

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF HUMANITY

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



SPOTLIGHTS

“ *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!**





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

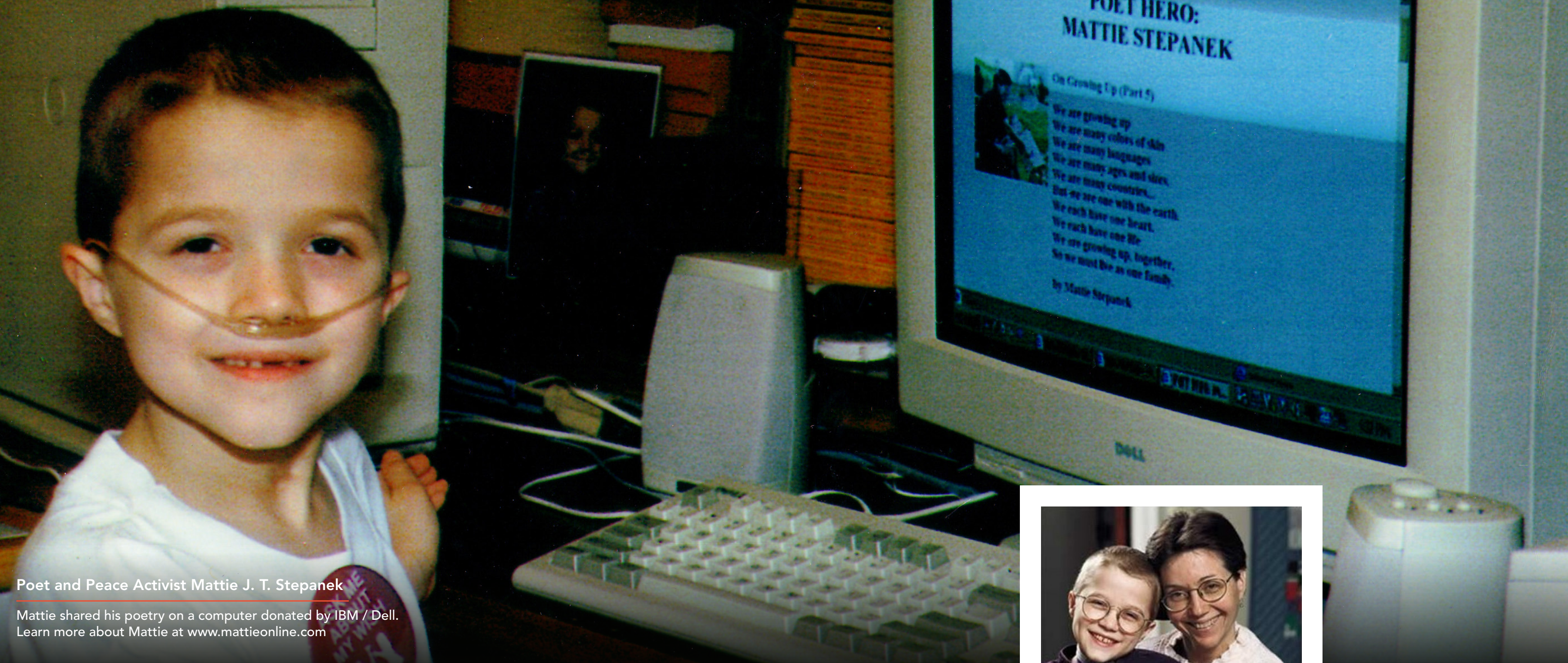
## SLATER JEWELL-KEMKER

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



