CELEBRATING THE BEST OF HUMANITY
ONE STORY AT A TIME

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 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!

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

"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
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.

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.

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

“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 routed in lessons they had learned from this little boy.”

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

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...”
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
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
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
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
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.”


myhero.com/Wiesel
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 Scrypnyk - 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

myhero.com/gallery
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.

myhero.com/audio
Award winning filmmaker and musician Kayla Briët performs at the MY HERO 2016 International Film Festival.

myhero.com/Kayla
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

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

myhero.com/films
MY HERO Media Arts Mentor, Anabelle Vo, films students interviewing their hero at the Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club.
MY HERO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS CEREMONY

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

Winners and heroes onstage celebrate with musician Pato Banton.
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.

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

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

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

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

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
HEROES IN THE NEWS

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

myhero.com/newswire

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

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
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

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 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.

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

WHO HAVE HELPED US GROW THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

CORPORATE AND IN KIND SUPPORT
Google Adwords
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Barracuda
MacGillivray Freeman Films
[seven-degrees]
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Shure
LRG
Loews Hotel
Jazz at Lincoln Center
The Four Seasons Biltmore

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

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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

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

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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
Glasgow Caledonia University
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Mattie J. T. Stepanek Foundation
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One World One Ocean
Coalition for Engaged Education
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Moss Theatre
and more...

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

myhero.com/
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