallery)

# AUDIO

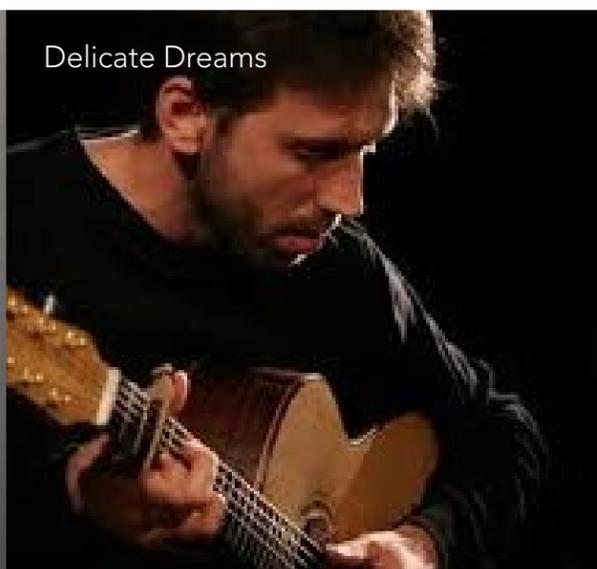
[myhero.com/audio](https://myhero.com/audio)

Professional artists and students contribute original music, speeches, poetry readings, and interviews on MY HERO's Audio Studio. MY HERO hosts an annual song contest.

Listening to audio recordings of MY HERO stories in English while reading along enriches ESL programs and supports early readers.



Charlie Parker



Delicate Dreams



Hannah Taylor  
Ladybug Foundation



Richard John McLaughlin



Student @ the Children's Foundation of Technology in Sierra Leone record audio for MY HERO Song Contest



Olivia Milch



Dana Williams



Louis (Sachmo) Armstrong

[myhero.com/audio](http://myhero.com/audio)

Award winning filmmaker and musician  
**Kayla Briët** performs at the MY HERO  
2016 International Film Festival  
[myhero.com/Kayla](http://myhero.com/Kayla)



# FILMS

MY HERO hosts over 2,500 short films in its online screening room. Student and professional filmmakers submit documentary, experimental, animated, and narrative short films about those making a positive difference in our world. Viewing MY HERO Films in the classroom enriches learning and enhances lessons plans.

Prizes are awarded for short inspiring films at the annual MY HERO International Film Festival.



Film Festival Award Birds are created by artist Mamadou Tall Diedhiou.  
[myhero.com/Birdmaker](http://myhero.com/Birdmaker)



**Watersong**



**Upstanders: The Mosque Across the Street**



**SFU Public Square ONE VOICE Music Project**



**Believe**



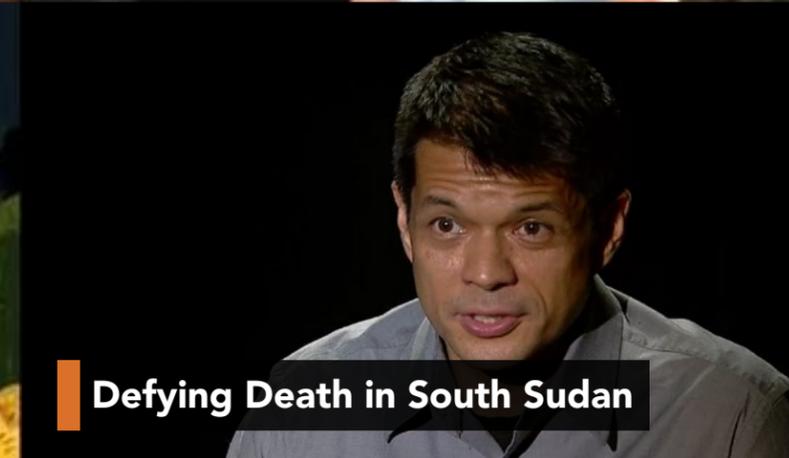
**Hands Up Don't Shoot**



**Heartbeat of the Earth**



**Hummingbird**



**Defying Death in South Sudan**

# FILMING A HERO

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MY HERO Media Arts Mentor, Anabelle Vo, films students interviewing their hero at the Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club.





