

The **MY HERO** Project





The mission of The MY HERO Project is to use media, art and technology to celebrate the best of humanity.

Learning about heroes from all walks of life helps young people understand their own potential to affect positive change in the world.

MY HERO provides millions of people of all ages stories of hope and inspiration.



MY HERO Homepage - A Multi-Media Journal



The MY HERO Project Celebrates
Wangari Maathai

Nobel Laureate, Eco Activist
Founder, Green Belt Movement

Born April 1, 1940

*“We all share one planet
and are one humanity;
there is no escaping this
reality.”*



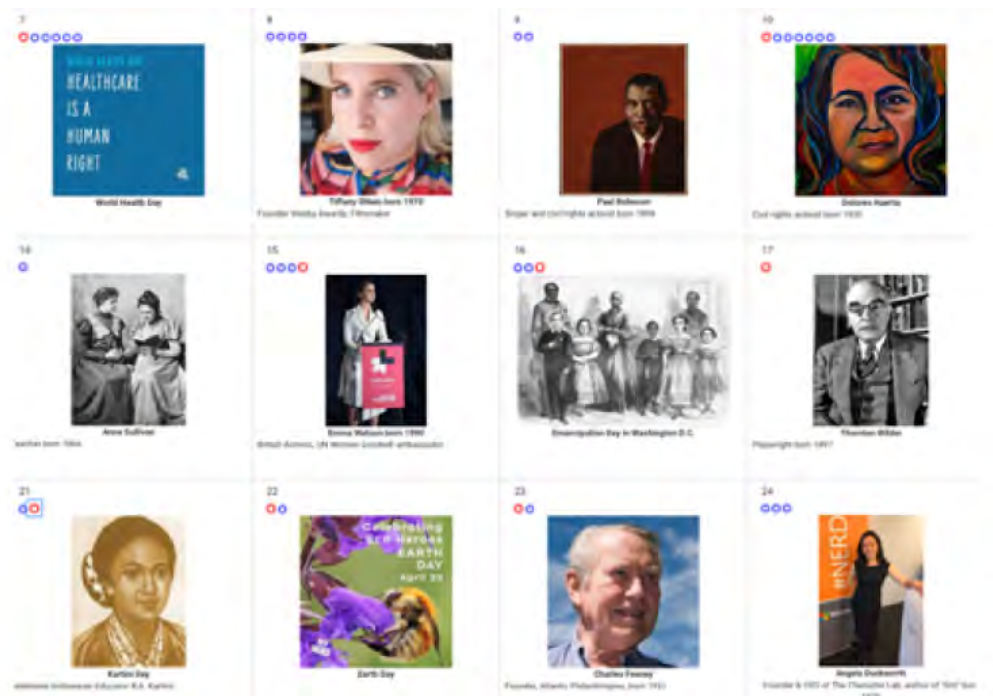
LEARN  

The MYHERO.com homepage is designed using the website's rich content of stories, art, and films, and changes weekly, keeping the homepage, current, relevant, and a destination to return to time and again.

[Learn more about our home page and calendar in this short video by MY HERO Editor Xenia Shin](#)



Calendar



Discover a New Hero
365 Days a Year!

MY HERO CALENDAR

A year-long celebration of
hero birthdays and global observances

The MY HERO calendar is a destination on the website that serves to enrich learning for students and life learners 365 days of the year. The calendar chronicles heroes' birthdays, important celebrations and special events. The newly designed calendar is programmed with links to our rich multimedia library.



Teacher's Room

The MY HERO Teacher's Room provides lesson plans across various disciplines, including English, Social Studies, Art, Media Arts, Science and Environmental Studies, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Character Education. Over the years, teachers have contributed lesson plans that show how MY HERO has been integrated into their classrooms.

Join our global learning community!



The Teacher's Room has [tutorials](#), [lesson plans](#) and valuable [resources](#) to help manage classroom content on MY HERO.