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

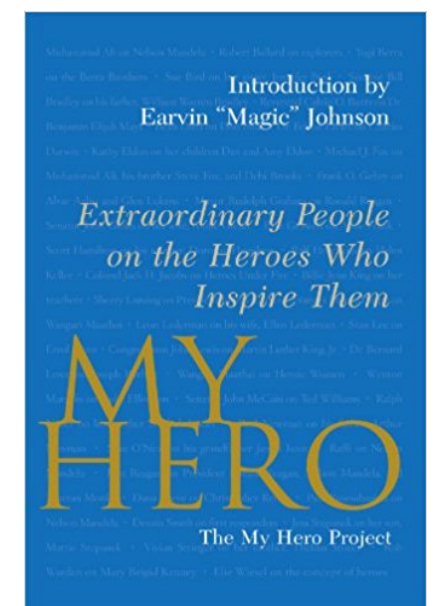
"I will be a hummingbird.  
I will do the best that I can."  
-Excerpt: "dirt! THE MOVIE."  
Best of Fest, MY HERO 2010  
International Film Festival

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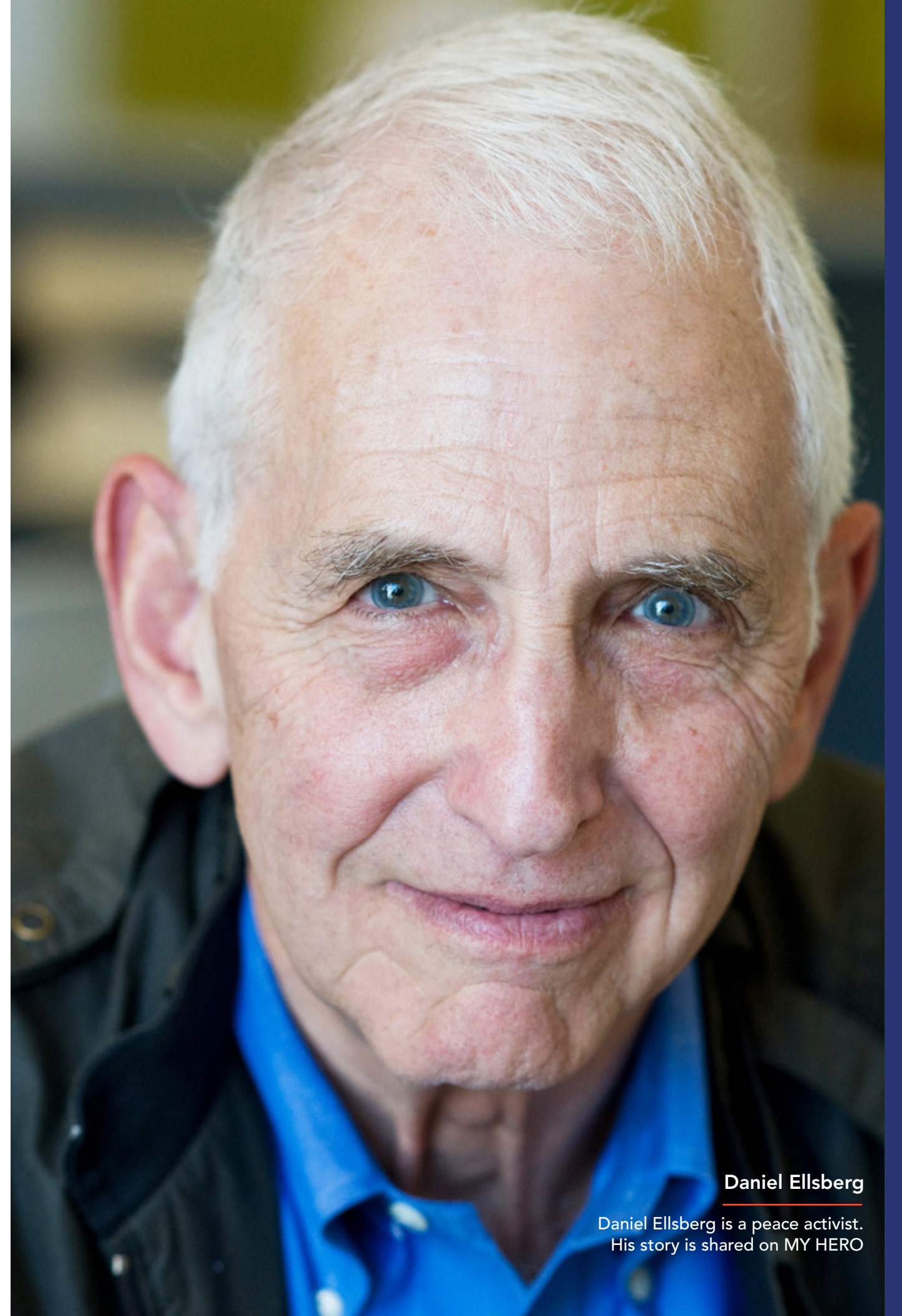
Daniel Ellsberg is an outspoken champion for whistleblowers working for the cause of peace.