International Film Festival

Winners and heroes onstage celebrate with musician Pato Banton

## MY HERO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS CEREMONY

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MY HERO's Film Festival brings together students and professional filmmakers to honor those working for positive social change.

Special awards include:

- The Ron Kovic Peace Prize
- The Dan Eldon Activist Award
- The Sylvia Earle Ocean Conservation Award
- The Relationships First Award
- The Shetterly Art Award
- The Teen Press Award
- The Women Transforming Media Award
- The MY HERO Song Contest
- The MY HERO Global Educator Award
- The MY HERO Immersive Storytelling Award

## SALONS & CELEBRATIONS

MY HERO hosts live events with speakers, films, music & art to celebrate a diverse range of heroes working for positive change. We also provide media & resources for schools and community groups planning local events.

### Salons include:

- Jazz & Poetry
- Women Transforming Media
- Mandela Day
- Accessibility Awareness
- International Day of Peace
- Music Educators Day
- World Oceans Day
- Earth Day

Day of Peace Celebration

**Kenji Williams,**  
director of **BellaGaia.com**  
performs at the MY HERO

2015 International Day of Peace Celebration

## VIRTUAL REALITY

The **MY HERO Immersive Storytelling Award** is for VR storytelling that promotes engagement, activism & social good. Prizes for this award are donated by **Oculus**.

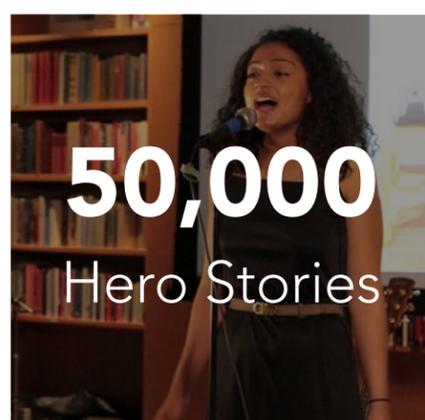
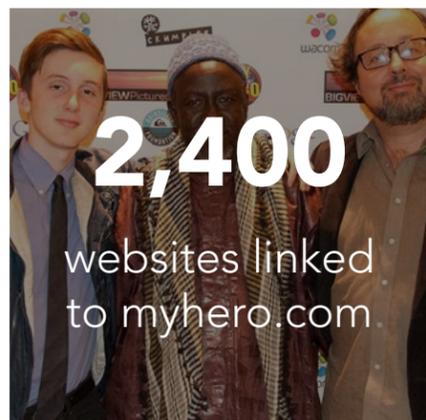
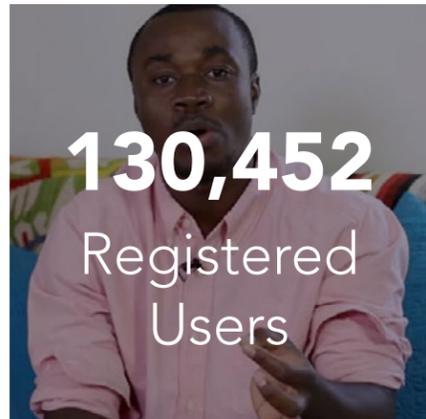


THE GREAT ESCAPE PROJECT

**RYOT Foundation** brings uplifting Virtual Reality experiences to children who are patients at CHOC Hospital

# GROWING THE MY HERO ARCHIVE

Participation from professionals and students has helped us grow our multimedia library. Browse the archive of stories, artwork, audio and films about the heroes from around the world.



[myhero.com/explore](https://myhero.com/explore)

# ONLINE MULTIMEDIA JOURNAL

The homepage at myhero.com changes weekly to feature thematic content and highlight diverse heroes related to current events and emerging resources.



# HEROES IN THE NEWS

Uplifting stories from the Associated Press and The Christian Science Monitor bring current events into the classroom.

[myhero.com/newswire](http://myhero.com/newswire)

# CALENDAR: 365 DAYS OF HEROES

The calendar notes hero birthdays, UN international days, thematic content and special events of interest to teachers and students.

