THE MY HERO PROJECT



Celebrating the best of humanity, one story at a time.

Building a library of hope used by millions of people around the world.

In the early days of the web, three mothers, all media makers, imagined a safe online space where anyone, from students to seasoned professionals, could discover and share stories of real-life heroes. They launched MY HERO online in 1995, and for more than three decades contributors around the world have helped grow this nonprofit educational organization.

MY HERO's work touches lives and gives storytellers of every age agency and a voice. Its library connects storytellers, heroes, and a global audience, sparking friendships and mentorships, building skills, and shining a light on unsung heroes.

In the pages that follow, you'll meet heroes from every walk of life, along with generous mentors who guide the next generation through special awards and lasting legacies.

This living library continues to seed hope and inspiration across a growing global learning community, true to its mission of using media, art, and technology to celebrate the best of humanity.



Participants of all ages take part in this global storytelling project.

They honor heroes working for peace, protecting the environment and those making a positive difference in the world.

































PROGRAMS STORIES

Essays featured on MY HERO, by students & professional writers, shine a light on unsung and well-known heroes from all walks of life.

"When people tell me nothing has changed, I say walk in my shoes and I will show you change."

- Congressman John Lewis



Art by St. George Thompson

























Explore the story library, organized into sections honoring Community Heroes, Young Heroes, Family Heroes, Health Heroes, Inventors, Lifesavers, Peacemakers, Poets, Science Heroes, Writers, and more.

HERO SPOTLIGHT

myhero.com/**Woj**

ESTHER WOJCICKI

Esther Wojcicki is a journalist, educator, and co-author of ***Moonshots in Education***. She received the MY HERO 2016 Global Educator Award. Since then, she has gone on to write the bestselling ***How to Raise Successful People*** and is featured in the 2026 documentary ***The Godmother of Silicon Valley***.



“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

“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

HERO SPOTLIGHT ESTHER WOJCICKI

Empowering Students to Thrive

Esther Wojcicki and her former student **Jonah Steinhart** teamed up with MY HERO media arts educators to create the ***MY HERO Journalism & Filmmaking Workbook,*** used in middle schools, high schools, and colleges worldwide.





Legacy in Action

Esther Wojcicki has spent decades teaching young people to find their voices through journalism. She now carries that mission forward with the **WOJ Youth Reporter Award**, honoring student filmmakers whose short films tell true stories with courage, curiosity, and integrity. Every winner reflects her belief that young people can inform, question, and change the world.





HERO SPOTLIGHT

myhero.com/**Sidibay**

MOHAMED SIDIBAY

Mohamed Sidibay is a lawyer, an advisor to UNESCO, and a champion for the rights of all children. He grew up in Sierra Leone during its civil war and was mentored through MY HERO as a teenager. He has since spoken to students and leaders at global education conferences, advocating for equal access to quality education for every child.



"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

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

MOHAMED SIDIBAY



*Global Educator Honorees **Erin Gruwell & Mali Bickley** join Mohamed Sidibay, the host for MY HERO's **International Day of Peace 2014***



*Videographer **Skip Blumberg** mentors Mohamed Sidibay @ Columbia High School in New Jersey*

HERO SPOTLIGHT

myhero.com/**Slater**

SLATER JEWELL-KEMKER

Slater Jewell-Kemker is a filmmaker and environmental activist. Mentored through the MY HERO Project from a young age, she had the chance to meet one of her heroes, Jean-Michel Cousteau. Her debut feature documentary follows the rise of the global youth climate movement and the young people 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 more love, understanding, and tolerance into a world that so badly needs it." SLATER JEWELL-KEMKER



"Slater meets her hero, Jean Michel Cousteau"
The MY HERO Project 2005



Slater at work on her documentary, "Youth Unstoppable"
2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 16) Cancún

HERO SPOTLIGHT

myhero.com/**Eva**

EVA HALLER

Eva Haller is a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor, creative activist, and global leader. Eva is a champion for women's and children's rights. She has left her mark on nonprofit organizations around the world.



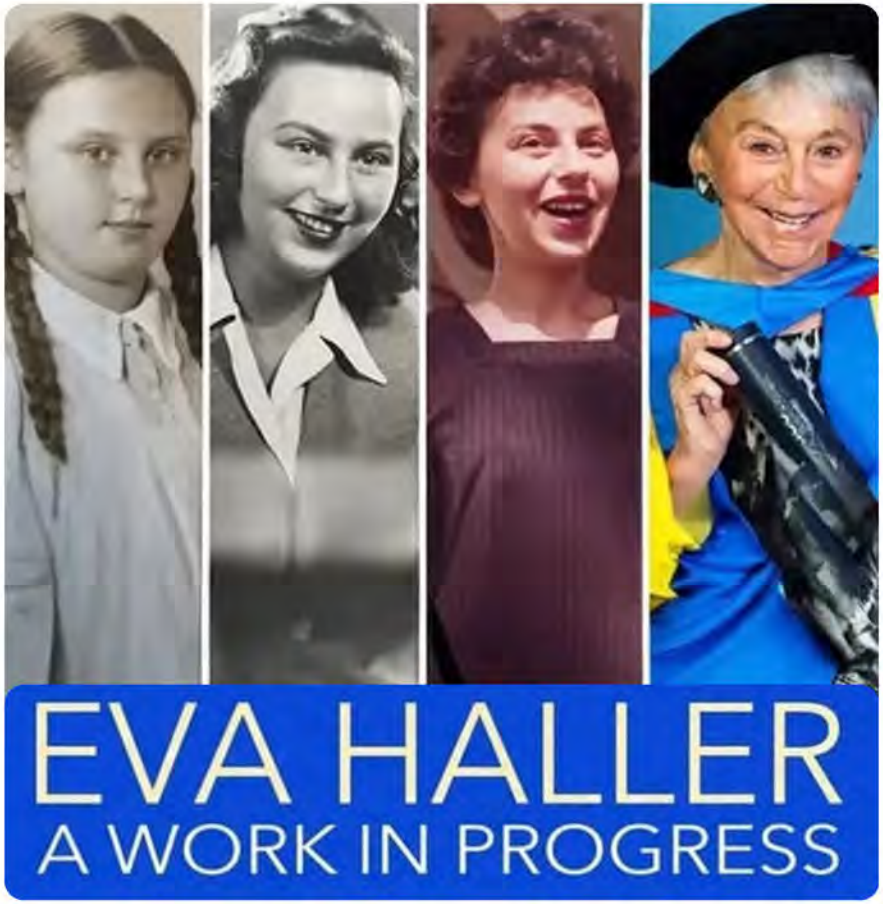
Eva Haller received an Honorary Degree from Glasgow Caledonian University in 2014

"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

Eva Haller: A Work in Progress

A feature documentary directed by Jeanne Meyers for The MY HERO Project has won honors at film festivals globally.

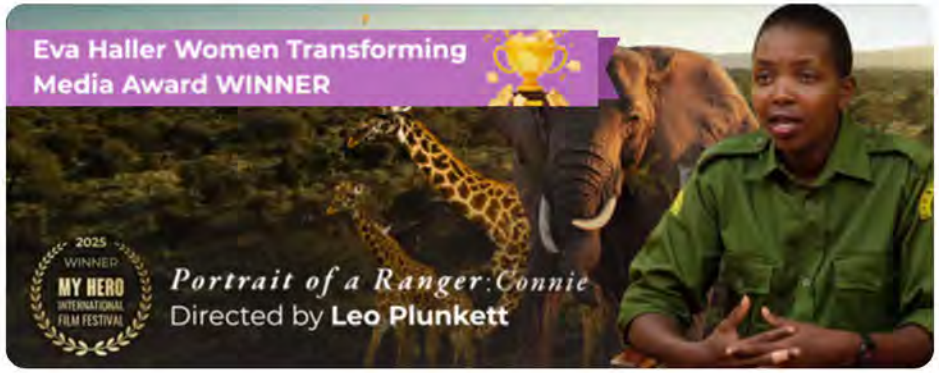


'Eva Haller: A Work in Progress' *Leaves the Audience in Awe at the Santa Barbara Illuminate Film Festival* **Santa Barbara Independent April 2024**