Teacher - Laura Nietzer

Laura Nietzer has used MY HERO in her classroom for many years. She has taken on the role of Outreach Educator at MY HERO, mentoring other educators and presenting MY HERO at global education conferences. In 2018, Laura represented MY HERO at the iEARN Conference in Virginia, the 2019 ISTE Conference in Philadelphia, the Global Education Conference and the EdChange Global Online Conference.

[Learn more about our Teacher's Room resources in this short video with Educator Laura Nietzer](#)



Laura Nietzer at the 2019 ISTE Conference in Philadelphia



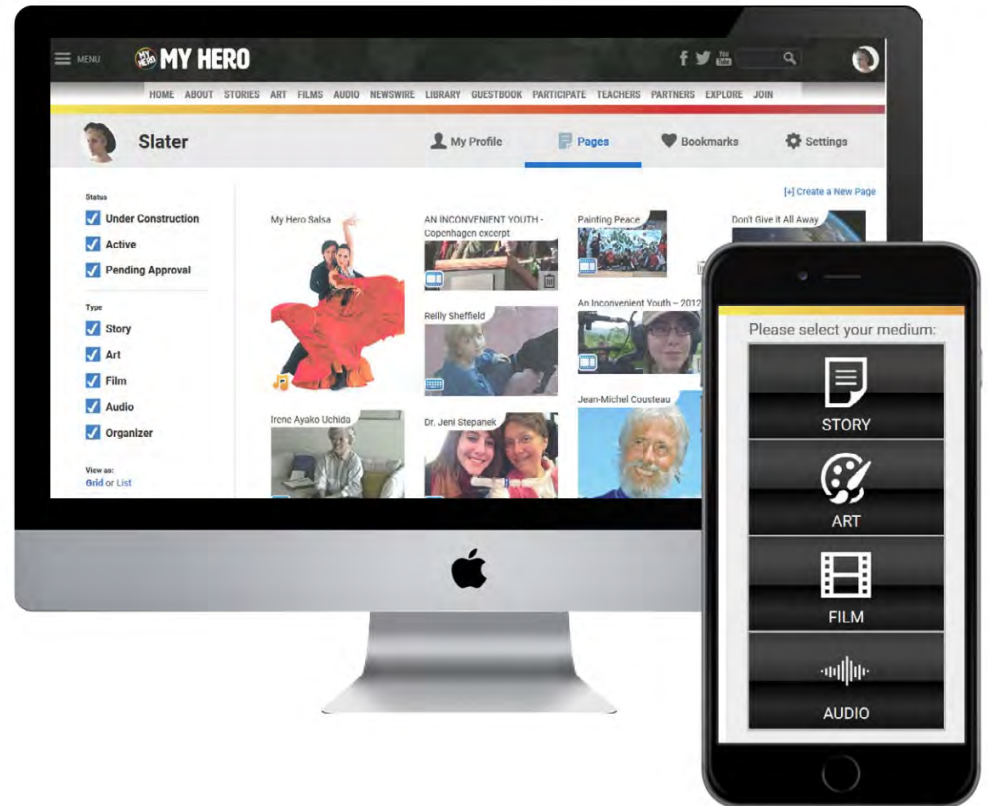
Digital Storytelling Tools

The MY HERO website provides digital online tools for visitors to publish webpages that honor their heroes, using text, images, audio and films.

Web designer Nathan Smith has added new interactive tools that allow visitors to easily create and share content from their computers and mobile devices.

Additional tools allow teachers to organize online media playlists for students to explore selected content from MY HERO's multimedia archive. Teachers can identify and manage student work online using the MY HERO “Class Code”. Using MY HERO's digital storytelling tools, students can create a portfolio of their inspiring work.

[Learn more about our digital story telling tools in this short video with web designer Nathan Smith](#)



Stories

MY HERO's ever-growing online library hosts over 60,000 stories written by visitors of all ages from around the world. These essays celebrate heroes from all walks of life, from family members to global leaders.



