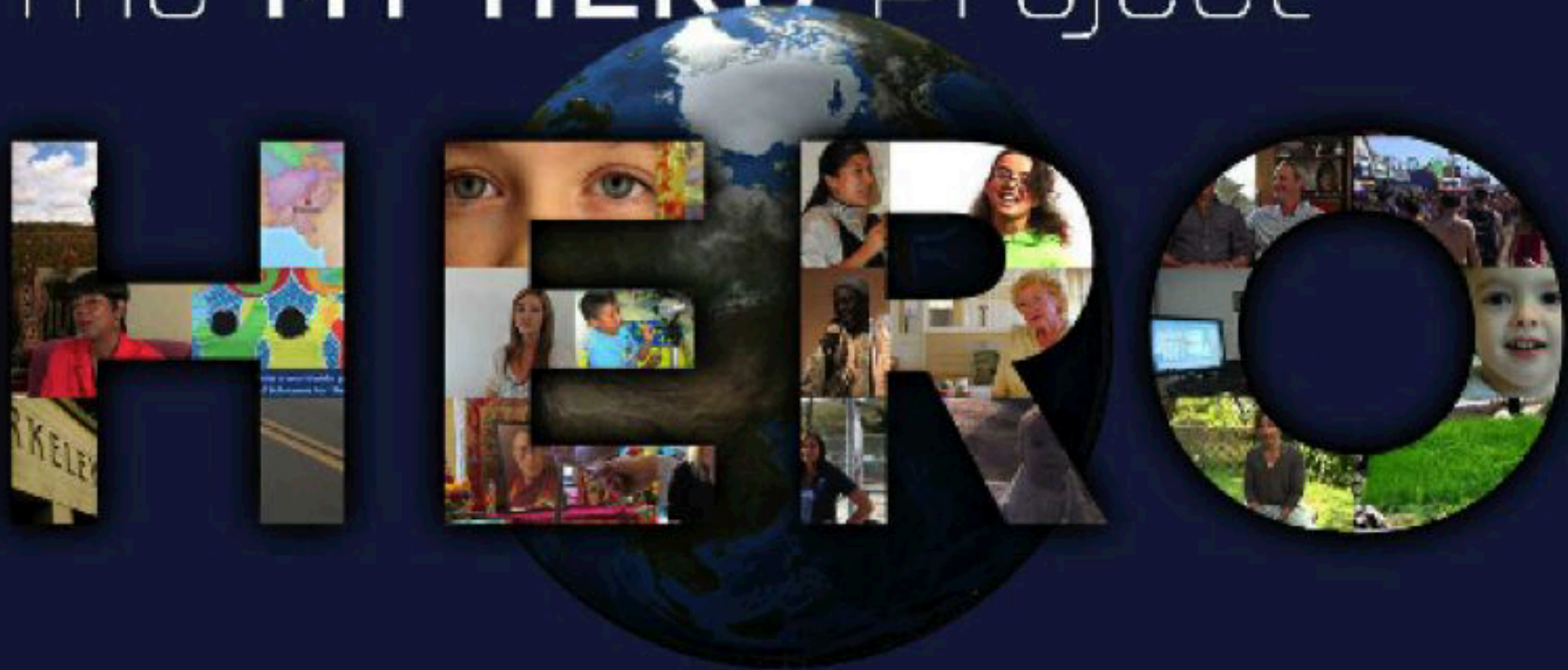


# The **MY HERO** Project



## **INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**ALIGN YOUR BRAND WITH OUR  
INSPIRATIONAL GLOBAL LEARNING COMMUNITY**





# MY HERO MISSION



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

# REACHING BEYOND BORDERS

**The MY HERO Project is a respected online resource trusted by teachers and used in classrooms for millions of students around the world.**

**Your sponsorship of the MY HERO International Film Festival is a direct investment in the education of millions of young people who access this growing library of short inspiring films that are used to enrich learning in classrooms around the world.**





# MYHERO.COM/FILMS

## FILMS

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

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



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



# AWARD WINNING FILMS

## Best of Fest



*Because I'm a Girl: I'll Take it From Here*  
Produced by Raj Yagnik and Shona Hamilton, featuring Plan International.