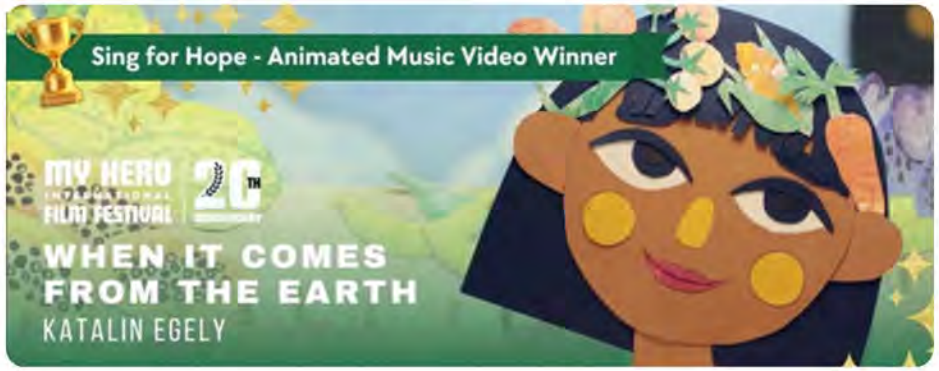
HERO SPOTLIGHT EVA HALLER

Mentoring the Next Generation

Eva Haller has championed women and social change throughout her life. The **Eva Haller Women Transforming Media Award** helps a new generation of filmmakers spotlight women who are creating positive change in their communities. Winning films celebrate women who lead, persevere, and inspire, carrying forward the legacy of a hero who lifts others as she rises.



Eva also generously sponsors the **Sing for Hope Music Video Award** at the **MY HERO International Film Festival.** Winners are selected by **Sing for Hope's Founders: Camille Zamora and Monica Yunis.**



Legacy in Action

When COVID hit in 2020, Eva Haller launched a weekly salon connecting leaders in the arts, science, the environment, and philanthropy. Hundreds of inspiring speakers later, the series continues, and every session is archived on the MY HERO website.

MY HERO in collaboration with Eva Haller presents

THE EVA HALLER SALON SERIES

Featuring Dr. James Bregman, Charlie Pearmund, Frances Moore Lappe, Dread Scott and many more!




Dr. Mandeep Rai


Robert Shetterly


Dread Scott


Peter Goldmark



HERO SPOTLIGHT

myhero.com/**Kovic**

RON KOVIC

Ron Kovic is an author, artist, and peace activist. His best-selling autobiography, **Born on the Fourth of July,** became an Academy Award–winning feature film directed by **Oliver Stone** and starring **Tom Cruise.**

"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



Students from Santa Barbara Teen Press interview Ron Kovic at the Capshaw-Speilberg Center for Arts and Educational Justice

In 2013, on the International Day of Peace, MY HERO honored Ron Kovic in a special program with films, music, and speakers. Journalist Robert Scheer, director Oliver Stone, and actor Tom Cruise, together with longtime friends Joyce Sharman and TerriAnn Ferren, spoke about Ron's tireless work for a more compassionate and peaceful world.



Ron Kovic and Robert Scheer on the stage at the Moss Theater in Santa Monica for The International Day of Peace 2013

"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**

HERO SPOTLIGHT RON KOVIC

Championing Peace Through Compassion

Each year at MY HERO's International Film Festival, Ron Kovic presents the **Kovic Peace Prize**, honoring short films that spotlight people and organizations building peace in their communities and around the world.





The short animated film "**The Peace of Wild Things"** captures the spirit of **Wendell Berry's** beautiful poem. **Katy Wang, the animator** received the **Ron Kovic Peace Prize in 2020**.



Students Queen McElrath and Aniea Cody receive the 2014 Ron Kovic Peace Prize

Music Video: "Hands Up, Don't Shoot"
MY HERO Film Festival Award Ceremony
Moss Theater, New Roads School - Santa Monica

HERO SPOTLIGHT

myhero.com/**Mattie**

MATTIE J. T. STEPANEK

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 six years old at the time, as a poet hero. MY HERO gave Mattie 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 their ongoing hope for peace, rooted in lessons they had learned from this little boy."

JENI STEPANEK

Recipient, MY HERO 2016 Humanitarian Award



HERO SPOTLIGHT

MATTIE J. T. STEPANEK



Each year, Mattie's mother, Jeni Stepanek, hosts The Mattie Stepanek Poetry Contest on MY HERO.

On Being a Champion

by Mattie J.T. Stepanek

A Champion is a winner,
A hero...
Someone who never gives up
Even when the going gets rough.
A champion is a member of
A winning team...
Someone who overcomes challenges
Even when it requires creative solutions.
A champion is an optimist,
A hopeful spirit...
Someone who plays the game,
Even when the game is called life.
There can be a champion in each of us,
If we live as a winner,
If we live as a member of the team,
If we live with a hopeful spirit,
For Life.

From the book ***JOURNEY THROUGH HEARTSONGS*** by Mattie J.T. Stepanek. Copyright (c) 2001 Mattie J.T. Stepanek. Published by Hyperion. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

POETRY PRIZE WINNER



First Place Art Winner: 2026
Mattie Stepanek Poetry Contest

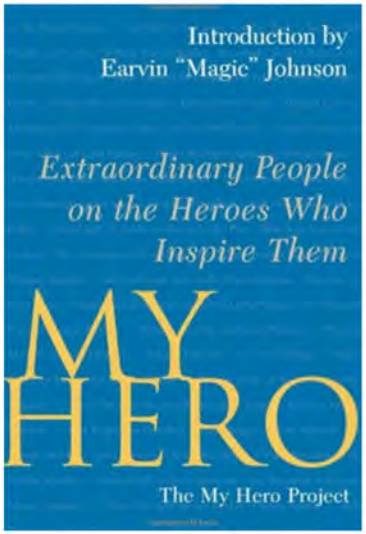
The Blueprint of Peace

by **Sarah Ying Pan** from Markham, Ontario in Canada

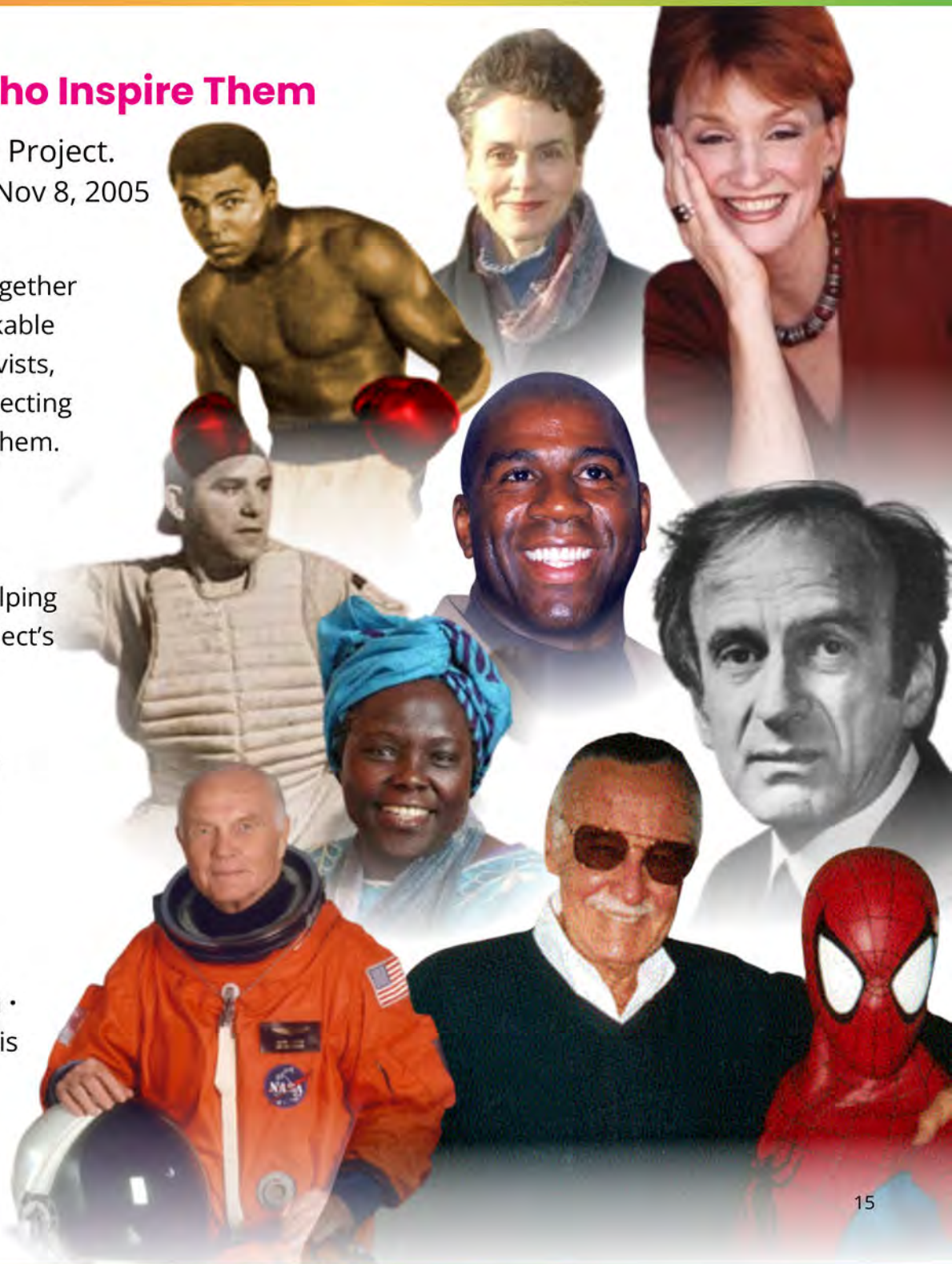
The world outside is dark with swirling winds:
Where ancient shadows twist, and doubts collide.
With pensive grace, her quiet thoughts begin:
A steady anchor in the rising tide.
She holds a vision framed in brilliant light:
A crimson sun that warms a winding stream,
Where peaceful valleys open to the sight,
And hearths are lit beneath a gentle gleam.
It takes nothing to carve a path of grace,
But quiet strength to keep the dream alive.
To look beyond the darkness of this place,
And plant the seeds where harmony can thrive.
With finger pressed to lips, she guards the dream,
The courage to imagine something new.
For peace begins when we can speak its name,
And paint the world in shades of green and blue.