Students are awarded t-shirt prizes for outstanding hero essays. MY HERO's new Classroom and Class Code system helps teachers review and organize student essays created and shared on the MY HERO website.

Story Editor/Writer - Shannon Luders-Manuel

Shannon Luders-Manuel has taken over as General Editor and Writer for the MY HERO Writing Program. She replaces our long-serving editor, Becky Miller, who has moved into an advisory position. Shannon holds an M.A. in English literature from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. As a critical mixed-race scholar, she has been published in The New York Times, The New York Daily News, The Los Angeles Review of Books, and more. She has previous teaching experience and, in 2017, authored ***Being Biracial: Where Our Secret Worlds Collide: Educators' Guide*** to supplement an essay anthology of the same name.

[Learn more about the MY HERO stories in this short video with General Editor Shannon Luders-Manuel](#)



U.S. women take 2019 World Cup, set sights on equal pay



Sudan: International pressure enabled power-sharing pact



Sudanese protesters, military celebrate pact after months of unrest



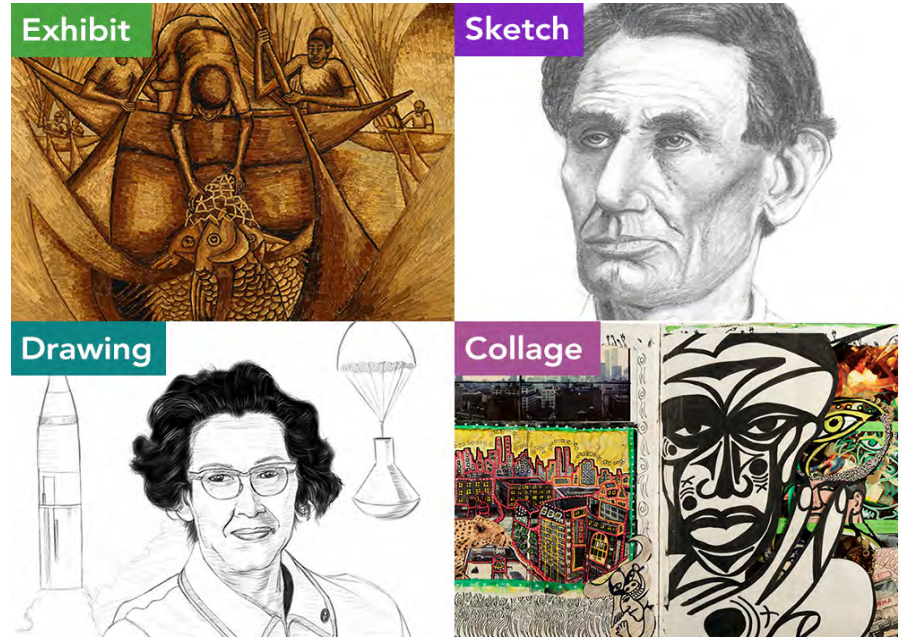
The MY HERO Newswire features current articles and stories from the Associated Press and The Christian Science Monitor about innovation in technology, science, space exploration, the environment and humanitarian issues.

The MY HERO Gallery

The MY HERO Gallery hosts thousands of works of art that reflect cross-cultural and intergenerational imagery that inspires and expresses heroism. All forms of art media are represented, and collaborative works of art are encouraged.



Self Portraits by students from Baicoi, Romania



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

In 2018-2019, over four-hundred new artwork webpages were added to the Gallery, including artwork by students from the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Community art activists also contributed murals and collaborative works of art.

[Learn more about the MY HERO Gallery in this short video with Gallery Director, Victoria Murphy](#)

Audio

MYHERO.COM/AUDIO

Listen to and share music, poetry and stories about heroes and the concept of heroism. Students and professionals are invited to share their own music and audio with MY HERO.

MY HERO Audio supports ESL programs and early readers by allowing students to [listen to audio recordings of MY HERO stories in English](#) while they read along.