## Ron Kovic Peace Prize



*Defying Death in South Sudan*  
Francis Meade

## Media Award



*Racing Extinction*  
Produced by Vulcan Productions  
Directed by Louie Psihoyos

## Relationships First Award



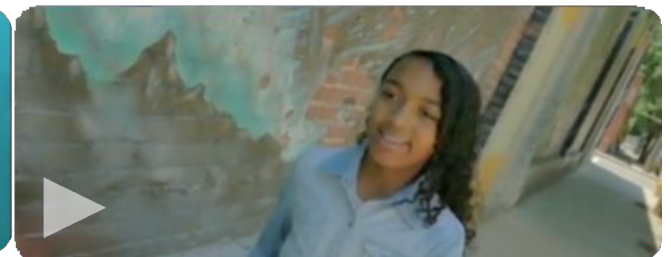
*The Future of Our Species*  
Directed by Tiffany Shlain  
The Moxie Institute

## Sylvia Earle Ocean Award



*Isla Coronado Ghost Net*  
Directed by Walter Marti  
Featuring Kurt Leiber from Ocean Defenders Alliance

## People's Choice Award



*Young Storytellers*  
Directed by Jill Jones, Brent Yontz  
Nanuq Originals



# HEROES FEATURED

Wangari Mathaai, Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kenya

Nelson Mandela, peace activist, South Africa

Malala Yousafzai, human rights activist, Pakistan

Mohamed Sidibay, peace activist, Sierra Leone

Jon Rose, humanitarian, Waves for Water, USA

Jean-Michel Cousteau, environmentalist, USA

Slater Jewell-Kemker, environmental activist, Canada



Wangari  
Maathai



Nelson Mandela



Malala  
Yousafzai



Mohamed Sidibay



Jon Rose



Jean-Michel Cousteau



Slater Jewell-Kemker

# WORLDWIDE REACH ANNUALLY

- Annually over 23,000,000 views MYHERO.com
- Visitors from 197 countries participate
- Thousands of educational websites link to MY HERO
- 1,000,000 views - [myhero.com/Films](http://myhero.com/Films)





# FESTIVAL SPONSORS



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## Donors

Judy and Doug Anderson  
Amy Eldon and Jon Turteltaub  
Ron Kovic  
Sandra and Ken Malamed  
Laird Malamed

Cynthia Costas & Larry Cohen  
Helene Cavanaugh  
James Pelts  
Kathy Eldon  
Leanne Mella  
Greg and Barbara MacGillivray

Ken Koslow  
Dorothy Meyers  
Eva & Yoel Haller  
Kim Brizzolara

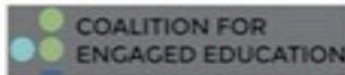
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## Prize Sponsors



# FESTIVAL PARTNERS

## Multimedia & Education Partners



## Media Partners





# SPECIAL PRIZES

## [Kovic Peace Prize](#)

Presented by author and artist Ron Kovic

## [Sylvia Earle Ocean Conservation Award](#)

Presented by OneWorldOneOcean.org

## [Dan Eldon Activist Award](#)

Presented by his mother, author and activist Kathy Eldon

## [Relationships First Award](#)

Presented by the Foundation for Contemporary Family

[Teen Press Award](#) – Presented by teenpress.org



Filmmaker Ryan Suffern and Kathy Eldon



Kathy Eldon presenting the Eldon Activist Award



Ron Kovic presents the Kovic Peace Prize

# FESTIVAL AWARDS



## 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



# VIRTUAL REALITY

[The Immersive Storytelling Award](#) honors content creators who use Virtual Reality to promote social good. Special thanks to OCULUS for donating prizes each year.