MY HERO: Extraordinary People Who Inspire Them

Foreword by **Karen Pritzker** for The MY HERO Project.
Published by FREE PRESS - Simon & Schuster Inc. Nov 8, 2005



The MY HERO book brings together personal essays from remarkable leaders, artists, athletes, activists, and changemakers, each reflecting on the people who inspired them. Their stories offer powerful perspectives on courage, compassion, and the lasting influence of heroes, while helping to support the MY HERO Project's nonprofit mission.



Thanks to all who shared their stories of heroes and heroism in this collection!

CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE:

Muhammad Ali · Magic Johnson · Billie Jean King · Congressman John Lewis · Wangari Maathai · Michael J. Fox · Stan Lee · Elie Wiesel · Paul Newman · Frances Moore Lappe · Kathy Eldon · Wynton Marsalis · Erin Gruwell · Senator John Glen · Jeni Stepanek · Yogi Berra · Vivian Stringer · Dana Reeve - Raffi

HERO SPOTLIGHT

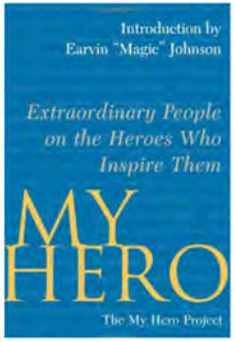
myhero.com/**Wiesel**

ELIE WIESEL

Elie Wiesel was a Holocaust survivor, writer, professor, political activist, and **Nobel Peace Prize laureate**. Born in Romania, he became an American citizen and wrote 57 books. He also contributed an essay 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

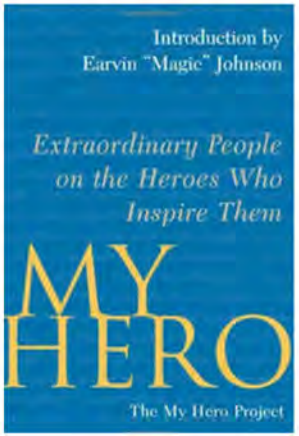
HERO SPOTLIGHT

myhero.com/**Wangari**

WANGARI MAATHAI

Wangari Maathai founded 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



"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

HERO SPOTLIGHT

WANGARI MAATHAI

Wangari Maathai won the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace.

The Green Belt Movement she founded planted more than 30 million trees in Kenya during her lifetime. Her story shows us the power of one person to change the world.

The MY HERO lesson on Wangari brings together essays, art, and short films that celebrate her legacy, including:

- An award-winning documentary by high school student Will Levitt
- *NOBELITY: Wangari Maathai* by professional filmmaker Turk Pipkin
- Excerpt from the MY HERO book: a chapter about Wangari by best-selling author Frances Moore Lappé
- An essay written by Wangari about her own heroes
- Wangari is featured in the award winning animated segment *"The Hummingbird"* - in *Dirt! The Movie*, produced and directed by Bill Benenson, Gene Rosow, and Eleonore Dailly.

Teachers can use MY HERO's free LESSON PLANS curated WITH multimedia to explore the theme of heroism and introduce students to diverse heroes from around the world.

LESSON PLAN - The POWER of ONE

myhero.com/**wangari-maathai-lesson-plan**



"Hummingbird" (excerpt from Dirt! The Movie)
MY HERO International Film Festival Winner, 2010
*Produced by Bill Benenson, Gene Rosow, & Eleonore Dailly, featuring **Wangari Maathai** narrating the story.*



Wangari Maathai
by Guinevere Devlin High School Student
Henrietta, NY 2019



Wangari Maathai
by Ragd Habi
Muscat, Oman, 2022

PROGRAMS ART GALLERY

The MY HERO art gallery features more than 3,700 works by student and professional artists. Prizes are awarded for outstanding portraits.



Science Hero Katherine Johnson

"Math, it's just there ... You're either right or you're wrong. That's what I like about it."
(Katherine Johnson)

by St. George Thompson



Still Joy by *Wendi Sun*
from California



My Papayos *by Karla Rivas*
from Santa Ana, California



Continue *by Sara*
Native American - High School



Courage: Lilith "Millie" Williams
by Charlie S
Middle School (New York, New York)



Guided by My Mother's Light
by Zainab Shakil from United States
Middle School, 2026



A Life of Giving - My Uncle
by Aaliyah Sharma from United States
High School, 2025



African Woman
by Fary Sakho from Senegal

PROGRAMS ART GALLERY

Featured Artist: Rita Stern Milch

Rita Stern Milch is an artist, filmmaker, and co-founder of the MY HERO Project. She co-produced the MY HERO TV pilot in 1994 and designed the original MY HERO website in 1995.

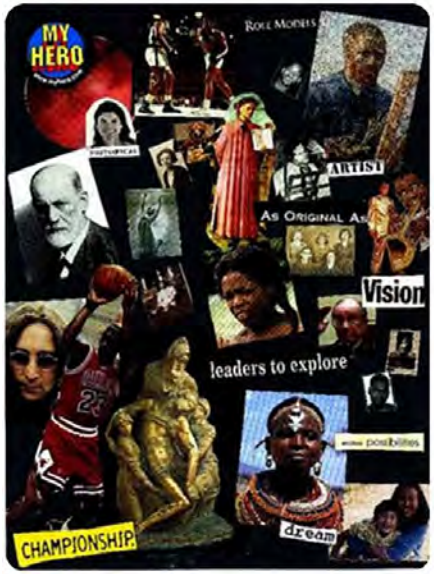
Rita's artwork has been sold around the world, and she has donated several works to MY HERO over the years.



Solo Journey
by Rita Stern Milch



Rita Stern Milch and Olivia Milch
MY HERO Contributors





MY HERO Original Posters - 1995
by Rita Stern Milch

ART PROGRAMS

ROBERT SHETTERLY PORTRAIT CONTEST

Shetterly's prolific portrait series honors citizens who have courageously addressed the social issues of our times.



Artworks by Robert Shetterly

MY HERO & Americans Who Tell the Truth

Students of all ages are invited to create a portrait of someone they admire for this portrait contest.



Submissions are judged by artist, ***Robert Shetterly,*** *founder of* ***Americans Who Tell the Truth.***







First Place Winner: 2022 MY HERO Robert Shetterly Portrait Contest

My Brother

by Esme Tran Elementary, CA

My older brother has an illness that is not well understood. He gets many medical tests, shots, and medicine. Even when he feels weak or sick, he still hugs and kisses me whenever I am sad.

He is my hero because he shows me how to have a bright smile no matter how I feel. He is the bravest person I know!