We annually host a [song contest](#) to celebrate an unsung hero.

[Learn more about the Audio Studio in this short video with Audio Director Stuart Pearlman](#)



MUSIC

*Listen to and share original tracks
Click here to browse our music library*



Wayne Shorter

SPOKEN WORD

*Listen to and share inspiring stories
Click here to browse our spoken work library*



Mattie and Jeni Stepanek



Films

MYHERO.COM/FILMS

The MY HERO Screening Room contains a collection of nearly 3,000 short films about those making a positive difference in our world. This year, 327 new short films have been added to our collection. Film categories include documentary, experimental, animated, and narrative. Viewing MY HERO films in the classroom enriches learning and enhances lesson 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



My Haggan Dream



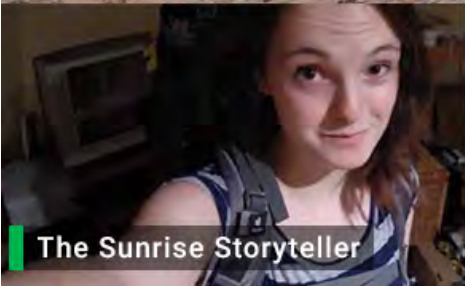
Supercharging the Classroom



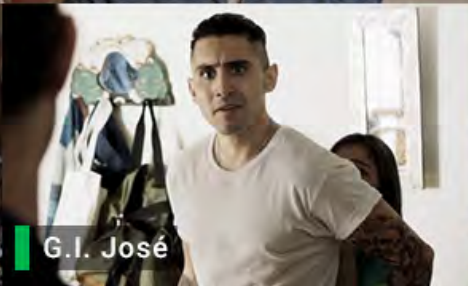
Creative Visions Foundation



Reclaiming Pakistan



The Sunrise Storyteller



G.I. José



Bazaruto Ocean Guardians



HIAS - For the Refugee



MY HERO International Film Festival

Skoll Foundation filmmaker Gabriel Diamond won double awards at the 2018 festival. His film *Still I Rise* won Best of Fest, and *Educate Girls* took home the Dan Eldon Activist Award. Kasha Slavner won the Ron Kovic Peace Prize for an excerpt from her film *Sunrise Storyteller*.

[View a short video about the program by Festival Director Wendy Milette.](#)



Gabriel Diamond – winner of Best of Fest and The Dan Eldon Activist Award



Kasha Slavner's award-winning film features peacemaker hero Kim Phuc

Media Arts Education

MY HERO's Media Arts Education Program promotes students engaging with their local communities and global environment through digital filmmaking. MY HERO's media arts resources include lesson plans, activity guides, instructional videos and more for individual and collaborative learning on all aspects of digital film production.

MENTORING



GLOBAL EXCHANGE



LEARNING CIRCLES



MY HERO in India

The MY HERO Project and Video Volunteers collaborated on a program funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, to conduct MY HERO media arts workshops in India. MY HERO representative and filmmaker Marc Ostrick traveled to four cities in India to host the workshops and to mentor and train the participants in the skills and techniques of documentary filmmaking on social issues.

[View a short film by Media Arts Mentor Marc Ostrick about MY HERO.](#)

MY HERO in Sierra Leone

In January, MY HERO ambassador Mohamed Sidibay returned to his homeland of Sierra Leone and met with Mendy Kanu, the founder of The Children's Foundation of Technology. Mendy and his students were gifted with a laptop and projector and Mohamed showed the students how to create their own MY HERO stories. The students also received USB drives, donated to MY HERO by Kingston Technology, which contain a collection of MY HERO media for the students to view.

[Listen to Mohamed Sidibay talk about MY HERO.](#)



MY HERO mentor Marc Ostrick teaching students in India



Future heroes at the Children's Foundation of Technology view MY HERO short films



MY HERO in Senegal

Senegal educator and MY HERO media arts educator Cheikh Darou Seck represented MY HERO at the Innovating Education in Africa Expo 2018, where he presented MY HERO teacher resources and demonstrated how they can be used in the classroom.