Prize winner Elliot Dillman awarded for "In Harmony" 2017 Film Festival, with festival director Wendy Milette

**VIRTUAL REALITY**

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

**THE GREAT ESCAPE PROJECT**

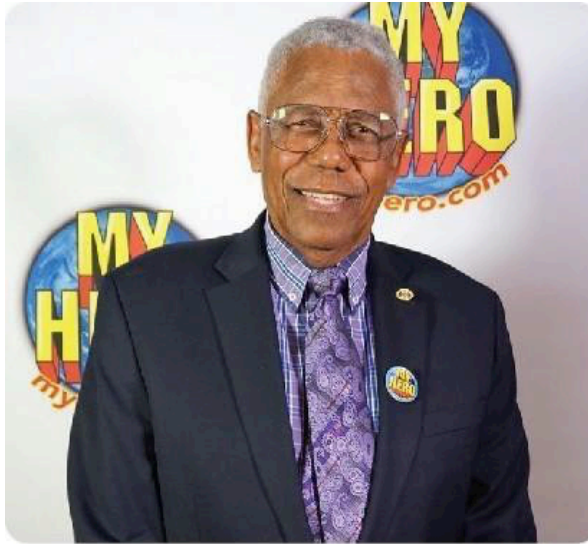
**RYOT Foundation** brings uplifting Virtual Reality experiences to children who are patients at **CHOC Hospital**



# PRIZE WINNERS



Filmmaker Gabrielle Gorman



Nate Trives, Mr. Santa  
Monica



Filmmaker Kayla Briet



Filmmakers Santa Barbara Team Press



Rabiya Sudebar Muslim Student Association



Filmmakers Mark Manilo Malia Pyles

# WINNERS



Environmental activist Jaime Lynn Butler



# FEATURED WINNERS

## CONGRATULATIONS! **RYAN COOGLER**

for success directing the film  
***BLACK PANTHER***

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MY HERO International Film Festival  
College Narrative Winner  
**"LOCKS"**

*PHOTO: 2010 - USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS*



[Click here to view video of Ryan commenting on winning this award in 2010.](#)

# FEATURED WINNERS



Congratulations to Tiffany Shlain  
**BEST OF FEST**  
**& RELATIONSHIPS FIRST**  
**"The Future of our Species"**

Click [here](#) to view Tiffany's winning film:  
"The Future of our Species."