ART PROGRAMS

VISUALIZE HEROISM ART CONTEST

Students from Pre-K through college celebrate the heroes in their lives through drawing, painting, photography, digital art, and more.



My Hero: The Teacher Who Changed My World
by Ahana Ram



Childhood Quest
by Mathilde Abiragi



My Hero Kalpana Chawla
by Hemanya Krishna



Gentle Elzéard Bouffier
by Cheung Ying Tan



Gentle Sara Mapelli
by Li Tin Ho



First Place Winner: 2026 Visualize Heroism Art Contest Student

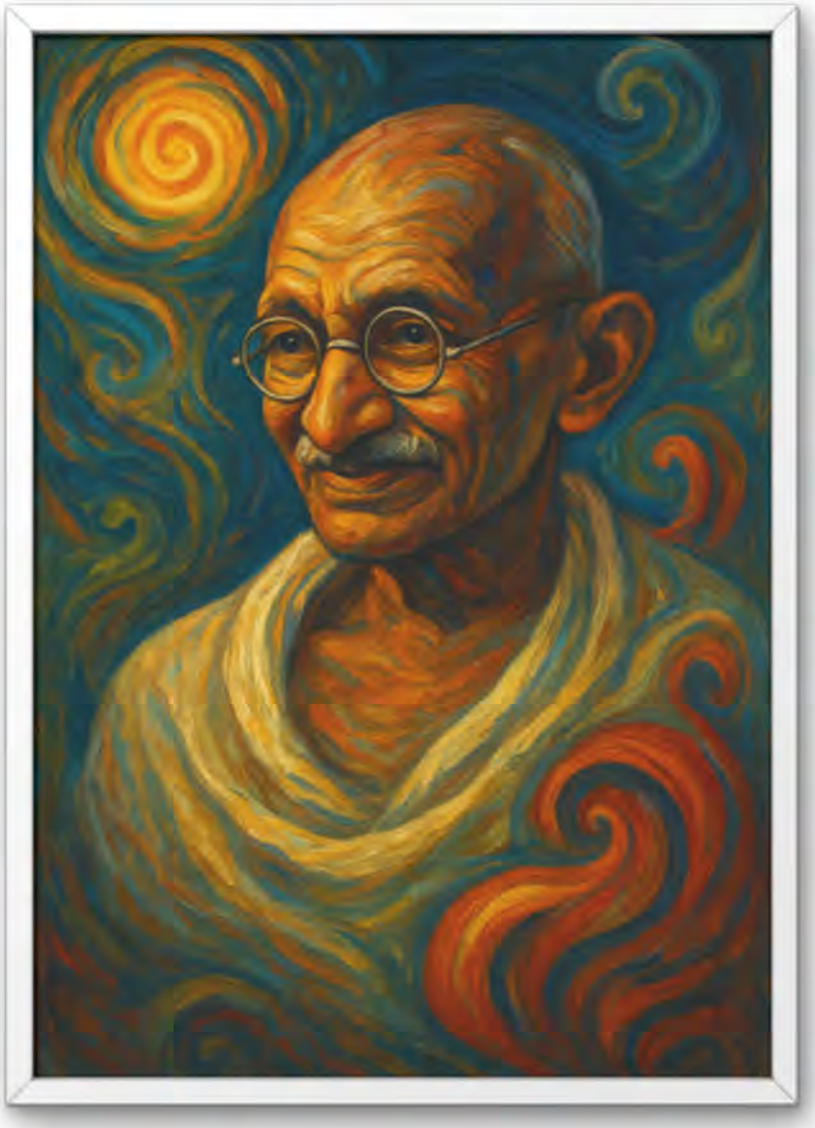
Panda-Lover Kang Chulwon

by SIU KA YI from SCHOOL OF CREATIVITY, Hong Kong

Kang Chulwon has more than 30 years of experience in breeding successes like Fu Bao. He is very gentle when it comes to taking care of pandas, and even shows great emotions towards them.

In my painting, the two pandas sit happily with children all around. Some kids climb on them, some hug them, one takes a photo, and everyone is laughing. Even with tall buildings and mountains behind, the pandas turn every day into a happy party. Thank you Kang Chulwon for protecting the pandas.

ART PROGRAMS WINNER



First Place Digital Winner: 2026
Visualize Heroism Art Contest Student

The Man of Peace

by Shokhruh Kayumov from Tashkent in Uzbekistan

This artwork portrays Mahatma Gandhi through a surrealist lens inspired by Salvador Dalí's style. The melting forms and dreamlike landscape reflect Gandhi's timeless message of peace and nonviolence surviving through chaos and change.

The soft, abstract background represents the world's struggles, while the calm expression on Gandhi's face symbolizes hope, moral strength, and the power of simplicity.



First Place Digital Winner: 2026
Visualize Heroism Art Contest Student

Sir David Attenborough

by Amogh Basker - High School, United States

A prolific writer, environmentalist, and storyteller, Sir David Attenborough is the voice through which many discover the wonders of the natural world.

He is continuously involved in countless award-winning documentaries and authorial works, showcasing his devotion to environmental activism. His warm and unmistakable voice brings his nature documentaries to life and conveys his emotion and passion. Beyond his documentary work, his conservation activism and dedication to meaningful environmental action are truly inspiring and heroic.

His work and commitment has always resonated with me. In fact, it was his documentaries that sparked a genuine love and appreciation for the environment in my own life. In my artwork, I aimed to capture the intensity of his passion. I attempted to emphasize the clarity in his eyes, the wisdom in his wrinkles of experience, and the tranquil feeling of being surrounded by nature. To honor his connection to the environment, I placed him among birds, plants, and other ecosystems he has spent his life exploring. My goal was to tell the story of his various endeavors and contributions.

myhero.com/**audio**

Voices of Heroism

The MY HERO Audio Room invites visitors to listen to and share **music, poetry, spoken word and stories** that celebrate heroes and explore the meaning of heroism. Students, educators and creators can browse the collection or contribute their own original audio.



Listen-and-Read-Along Stories - for ESL







sing for hope

MY HERO partners with **Sing for Hope** to give a special award at the Film Festival to creators of outstanding music videos that explore heroism, inspire positive change and bring hope to humanity.

PROGRAMS MY HERO International Film Festival

Since 2005, The MY HERO International Film Festival has been bringing together professional and student filmmakers who honor local and global heroes working for positive change in the world. Prizes are awarded to students and professional filmmakers.



Award presenters, winning filmmakers, guests, and the MY HERO team at the 2023 Awards Ceremony at the Moss Theater in Santa Monica

PROGRAMS FILM FESTIVAL

myhero.com/festival

In 2005, with the advent of new technology - less expensive portable cameras and faster internet speeds - the possibilities of creating and sharing short films online became feasible.

To further MY HERO's mission to use media, art and technology for good, the board decided to launch a MY HERO Film Festival.

It was clear from the start that it would be important to provide educational resources and mentors to support young storytellers interested in making their own short films. **Co-founder & director Jeanne Meyers** recruited **Wendy Milette,** an outstanding and artistic elementary school teacher who had just recently graduated with a master's from USC School of Cinematic Arts to lead MY HERO's media arts education and film festival programs.

The first MY HERO International Film Festival was held that year at the **Robert Zemeckis Theater at the USC School of Cinematic Arts.** As the festival grew, ceremonies moved to **USC's Ray Stark Theater in the Lucas Building and the Norris Theater.**

MY HERO is deeply grateful to **Wendy Milette** for two decades of leadership, and to **Dean Elizabeth Daley** of the **USC School of Cinematic Arts** for her ongoing support.

The USC partnership helped shape the MY HERO Internship Program, which continues to mentor college students as they gain hands-on experience in media, storytelling, and working with youth.



Ryan Coogler - Writer & Director
"Locks" 1st Place College Narrative
2010 MHIFF



Erica Fernandez: The Tool of Protest
Accepting honors with her mom
2011 MHIFF



Wendy Milette** presents **Elizabeth Daley,
Dean of USC's School of Cinematic Arts
2011 Global Educator Award

FILM FESTIVAL

SPECIAL AWARDS

Prizes are awarded to students and professional filmmakers.



CALL FOR ENTRIES

MATTIE STEPANEK POETIC FILM PRIZE

MY HERO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL











SPECIAL AWARDS

The Sylvia Earle Ocean Conservation Award

Honors student & professional filmmakers working to highlight those working for ocean conservation.