[myhero.com/calendar](http://myhero.com/calendar)

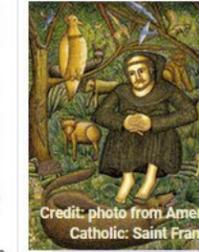


## PUBLIC LEAPS INTO RESCUE

People carry donations of bottled water for rescue workers and victims next to a collapsed building after an earthquake in Mexico City, Mexico on Sept. 20, 2017.

Photo Credit: Henry Romero/Reuters

## October

<p>00000000</p>  <p>Credit: Nest Marquez</p> <p><b>National Hispanic Heritage Month</b> 9/15 to 10/15) Sep 15th - Oct 15th</p>	<p>2</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: www.spicase.net</p> <p><b>Mahatma Gandhi</b> Political leader born 1869</p>	<p>3</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: www.flightwatershopping.co.uk</p> <p><b>James Herriot</b> British veterinary surgeon and writer born 1916</p>	<p>4</p> <p>00</p>  <p>Credit: photo from American Catholic: Saint Fran</p> <p><b>St. Francis of Assisi</b> Religious leader born 1181</p>	<p>5</p> <p>000000</p>  <p>Credit: insightnews.com</p> <p><b>Maya Lin</b> Architect and artist born 1959</p>	<p>6</p> <p>0</p>  <p>Credit: insightnews.com</p> <p><b>Fannie Lou Hamer</b> Civil rights activist, philanthropist, born 1917</p>	<p>7</p> <p>0000</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Yo-Yo Ma</b> Cellist born 1955</p>
<p>8</p> <p>0</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Walter Kittredge</b> born 1834</p>	<p>9</p> <p>0000</p>  <p>Credit: history2.com</p> <p><b>John Lennon</b> Singer and songwriter born 1940</p>	<p>10</p> <p>00000000</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Helen Hayes</b> 1st Lady of American theater, born 1900.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Art Blakey</b> Jazz musician born 1919</p>	<p>12</p> <p>00</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Ralph Vaughn Williams</b> English composer born 1872</p>	<p>13</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: ca href=http://www.walrus.com/gbratto/</p> <p><b>Molly Pitcher</b> Revolutionary War heroine born 1754</p>	<p>14</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: uclabruins.ocsn.com/ucla-wooden-pa</p> <p><b>John Wooden</b> Former UCLA basketball coach born 1910</p>
<p>15</p> <p>000000</p>  <p>Credit: ABC [Public Domain] via Wikimedia</p> <p><b>Penny Marshall</b> Actor, producer, director born 1943</p>	<p>16</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: wiki (Photograph taken in 1862 by Napoleon Sarony)</p> <p><b>Oscar Wilde</b> Poet and playwright born 1854</p>	<p>17</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Mae Jemison</b> Astronaut and scientist born 1956</p>	<p>18</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Ntozake Shange</b> Poet born 1948</p>	<p>19</p> <p>00</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Lewis Mumford</b> Historian and writer born 1854</p>	<p>20</p> <p>0000</p>  <p>Credit: wiki</p> <p><b>Christiane Nusslein-Volhard</b> Pioneer genetic researcher born 1942</p>	<p>21</p> <p>000</p>  <p>Credit: ca href=http://cepa.fr/newsphoto/net/pr</p> <p><b>Alfred Nobel</b> born 1833</p>

# TEACHER'S ROOM

MY HERO's Teacher's Room provides standards aligned lesson plans, resources and tutorials. Teachers share their curriculum on using MY HERO in the classroom to provide character education and role models to students from around the world. Teachers connect with other educators via our community board and our social media platforms. Our new classcode system allows easy administration of class projects.