[Watch this short film by Cheikh Darou Seck on the impact of MY HERO on his students in Dakar, Senegal.](#)



Cheikh Darou Seck at the IEA AU

MY HERO in Oakland

At the MY HERO media arts event in June of this year, Skoll Foundation Film Director Gabriel Diamond was invited to share insights on his outstanding work with Oakland's BAYCAT community. The mission of the BAYCAT organization is to end inequality and racism through powerful storytelling. For years, BAYCAT students have been participating in and winning awards at the MY HERO International Film Festival.

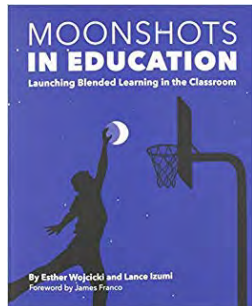
[Still I Rise – Winner MY HERO International Film Festival Best of Fest 2018](#)



BAYCAT students get inspired by SKOLL Foundation Director, Gabriel Diamond

Palo Alto High School

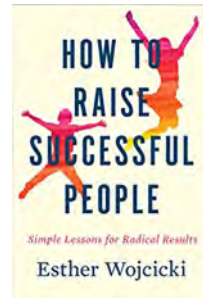
Esther Wojcicki is a world-renowned author and founder of the Palo Alto High School journalism program. MY HERO was invited to host a presentation for the International Day of Peace at her media arts center. The program included short films and a special guest speaker - Dr. James Doty, Founder and Director of Stanford University's Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE).



Moonshots in Education
Esther Wojcicki



Into the Magic Shop
Dr. James Doty



How to Raise Successful People
Esther Wojcicki



2016 MY HERO Global Educator award winner Esther Wojcicki meets Dr. James Doty – winner of the 2018 Global Educator Award, with Jeanne Meyers, MY HERO co-founder and director

Laguna Beach

MY HERO was awarded a 2019 grant from the Festival of Arts' Foundation to further our arts education projects.

MY HERO's arts education outreach includes programs at the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach and the Laguna Art Museum's annual Art & Nature Festival.



MY HERO Gallery Director Victoria Murphy helps children create hero-themed art at the Art and Nature Family Festival hosted at the Laguna Art Museum (Eric Stoner)

Santa Monica

MY HERO hosted a special event at New Roads School which included a live performance of **Bella Gaia**, produced and performed by Kenji Williams.



Filmmaker Michael Hanrahan (L) and Sean Hastings (R) of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary - NOAA accept the 2019 Sylvia Earle Ocean Conservation Award from One World One Ocean representative Shauna Badheka (Center L) and MY HERO Festival Director Wendy Milette (Center R).

The MY HERO Film Festival Sylvia Earle Ocean Award, sponsored by MacGillivray Freeman's One World One Ocean campaign, was presented to filmmaker Michael Hanrahan for his winning film, **Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies**.

This event was made possible with support from New Roads School and mediaThe foundation Inc.



Google Arts & Culture Partnership

Through its partnership with the Google Cultural Institute, the MY HERO portal on the Google Arts & Culture website is a curated space filled with content from MY HERO's collection. Other partners of this program include The MET and hundreds of other museums and cultural organizations from around the globe.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-my-hero-project>



Social Media

Interns from the USC School of Cinematic Arts help us design and share information through social media platforms.



MY HERO's Facebook page has more than 150,000 members.

facebook.com/myheroproject

MY HERO resources are frequently shared with Facebook Education Group's 725,000 followers.

education.fb.com



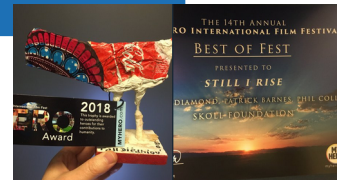
Congratulations to our multimedia journalist @ShanshanChen33! Her film about a former child soldier with the Lord's Resistance Army won 1st Place Documentary & the Humanitarian Award at the 2018 @myhero film festival! #2018MHEROIFF

@trf Dec 5, 2018



Thrilled to announce that our opening film for the 2017 Skoll World Forum, "Still I Rise" won the Best of Fest Award at the 2018 The @myhero Film Festival, which shines a bright light on those among us who choose hope over cynicism!