Screening of winning short films @ Rivian South Coast Theater



Sponsors

Barbara & Greg MacGillivray

ONEWORLD ONEOCEAN







PROGRAMS FILMS

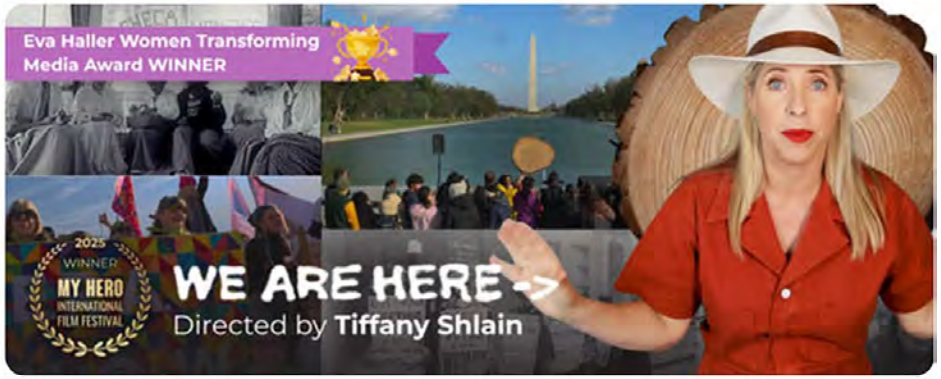
The MY HERO library includes over 3,000 short films. Inspiring films made by students and professionals honor those working for peace, the environment, ocean conservation, women & children's rights & more.

Genres include documentary, animation, public service announcements (PSAs), music videos, experimental, narrative, immersive, trailers, and excerpts.











Selected short films are curated into lesson plans that promote empathy, creative self-expression, cross-cultural understanding, and an appreciation of diversity.

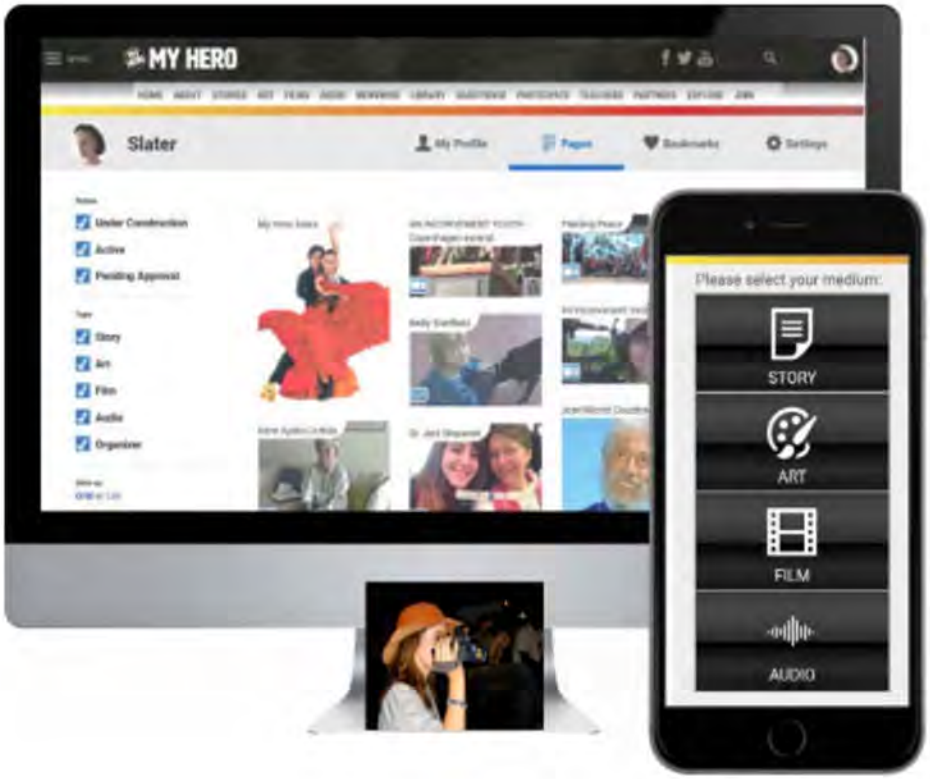
PROGRAMS MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION

Digital Storytelling

On the MY HERO website, students are provided with tools to publish web pages using text, images, audio and films on cell phones, tablets or computers at home, in school, or at the library.

Teachers access special tools to manage students' classwork shared online and to organize playlists of selected content from our ever-growing media library.

MY HERO's Media Arts Education Resources, online tutorials, mentors, workshops and contests enable students and teachers to create media that honors diverse heroes from all walks of life.



DISCOVER - CREATE - SHARE









myhero.com/**mediaartseducation**

MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION

In 2023, The Scripps Family Impact Fund gave a generous grant to support MY HERO's Media Arts Education Program and Film Festival. Here is what the funders had to say about MY HERO.

"At the heart of MY HERO's educational model is the belief that young people are more than consumers of media — they are creators, too. Through the Media Arts Education Program students receive the tools, mentorship, and encouragement to tell meaningful stories about real-life heroes, in their own communities and beyond."

scrippsimpact.org/news/my-hero

MY HERO's multimedia resources encourage social and emotional learning and reflection. The stories that are featured on the website emphasize empathy, altruism, morality, sacrifice, leadership, wisdom, persistenc and resilience.



Students at Martin Luther King School for Girls in Dakar, Senegal participating in The MY HERO Project



Katherine Liao
Best of Fest 2024
MY HERO Film Festival Winner



PROGRAMS MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION

myhero.com/**Workbook**

"One of the most significant outcomes of the Scripps grant is the development of the MY HERO Journalism & Filmmaking Workbook a robust, interactive guide designed to walk students and educators through every stage of creating a documentary, from idea to final edit."

Co-developed over 18 months by media arts educators, festival leaders, and authors Esther Wojcicki and Jonah Steinhart, the workbook includes tutorials, prompts, and embedded multimedia content. It's freely available for download and offered in print through Amazon, with targeted distribution to underserved schools and educators nationwide. Already in use across programs such as USC's Annenberg Summer Youth Academy, LAUSD's Lincoln High School, and Idyllwild Arts Academy, the workbook is sparking new interest among teachers and after-school programs nationwide.

Thanks to the support of the Scripps Family Impact Fund, MY HERO has deepened its commitment to empowering the next generation of storytellers and changemakers. Whether it's through a first documentary project, a moment of recognition at the Film Festival, or a classroom conversation sparked by the Workbook, MY HERO is helping students find their voice and understand their capacity to lead, connect, and uplift others."

scrippsimpact.org/news/my-hero



***"The MY HERO Filmmaking & Journalism Workbook's** combination of journalism, filmmaking, and civic engagement makes it an exceptional resource for teaching the skills and values of modern journalism...One of the workbook's greatest strengths Is its focus on finding heroes within our communities, helping students recognize the power of everyday people to create positive change."*

PROFESSOR ALLAN J. LOPEZ
Journalism Instructor & Lecturer USC
Annenberg School for Journalism

PROGRAMS *REEL HEROES: STUDENT FILMS & FILMMAKERS*

Winner, 2026 Telly Award, General Education & Training

***Reel Heroes* is a half-hour program that pairs excerpts from award-winning student films with brief interviews with their young directors.** Together they offer inspiration and a starting point for students ready to take on the challenge of making their own short films. Hosted and edited by Saint George Thompson, the program aired in 2026 on KLCS–PBS OC World and premiered at the Rivian South Coast Theater as part of MY HERO's 30th Anniversary Celebration. The program can be viewed online on MY HERO and is an excellent companion to the MY HERO Workbook.



FEATURED FILMS & DIRECTORS

***When the Devil Smoked in Paradise* - Directed by Katherine Liao**
A local environmental success story.

***Smoke That Travels* - Directed by Kayla Briët**
A film about the importance of preserving language and culture.

***Believe* - Directed by Logan Cascia -** A music video portrait of Tommy Carroll, a blind skateboarder and drummer.

***Ablaye* - Directed by Fary Sakho**
A young artist with a disability inspires everyone around him.

***Bombingham* - Directed by Gabrielle Gorman**
An expressionistic account of a devastating moment in history.

***Fire Relief Boutique* - Directed by Sage Starkovich**
In the aftermath of the Los Angeles fires, a high school community comes together.

Slater Meets Her Hero: Jean-Michel Cousteau
Directed by Slater Jewell-Kemker

Thanks to The Scripps Family Impact Fund for their support for this program.