*"We live in Tehran, the capital city of Iran, and we are grade eleven. This is an exciting project because it has given us a vast perspective toward different people from different parts of the world. We loved doing this and sharing this much information from all over the world. Thank you MY HERO."*

-Teacher Farnoush Ahmadzadeh Mashar  
United High School 11th Grade Class,  
Iran

## Welcome to MY HERO

**Teacher Quick Links**

Create a Page	Create a Class Code
Quick Share <small>Sign the Guestbook</small>	Help Center
Start an Organizer Page	Search Lesson Plans
Contact Us	Search Selected Stories

*"The students really enjoyed the student forum and learning from other students around the world. The MY HERO Project gave them insight into the fact that there are heroes all over the world that we don't recognize or know about. They learned so much. I am definitely going to sign up for the MY HERO Learning Circles again!"*

-Teacher Maria Perryman,  
George B. Armstrong School,  
USA



***"Thanks to this project, we learned about so many interesting scientists, doctors, astronauts and other Canadian heroes who have made a difference not only in their communities but in the world."***

-Teacher Mali Bickley,  
iEARN Canada

# MY HERO-iEARN LEARNING CIRCLES

## CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE

MY HERO and iEARN work to bring classrooms together through safe online spaces. Teachers and students connect with other classes around the world, discussing and sharing their ideas and media on heroes.



Collaboration

Classrooms around the world participating in the MY HERO Learning Circles Skype with each other



High School, Egypt



Middle School, USA



High School, Mexico



Middle School, Uganda

## CALL TO ACTION CIRCLES



Call to Action

Students in Morocco participate in the Call to Action Circles by delivering supplies to local nomads

MY HERO invites teachers and students to choose a hero or heroic organization in their communities to support. We provide an online platform to share the process with our global learning community.

*"We are a fifth grade class from Morocco and because of this project we had the opportunity to take positive actions in our community: raising awareness in our village about the importance of a clean environment."*

-Teacher Abdelaziz Rhazzali  
Morocco



Middle School, Slovenia



MY HERO - iEARN Learning Circles

Classrooms around the world participate in The MY HERO Learning Circles program

Middle School, Morocco

# WORLDWIDE IMPACT

Participants in **197 countries** have joined our global learning community - we hope that you will too!



MY HERO Global Exchange

Wendy Milette, Director of Media Arts Education,  
at the Royal Film Commission in Amman, Jordan



# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## WHO HAVE HELPED US GROW THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

### CORPORATE AND IN KIND SUPPORT

Google Adwords  
Kingston Technology  
Associated Press  
Barracuda  
MacGillivray Freeman Films  
[seven-degrees]  
Big View Pictures, Inc  
Oculus  
Shure  
LRG  
Loews Hotel  
Jazz at Lincoln Center  
The Four Seasons Biltmore

### MEDIA

Google Cultural Institute  
Cox Channel 3 - OC  
KOCE - OC  
TV Santa Barbara  
Huffpost RYOT  
Digital Hollywood  
KX 93.5  
Stu News Laguna  
USC - MISC  
LAUSD-Grand Arts Festival  
World Children's Festival  
The American Pavillion Cannes  
Coast Magazine  
Laguna Beach Independant  
AFI - SilverDocs

### FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS

The Seedlings Foundation  
Massen Greene Foundation  
The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation  
The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation  
Foundation for the Contemporary Family  
Laguna Beach Community Foundation  
City of Laguna Beach  
Orange County Community Foundation  
Irving Harris Foundation  
Puffin Foundation  
FOA Foundation  
California Arts Council  
Cox Cares Foundation  
American Association of University Women  
U.S. State Dept. Bureau  
of Educational & Cultural Affairs

### Follow us on Social Media

[Youtube.com/myhero](https://www.youtube.com/myhero)  
[Vimeo.com/MyHeroProject](https://vimeo.com/MyHeroProject)  
[twitter.com/MyHero](https://twitter.com/MyHero)  
[Facebook.com/MyHeroProject](https://facebook.com/MyHeroProject)



### EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

iEARN  
ISTE  
New Roads School  
Crossroads School  
Herb Alpert Educational Village  
Capshaw-Spielberg Center  
for Arts & Educational Justice  
UCI Bren School of Information  
& Computer Sciences  
USC School of Cinematic Arts  
Baycat  
Peace Pals International  
Americans Who Tell the Truth  
Francis W. Parker School  
Journeys in Film  
Freedom Writers Foundation  
BellaGaia.com

Taft High School  
Foshay Learning Center  
Weemes Elementary School  
Laguna Art Museum  
Laguna College of Art  
Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club  
Soka University  
Guitars in the Classroom  
Art Miles Mural Project  
Creative Visions  
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