@SkollFoundation Dec 18, 2018



The MY HERO Board of Directors

Jeanne Meyers | Laguna Beach, California – Film producer and multimedia artist; Co-founder and Director of The MY HERO Project since its inception in 1995.

Mark Cavanagh | Chepachet, Rhode Island – Screenwriter and founder of Youth Vision, Inc. Recipient of the Action for Children's Television Award; Director of projects for Public Broadcast.

Leanne Mella | New York, New York – Specialist in American contemporary art. Served as the manager of International Visual Arts Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Cynthia Costas Cohen | Beverly Hills, California – Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Beverly Hills, California, specializing in EMDR and hypnosis; on the board for the Trauma Resource Institute

Judith Zucker Anderson, Ph.D. | Laguna Beach, California – Clinical psychologist and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the UCI College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. President of the Foundation for the Contemporary Family (FFCF).

Carolyn Hodge-West | Dowagiac, Michigan – Serves on the board of trustees for a regional health care delivery system; Innovative business leader with extensive board leadership and civic involvement.

New Board Member - Eva Haller



Introducing newest MY HERO board member Eva Haller, a Hungarian American philanthropist who has mentored generations of activists. A holocaust survivor, Haller participated in the Hungarian resistance. After losing her brother during the war, she decided to help others. Haller is a recipient of the inaugural Forbes Women Excellence in Mentoring Award, and won the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Award for Women's Empowerment. She serves as adviser to many humanitarian organizations, including Asia Initiatives, Women for Women International, Free the Children, and The Jane Goodall Institute.

Founders



The MY HERO Project was created by the vision of its three founders: Karen Pritzker, an advocate for literacy and children and former a magazine editor and film producer; Jeanne Meyers, a film and multimedia producer who continues to develop and direct the MY HERO website; and Rita Stern, an artist and Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS OVER THE YEARS

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
 Festival of Arts Foundation
 California Arts Council
 Cox Cares Foundation
 American Association of University Women
 U.S. State Dept. Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs
 Rotary Club Laguna Beach
 Max Factor Family Foundation
 mediaThe Foundation

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 - Media Institute for
 Social Change
 LAUSD-Grand Arts Festival
 World Children's Festival
 The American Pavillion Cannes
 Coast Magazine
 Laguna Beach Independent
 AFI - SilverDocs

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

iEARN	Taft High School
ISTE	Foshay Learning Center
New Roads School	Weemes Elementary School
Crossroads School	Laguna Art Museum
Herb Alpert Educational Village	Laguna College of Art
Capshaw-Spielberg Center	Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club
for Arts & Educational Justice	Soka University
UCI Bren School of Information	Guitars in the Classroom
& Computer Sciences	Art Miles Mural Project
USC School of Cinematic Arts	Creative Visions
Baycat	Glasgow Caledonia University
Peace Pals International	Global Education Conference
Americans Who Tell the Truth	Mattie J. T. Stepanek Foundation
Francis W. Parker School	Santa Barbara Middle School Teen Press
Journeys in Film	One World One Ocean
Freedom Writers Foundation	Coalition for Engaged Education
BellaGaia.com	Royal Film Comission - Jordan
UCLA Center X	Palo Alto High School Media Center