PROGRAMS MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION

In Los Angeles, at Ascot Avenue Elementary School, students turned learning into media

MY HERO Media Arts Educators at Ascot supported teachers and students as they learned to use technology to tell stories with purpose. They created storyboards, shot video, conducted interviews, and learned editing tools to create short, hero-themed films. The work connects media skills with resilience, relevance, relationships, and community leadership. The Max Factor Family Foundation initially funded the program, and LAUSD later contributed to this special program.



Media Arts Educator Frank Guttler and USC Intern Isabella Escalona present award certificates to young filmmakers at Ascot Avenue Elementary School.



Students at Ascot Avenue Elementary School view short films and vote for their favorite.

> ***"MY HERO has provided our students with tools that will carry them in life. When we talk about urban education and making an impact on poverty, social ills, and homelessness, MY HERO opens the windows to a brighter future as it highlights resilience, relevance, and relationships that tie all of us together."***

DR. GUSTAVO ORTIZ-ESCALANTE
Principal - Ascot Avenue Elementary School

TEACHER'S ROOM

myhero.com/**teachersroom**

Teacher's Room Lesson Plans

MY HERO's Teachers Room offers a rich collection of lesson plans and multimedia resources, organized by grade level, theme, and subject. Teachers can quickly find materials suited to their students' age and academic level, explore MY HERO resources on specific topics, and weave them into their existing curriculum for more targeted, effective instruction.

Art | Language Arts | Social Studies | Peace Studies | Social Justice | Human Rights | Women's Studies | Environmental Education | Ocean Conservation | Global Studies | ESL/ELL | Media Arts Education | Digital Art | Journalism | Filmmaking | Character Education | Social Emotional Learning | and more.

Teacher's Calendar

The MY HERO Teacher's Calendar has a lesson plan or resource highlighted for each day of the month ensuring a diverse range of topics and activities throughout the year. Students are introduced to various topics such as social justice, environmental issues, cultural diversity and more.

Media Arts Educators curate content from the library into lesson plans that enrich learning for students of all ages on a wide range of subjects.











WHY STUDY HEROES?

In classrooms around the world, students explore real-life heroes through the stories in our library. They are also invited to create their own media honoring their personal heroes. Sharing these stories builds cross-cultural understanding and sparks conversations about values and character. Along the way, students find role models whose examples can guide and inspire their own paths to success.



A student in Senegal learns about Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman online on myhero

Research on teaching heroism shows that heroes:

- Uplift others - Inspire and offer hope
- Help others to cope, providing emotional & social support
- Provide a clearer sense of self
- Provide an important role In support of Identity exploration & formation

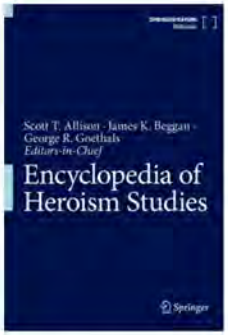
"MY HERO's work reflects and dedicatedly confirms many of the scholarly findings on the nature and purpose of heroes. Their integration of art, film, education and many more distinct areas into their vision is especially fascinating for the contemporary shapes and concepts around heroism, and their endeavors to spread the heroic spirits through positivity is definitely worth recognizing and supporting."

PROFESSOR SCOTT T. ALLISON

Encylopedia of Heroism Studies

Creating Young Heroes for Our World: The MY HERO Project

Deborah Neff - Author
Scott T. Allison - Editor
Department of Psychology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, USA
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The MY HERO Project is leveraging technology, artistic media, and a focus on heroes to create positive learning outcomes for youth. We examine how the online platform helps educators solve three key challenges in education today:

(1) ignorance, intolerance, and indifference;

(2) educational achievement gaps and the youth mental health crisis;

(3) meeting the challenge of globalization, diversity, and the need for cross-cultural literacies..."

Feedback from Educators over the Years

Fatemeh Nikui Nezhad, Farzanegan High School, Iran
Heroes help us define, develop and live by the values of kindness, generosity, forgiveness, joy and peace. MY HERO PROJECT provided my lovely students with the big chance of thinking about their heroes and why they are their heroes. They identified heroic characteristics and what it means to be a hero. Moreover, they developed internet research skills as well as writing skills. Thanks to the outstanding facilitators and managers of this wonderful project, my students could design a web page for their heroes to honor them and publish their writing to the international audience of MY HERO. We are extremely grateful to all My Hero staff for their help and kindness.

Jonathan Feinn, Carlos Rey School in Albuquerque, New Mexico
I want you to know how much the children and I have enjoyed participating in the MY HERO project. I'm very pleased with their commitment and I feel they have gained a great deal from this experience. Thank all of you connected with this endeavor; it's a terrific learning experience.

Timothy Dennis, Xiamen International School, China
The ease of use was a godsend for teachers, both as a resource for written examples, and ideas for student projects. We used the newswire for current events, tied our poetry writing to poets featured on the site, and practiced analyzing written work. Thank you so much, what a wonderful project this has been!

Lyudmila Gilyova, Lyceum of Information Technologies, Ukraine
The students have learned to communicate on the forum platform, upload text, images to build a webpage.I like everything.

Galina Smirnova, R.A. Naumov Secondary School No.13, Russia
A new way of discovering global collaboration and an opportunity to tell the world about the person our students admire. Everything is excellent. Thank you very much for your patience and help.

Mali Bickley - ISTE Keynote Speaker Teacher, Canada
What The MY HERO Project has created for us as educators is an invaluable resource, and shows that learning is real and meaningful on so many levels. Being able to take experiences and make them personal, and then also to share with a global audience is authentic learning at it's best. I am so proud to be part of the MY HERO family and having the project to share with others and my students. Your small idea has truly made a BIG impact on kids and teachers all over the world.

Coleen Bondy, Los Angeles Unified School District, USA
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 8"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.

Eveline Frieitas, ABA Global Education, Brazil
My students used MY HERO to learn more about the world and develop a global citizenship mindset.

Margaret Chen, iEARN Coordinator, Taiwan
MY HERO creates a great context to teach core character values, such as respect, justice, responsibility, etc.

THE MY HERO PROJECT

IMPACT

MY HERO's multimedia resources encourage social and emotional learning and reflection. The stories that are featured on the website emphasize empathy, altruism, morality, sacrifice, leadership, wisdom, persistence and resilience.

> ***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.***

CHEIKH DAROU SECK
Teacher/Principal, Senegal

> ***The MY HERO team continues to deliver a high quality program with commendable outcomes that include not just the development of videos and the skills necessary to produce them and the ever- growing repository of videos and MY HERO stories on the Web, but also the incalculable benefit of the cross-cultural relations built through the exchanges.***

ROCKMAN ET AL
Independent Evaluation
MY HERO Global Exchange Program 2006-2008
Funded by a grant from the US Dept of State Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

MY HERO Receives 5 Star Learning Rating From Common Sense Education
2020 Best Educational Website

2024 Gold Winner, 2023 Bronze, 2022 Silver Winner
Education, Art and Culture

Top-Rated on GreatNonprofits.org
2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

2026 - General-Education & Training
Reel Heroes: Student Films & Filmmakers
2013 - Online Video Stories Website Award

2004 Best Spirituality Finalist (Wheel of Faith)
2006 Education Website Honoree

2009 Silver Award Winner

Winner - Jeanne Meyers -
Web Content Director - MYHERO.com
2015 Cable Fax Tech Innovation Award



2009 Cox Cares Grant Award

Childnet International 2001
Best Educational Website

Best Documentary Short 2012
MY HERO Report: Youth Edition

THE MY HERO PROJECT IMPACT

A LEGACY OF GLOBAL IMPACT

125M+ PARTICIPANTS
Since 1995

Stories that travel. Heroes who inspire.