“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

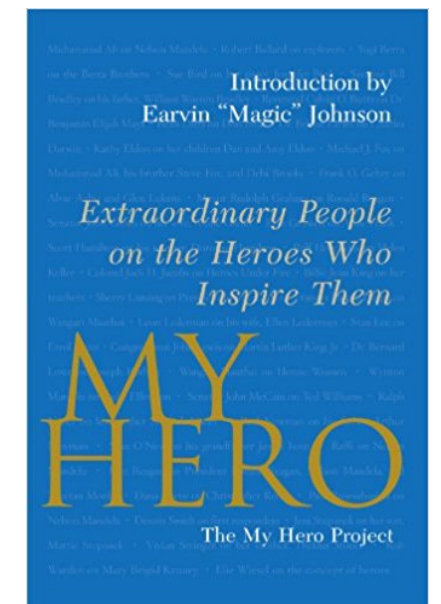
Author and Activist

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."



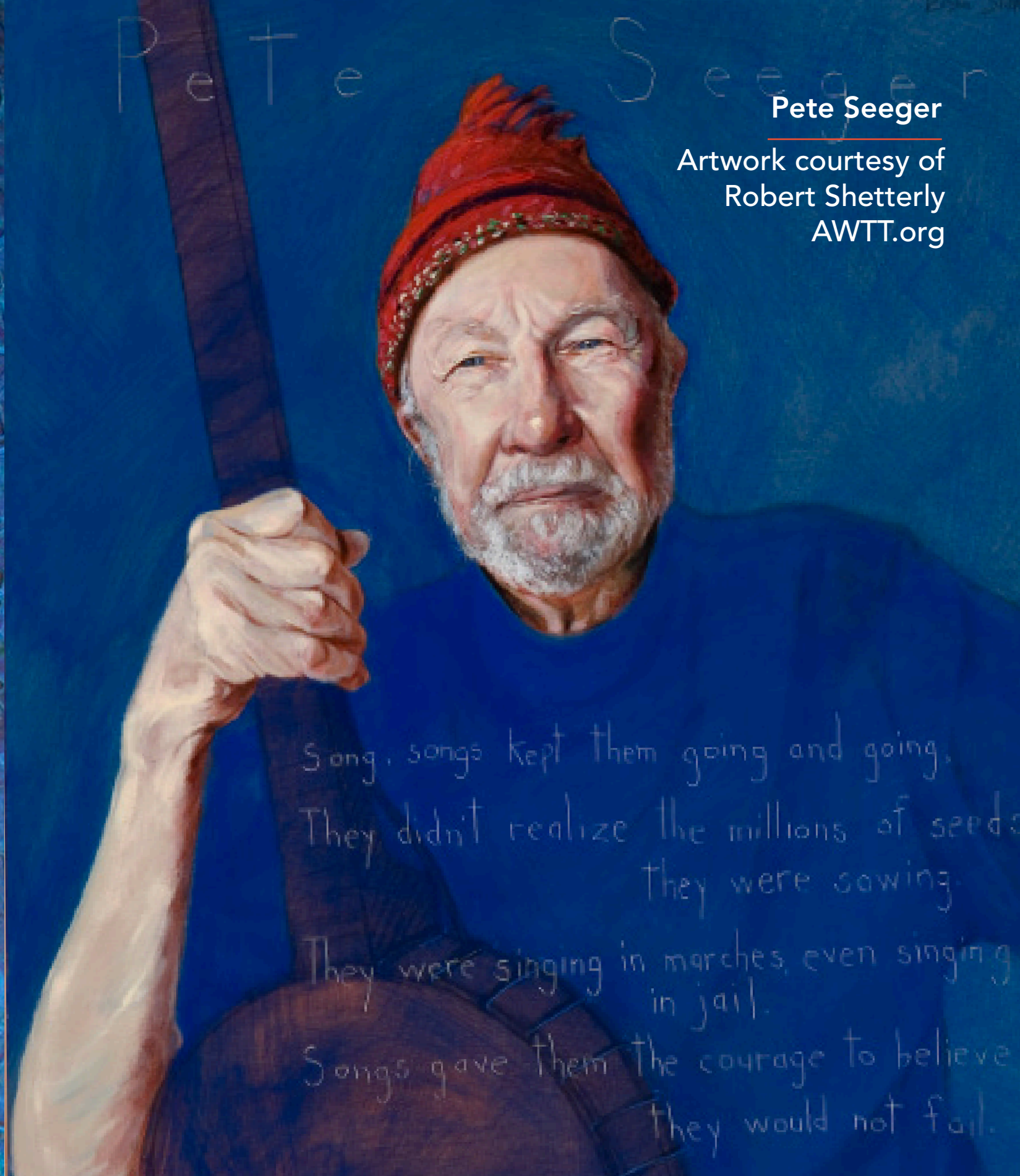
Excerpt: *MY HERO: Extraordinary People on the Heroes Who Inspire Them*.