FRIENDS

Karen Pritzker & Michael Vlock	Carol & Roger Nilsen	Carolyn Hodge-West	Julie Melton
Ken Koslow & Jeanne Meyers	John & Lynn Seigel	Laura Nietzer	Erin Slattery
Robin & Mark Cavanagh	Boettner Cara Smyth	Barbara & Greg	Jessica Baron
Helene Cavanagh	James Pelts	McGillivray	Jerrilyn & Matthew
Eva & Yoel Haller	Joann & Coby Keller	Ann Church	Jacobs
Sandi & Ken Malamed	Rowena Gerber	Sara Armstrong	Barbera Kaplan
Laird Malamed	Mitch Aiken	Gregg & Kathy Abel	Will Parrinello
Dorothy Meyers	Theresa O'Hare	Judy & Doug Anderson	Mali Bickley
Cynthia Costas & Larry Cohen	Tom Weinberg	Kim Brizzolara	Robert Shetterly
Ron Kovic & TerriAnn Ferren	Robert Shetterly	Barbara & Harvey	Kenji Williams
Kathy Eldon	Dale Griffiths Stamos	Markowitz	Erin Gruwell
Amy Eldon & Jon Turtleaub	Linda Kahn	Peter Copen	Peter Anderson
Joyce & Bill Sharman	Cynthia Kersey	Marilyn Athey	Rita Stern
Joanne Tawfilis	Leanne Mella	Peter Cohen	Olivia Milch
Esther Wojcicki	David Kleeman	Sue Miller	Carrie Maloney
Bart Kogan	Riley McMahon	Kathryn Linehan	Chris Cain



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fiscal Year 2018

The following information is a condensed version of our audited financial statements prepared by Piazza, Donnelly & Marlette LLP for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audited financial statements for fiscal year ending 6/30/2019 will be available later in 2019.

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$231,552
Grant receivable	379,662
Prepaid expenses	1,870
Property/equipment.....	191,239
Deposits.....	2,300
Total assets	\$806,623

CURRENT LIABILITIES

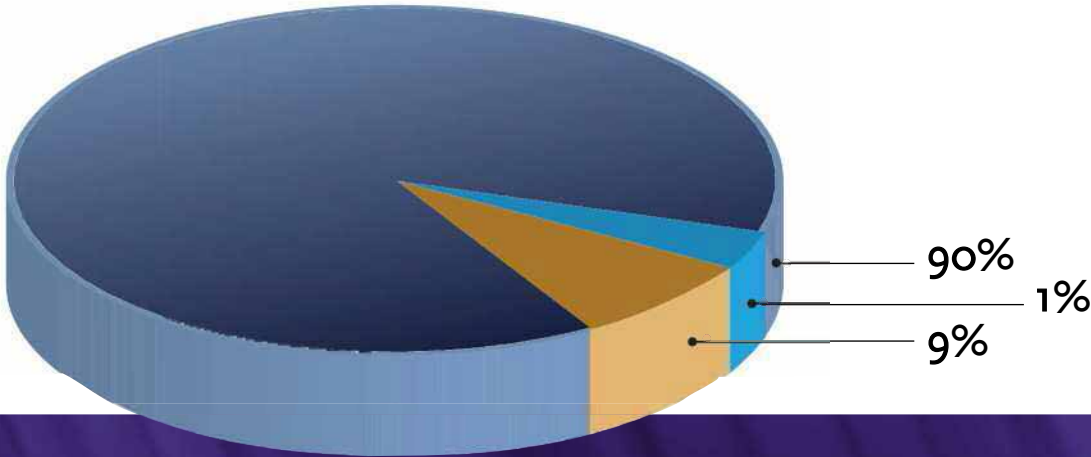
Accrued expenses	\$8,709
Net assets	797,914
Total liabilities and net assets	\$806,623

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Contributions.....	716,284
In-kind	210,798
Interest and other	886
Total revenue and support.....	\$927,968

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program.....	814,525
Fundraising.....	8,566
General and Administrative.....	85,879
Total functional expenses	\$908,970



● PROGRAM

● FUNDRAISING

● GENERAL/ADMINISTRATIVE

The MY HERO Project is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to this nonprofit project are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please support our global learning community.



The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit educational organization.
myhero.com/DONATE

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