20M+
VISITORS
ANNUALLY

6,800+
REGISTERED SCHOOLS

174
COUNTRIES REACHED

50,000
HERO STORIES

3,000
SHORT FILMS

3,700
WORKS OF ART

THE MY HERO PROJECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeanne Meyers
MY HERO Co-founder - Filmmaker
Laguna Beach, CA

Mark Cavanagh
Screenwriter & Producer
Chepachet, RI

Cynthia Costas Cohen
Therapist & Trauma Specialist
Beverly Hills, CA

Judith Zucker Anderson
Clinical Psychologist
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Carolyn Hodge-West
Leadership Consultant
Cassopolis, MI

Eva Haller
Philanthropist & Arts Advocate
NYC, NY

Elena Corchero
Technology Designer & Researcher
London, England

Kathleen Duhl
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Dr. Gustavo Ortiz
Retired Principal LAUSD and Educator
Los Angeles, CA

Sandy Factor
Media & Education Advocate
Los Angeles, CA

Barbara MacGillivray
Research Director & Conservation Advocate
Laguna Beach, CA

Mohamed Sidibay
Executive Director - M&A Lawyer
NYC, NY

Rita Stern Milch
MY HERO Co-founder & Filmmaker
Los Angeles, CA

Greg Stamos
Environmental Attorney
Santa Barbara, CA

Nikki Pope
Attorney & AI Executive
San Jose, CA



CO-FOUNDERS
Karen Pritzker, Jeanne Meyers, Rita Stern Milch

THE MY HERO PROJECT SUPPORT

Built over time through donors, public support and partners.

The MY HERO Project has grown over the years with support from foundations, public agencies, individual donors, educators, students, artists, filmmakers, writers and in-kind contributors.

Educational Partners

- International Education & Resource Network
- Google Arts & Culture
- USC School of Cinematic Arts
- Laguna College of Art & Design
- Boys & Girls Club Laguna Beach
- ISTE.org
- AWTT.org
- Sing for Hope
- Guitars in the Classroom
- Art Miles Mural
- Coalition for Engaged Education
- UCI Bren School - Computer Science
- Global Education Conference
- One World One Ocean
- National Storytelling Network
- KOCE-OC
- OC WORLD - KLCS-PBS
- Young Voices for the Planet
- Video Volunteers - Change Chitra
- Creative Visions Foundation
- Glasgow Caledonia University
- Mattie J. T. Stepanek Foundation
- Santa Barbara Middle School Teen Press
- BellaGaia.com
- UCLA Center X
- Francis Parker School
- Royal Film Commission - Jordan

Government Grants

- U.S. Dept. of Education
- U.S. Dept. of State

Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs

- Los Angeles Unified School District
- California Arts Council
- City of Laguna Beach

In-kind Donations

- Google Adwords
- ATT
- Barracuda Networks
- Kingston Technology
- Intel
- Canva
- EC2 The Annenberg

Incubator Project @ USC

- Digital Coast Roundtable
- Wall Street Journal Live
- Digital Hollywood
- Barracuda Networks
- Shure
- TechSoup
- Canva
- Wacom
- Occulus
- Rivian

THE MY HERO PROJECT SUPPORT

Support from Foundations over the years has supported program development

- Seedlings Foundation
- Scripps Family Impact Fund
- Massen Greene Foundation
- Foundation for the Contemporary
- Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Foundation
- The Marisla Foundation
- Max Factor Family Foundation
- The Puffin Foundation, Ltd
- MacGillivray Freeman Educational Foundation
- Cox Cares - Cox Communications
- Laguna Beach Community Foundation
- Festival of Arts Foundation
- American Association of University Women
- Alfred Sloan Foundation
- American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
- William and Dorothy Meyers Foundation

THE MY HERO PROJECT EVENTS & OUTREACH

MY HERO events build community and connection among heroes, teachers, students, and expand our impact and reach to the public at large. Universities, Cultural Art Centers, Libraries, Schools, Community Centers, and Global Education Conferences have hosted MY HERO workshops, screenings of films, salons and special programs.

MY HERO International Film Festival
USC School of Cinematic Arts
Zemeckis Theater, Ray Stark Family Theatre, & Norris Theatre - Los Angeles 2005 - 2013

Herb Alpert Educational Village Film Festival & Salons
The Capshaw Spielberg Center for Arts & Educational Justice
Moss Theater - New Roads School - Santa Monica 2013- 2025

Rivian South Coast Theater Laguna Beach - Special Events
MY HERO 30th Anniversary Celebration - Sept 2025
World Oceans Day · June 2024, 2025, 2026
Best of MY HERO Film Festival - Dec 2024, Jan 2026

International Society of Technology Educators ISTE.org
MY HERO Global Gallery Presentations
San Diego 2012, Denver 2016, San Antonio 2017
New Orleans 2022, Denver 2024

Los Angeles Unified School District Workshops
Media Arts Education Outreach and Showcase of Student Projects
1st Annual Community Schools Showcase - Los Angeles - May 2026
Arts Fest - Los Angeles - April 2026
STEAM Fest - California Science Center - Los Angeles - April 2025
ExpandLA Conference Workshop Presentation - Los Angeles - Oct. 2025
Ascot Avenue Elemenary School - Mentoring Teachering and Students 2022 - 2026
Lincoln High School - Media Arts Education Program 2025 - 2026

International Education and Resource Network Conferences
MY HERO Workshops - iEARN.org 2002 - 2019
Japan, Russia, Canada, Slovakia, Morocco, Netherlands, Brazil, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Qatar, Argentina

MY HERO Global Exchange 2006 - 2008
Royal Film Commission Jordan
Martin Luther School for Girls, Dakar, Senegal
Center for Balkin Cooperation (LOJA) Macedonia
Laguna College of Art & The American Film Institute



iEARN Global Conference & Youth Summit - Canada 2010
MY HERO Youth Summit Film Workshop -
Led by students: Slater Jewell Kemker & Mohamed Sidibay



iEARN Global Conference - Qatar 2013
Teacher Cheikh Darou Seck, Senegal, leads MY HERO Media Arts Workshop.



iEARN Global Conference - Brazil 2015
MY HERO educator Laura Neitzer shares resources with Habiba Fardjallah, an ESL teacher from Algeria.

Bangeman Challenge - Award Ceremony
Royal Palace of Stockholm, Sweden 1997

Childnet International Awards Ceremony
National Geographic Headquarters, D.C. 2001

Special Olympics Outreach
Shanghai - 2007

Global Education Conference & Glow
Jeanne Meyers - Director The MY HERO Project - Keynote 2025
Wendy Milette & Jeanne Meyers - Keynote Media Arts Education 2016

Laguna Hero Fest - A Model Community Building Program
This family-friendly program featured live music, art, short films, and guest speakers celebrating local heroes. Supported by the City of Laguna Beach and its lodging establishments, the Hero Fest was hosted at Seven-Degrees, the Forum Theater, and the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach. 2008-2019

MY HERO @ The Laguna Art Museum
Art of Healing - MY HERO Gala 2023
Art & Nature Events - 2018, 2014

MY HERO @ Laguna Beach Festival of the Arts
Heroes and Heroines Program - Summer of 2002
Interactive booth hosted by staff & student & senior volunteers

Eva Haller: A Work in Progress – Screenings & Awards 2020 - 2025
The New School for Social Research – New York City
Rotary Club International Peace Conference - Ontario Convention Center
Santa Barbara International Film Festival
Illumination Festival - Santa Barbara
Believe Psychology Film Festival - Pasedena
Cannes World Film Festival
Stockholm City Film Festival
Impact DOCS Awards
The Womens Film Festival - Philidelphia
Bread & Roses Film Festival - New Jersey
LA Film & Documentary Award - Los Angeles
Paris Lady MovieMakers Festival & more...



Filmmakers, friends and heroes on stage at the Moss Theater for MY HERO's 20th Anniversary and Film Festival



Judith Z. Anderson, Ph.D. - President Foundation for the Contemporary Family presents USC Student, Dima Puchkarev The Relationships First Award Rivian South Coast Theater 2025



Molly McCabe, a member of the Scripps Family Impact Fund spoke of her belief in the work of The MY HERO Project on stage at the Moss Theater MHIFF 2024

DONORS OVER THE YEARS

Algers Thompson
Amy Eldon & Jon Turteltaub
Barbara & Greg MacGillivray
Bob Whalen
Carol & Roger Nilsen
Cynthia Costas & Larry Cohen
Dale & Greg Stamos
David & Ann Factor
David Marienthal
David Rosenberg
Dorothy Meyers
Erin Slattery
Esther Wojcicki
Eva & Yoel Haller
Harvey Markowitz
Howard Parmet
James Pelts
Jeanne Meyers
Jennifer Borland
Jerrilyn & Matthew Jacobs
Joann & Coby Keller
John Tu
Jon Goodman
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Kathy & Gregg Abel
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Linda Kahn
Lorraine & Jerry Factor
Marisa & Stephen Robbins
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Mitch Aiken
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Nancy Nickerson
Nikki Pope
Ninette & Larry Golub
Odile Dewar
Patricia & Peter Cohen
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Rita Stern Milch
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Robert Shetterly
Roberta Shintani
Robin & Mark Cavanagh
Ron Kovic
Rowena Gerber
Sandi & Ken Malamed
Sandy Factor
Sara Armstrong
Sarah Trent
Skip Blumberg
Stacy Marienthal
TerriAnn Ferren
Theresa O'Hare
Tom Weinberg
Wendy Aird
Wendy Milette
Will Parrinello