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



**African Woman**

Artwork courtesy of  
Fary Sakho  
Senegal



Pete Seeger

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/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)



# FILMING A HERO

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





Day of Peace Celebration

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

2015 International Day of Peace Celebration



THE GREAT ESCAPE PROJECT

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

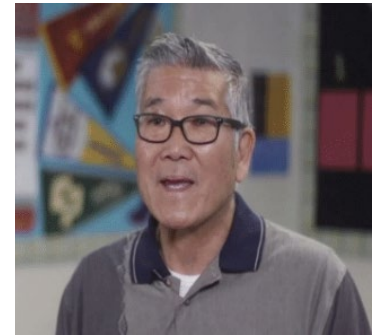
# TEACHER FEEDBACK



The MY HERO Project's extensive existing training materials, and staff support in creating a curriculum tailored for our program, helped make our summer bridge program a huge success. The students made eight "My Hero" films in groups, all while being completely remote from one another. I am so grateful for the help we received from The MY HERO Project.

**Teacher Coleen Bondy at Los Angeles Unified School District, USA**

Taking part in this global storytelling project helps students understand the many ways each one of us can make a difference in the world. As we face the COVID challenge of distance learning, MY HERO's FREE online library of media provides much needed stories of hope and positive role models to empower our youth - our future heroes.



**Michael B. Matsuda  
Superintendent Anaheim Union High School, USA**

We live in 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. Thank you MY HERO.



**Teacher Farnoush Ahmadzadeh Mashar, Iran**



My students used MY HERO to learn more about the world and develop a global citizenship mindset.

**Teacher Eveline Frieitas, Brazil**



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 Coordinator, Canada**

MY HERO creates a great context to teach core character values, such as respect, justice, responsibility, etc.

**Teacher Margaret Chen  
iEARN Coordinator, Taiwan**



Thanks to MY HERO my students have become international citizens who care about Climate Change, and Human Rights. They have become future heroes dedicated to protecting and caring for one another and the environment and demonstrating with the media their success.



**Teacher/Principal Cheikh Darou Seck, Senegal**



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 R. Rhazzali, Morocco**



# 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





If you share our goals of inspiring,  
educating, and empowering people  
of all ages, please support  
The MY HERO Project.

[myhero.com/](http://myhero.com/)  
**DONATE**

The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3)  
nonprofit educational organization.

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