Grateful for all of the educators, students, parents and media makers who have helped shape MY HERO

Wendy Milette - Film Festival Director 2005-2022
Victoria Murphy - Virtual Gallery Director 2010-2015
Rebecca Miller - Story Editor 2002-2014
Doug Miller - Photographer / Artist -Laguna
Jerrilyn Jacobs -Writer / Media Educator LAUSD
Skip Blumberg - Video Artist / Global Exchange Director
Antonio Mendoza - Video Artist / Global Exchange
Mali Bickley - Global Educator / Canada
Rowena Gerber - Science Teacher / Florida
Cheikh Darou Seck - Global Exchange Educator / Dakar
Laura Neitzer - Teacher @ MY HERO 2010-2020
Shannon Luders-Manuel - Writer / Editor
Xenia Shin - Filmmaker - Women Transforming Media
Geeta Malik - Intern / Film Festival Curator 2005-2012
Anabelle Vo - Intern / Film Festival Editor 2012-2018
Sam Fredrickson - USC Film Festival Intern
Marc Ostrick - Media Arts Educator / India
Chris Cain - Media Arts Educator / Global Exchange
Charles McMahon - Media Production
Evelyn Seibert - Global Educator
Nancy Caruso - Marine Biologist Educator
Holly Carter - ByKids.org Filmmaker NYC
Clarissa Ngo - Media Arts Educator - Imaginate Ink
Susanne Nobles -Teacher / Fredericksburg Academy
Slater Jewell Kemker - Student Reporter - Canada
Wendy Jewell - Writer, Learning Circles, Outreach
David Kelly - Film Festival - UCLA
Erin Gruwell - Freedom Writers / Global Educator
Susannah Abbey - Writer / Editor
John Barrett - High School Intern / Filmmaker
Addie Rubino - High School Intern / Filmmaker
Scott Hayes - Filmmaker / Producer OC World
Tristan Abel - Artist - Laguna College of Art

Kathy Crockett - Educational Consultant
Kimberly Kenna - Teacher / Author
Marzieh Abedi - Teacher - Iran
Bob Cashman - Cashman Computers
Karen Chu - Database Programmer UCI
Eric Gurna - Afterschool Program Advisor
Allyx Schiavone - Curriculum Writer
Ann M. Hoffelder - Curriculum Writer
Tom Weinberg - TV Pilot Producer
Joel Cohen - TV Pilot Producer
Nancy Nickerson - Outreach / Education
Mitch Aiken - Media Arts Educator
Frank Guttler - Media Arts Educator
Billie Jo Grant - Educator
Odile Dewar - French Teacher - Laguna Beach
John Seigel Boettner - Teen Press - Santa Barbara
Barry Kramer - iEARN Learning Circles
Susan Drennan Gabriel Bunn - Music Arts
Giselle Villatoro - Arts Educator
Emma Olson - Program Director
Guillermo Ojeda-Lajud - Crafts Workshop, Mexico
Paul Cummins - Coalition for Engaged Education

Vittoria Grande - Marketing Advisor
Pam Saches - Event Coordinator
Dylan Saches - Media Producer
Michelle Falerne - Photographer
Jamie Andrews - Photographer
Janice Kaplan - Film Producer
Brenda Goodman – Film Professor - USC
Pablo Frasconi – Film Professor -USC
Jonah Steinhart - Author, Educator
Margaret Dean - Program Manager
Gary Birch - Dean Laguna College of Art
Heidi Grochelle - Producer Eva Haller Salon Series
Tom Lamb - Artist and Photographer
Rob Elliot - Photographer
Corey Sparkuhl - Video Producer
Nick Hernandez - Musician
Emily Summers - After School Art Teacher
September McGee - Art Teacher
Erin Slattery - Program Advisor
Mendy Kanu - Media Arts Educator - Sierra Leone
Trey Carlisle - Soka University Intern
Dakota Bailey - Outreach , Research and Writing



College interns support the work of MY HERO while gaining experience in the media

Pace Wilder - Artist - Laguna College of Art
Kristan Taylor - ESL Teacher Mexico
Laurie Bernstein - Editor - MY HERO Book
Whitney Winefordner - Song Writer / Performer
Jamie Gravell - UCLA Educator
Leanne Mella - Advisor
Marilyn Huerta - Artist
Andy Ackerman - Museum Director /Advisor
Jim Carlton - Educator Canada
Rose Kleinow - Production Assistant
Jeffrey Rudkin - Film Teacher, Indiana
Jennifer Borland - Educational Consultant
Linda Kahn - Advisor
Sara Armstrong - Educational Consultant
Joanne Tawfilis - Art Miles Mural Project
Jessica Baron - Guitars in the Classroom
Gabriele Gorman - Intern / Filmmaker
Amanda Gorman - Student Poet
Charles Harper - Artist, Writer, Outreach
Deborah Hare - Education and Outreach
Kerry Pellow - Art Teacher - Laguna Beach HS
Claudia Herrera Hudson - Writer / Editor
Joy Wolf - Writer
Ben Heine - Artist
Steve and Beth Woods - Musicians
Becca Han - USC Intern
Shelley Fineman - High School Intern
Mischa Gankin - USC Intern
Mia Islas - USC Intern
Sarah Bravo - Intern - Cal State
Emily Sedeño - Intern - Santa Monica City College
Katie Graubert - Intern
Brandy Hernandez - USC Intern
Isabella Escalona - USC Intern
Joan Wicks - Parent / Teacher

Michelle Bernstein - Film Teacher New Roads School
Helene Head - Professor USC
Mi Pham - USC Intern
Kayla Brïet - Intern / Filmmaker
Jessica Ortiz - Intern Animation
Brie DaSilveira - Intern
Fauzia Minallah - Artist
Camille Zamora - Sing for Hope
Monica Yunis - Sing for Hope



Deb Hare, Jeanne Meyers, Karen Pritzker
Educational Outreach - Boston


Skip Blumberg
Artistic Director
MY HERO Global Exchange


Trey Carlisle
MHIFF Winner


Antonio Mendoza, Cheikh Darou Seck,
Jerrilyn Jacobs
Media Arts Eductors


Tiffany Shlain
MHIFF Winner


TerriAnn Ferren and Ron Kovic
Kovic Peace Prize Presenters


Kathy Eldon
Dan Eldon Activist
Award Presenter


Sandy Factor and Shelley Fineman
MY HERO Supporters


Jeanne Meyers & Ken Koslow
MY HERO Supporters


Joanne Tawfillis
Art Miles Mural Project
Honoree


Gabrielle Gorman
Festival Host & MHIFF Award Winner


Fauzia Minallah
Winner MHIFF


Tige Charity
Kids in the Spotlioght CEO
MHIFF Honoree

THE MY HERO PROJECT

24/7 & 365 days of the year MY HERO delivers stories, art, films and lesson plans to millions of visitors around the world.

All are invited to participate in this global learning project. We are committed to being a free online destination supporting global learning and sharing.

- *All submissions to MY HERO are reviewed by staff.*
- *We will not publish content that promotes hatred, violence, racism or sexism.*
- *The MY HERO team works to make sure the site is child friendly and appropriate for visitors of all ages.*

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK



Mohamed Sidibay
Director



Stephanie Cole
Manager



Santos Herrera
Film Festival & Media Arts



Rachel Priebe
Film Festival



Abigail Richardson
Editor / Educator



Nathan Smith
Web Designer



Maria Alonso
Graphics



Anthony Pouw
Data Base Programmer



Betty Bailey
Writer/Producer



Ambi Butler
Intern



St George Thompson
Outreach & Media



Kitty Richardson
Media & Festival



Stu Pearlman
Music & Audio Studio



Naomi Gledhill
Research/Writer

The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our award-winning educational programs and film festival are made possible by generous donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations. **Thank you for your support!**

DONATE

myhero.com/Donate

SINCE MY HERO 1995

We invite you to become part of our

GLOBAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