# FEATURED WINNERS

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





# GLOBAL EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENTS



Sal Khan



Esther Wojcicki



Erin Gruwell



George Lucas



Elizabeth Daley



Cheikh Seck



Peter Copen



Paul Cummins

Sal Khan, Founder, Khan Academy

Esther Wojcicki, Author, journalist, educator, vice-chair of creative commons

Erin Gruwell, Director of The Freedom Writers Foundation

George Lucas, Founder of Edutopia

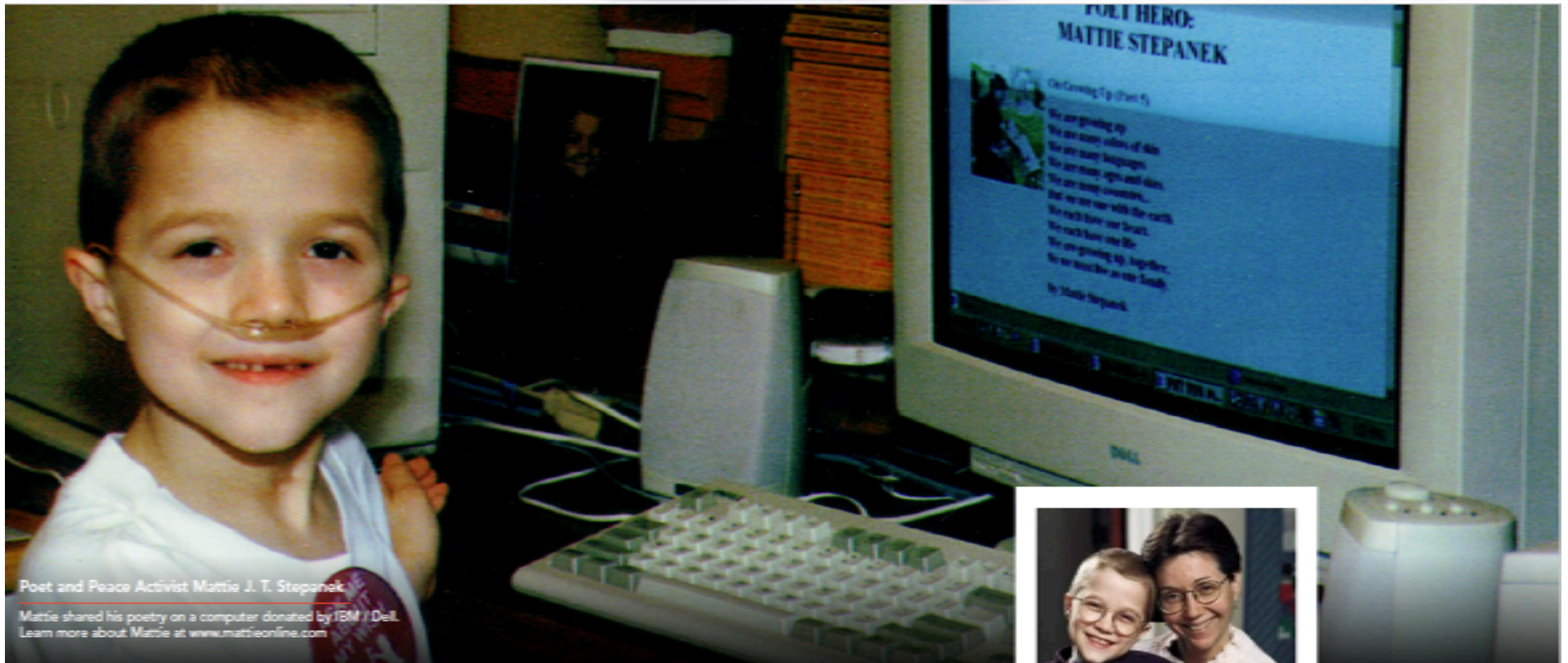
Elizabeth Daley, Dean of USC School of Cinematic Arts

Cheikh Seck, Media Arts Educator, Senegal

Peter Copen, Founder of iEARN.org (International Education Association and Resource Network)

Paul Cummins, Founder of New Roads School & The Coalition for Engaged Education

# IMPACT



Poet and Peace Activist Mattie J. T. Stepanek

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

## MY HERO

### MATTIE J. T. STEPANEK

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

Watch "Oprah's Surprise visit to Jeni Stepanek" short film.  
Thanks to Oprah Winfrey Network for sharing with MY HERO.

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

-Jeni Stepanek,  
Recipient, MY HERO 2016 Humanitarian Award



# IMPACT

*"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**

Global Educator Award  
2016

Watch WOJ!  
An award winning  
documentary celebrating  
Esther Wojcicki  
by The MY HERO Project.





# IMPACT

*"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**

Annually awards a Peace Prize at the  
MY HERO International Film Festival



Ron Kovic and Robert Sheer  
MY HERO International Day of Peace Celebration - 2013

# IMPACT



*“The MY HERO Project taught me the power of storytelling.  
It’s inspiring to see the empowered community of young storytellers  
that MY HERO has fostered impact their own communities -  
and bring more love, understanding and tolerance  
into a world that so badly needs it.”*

~Slater Jewell-Kemker

Slater, mentored by The MY HERO Project at a young age,  
is now an award winning filmmaker & environmental activist.



# EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Our Media Arts Educators mentor students and teachers around the world, providing technical training, support and access to our growing online library of inspiring short films.



Take part in the The MY HERO Film Festival

## 2017 People's Choice Award

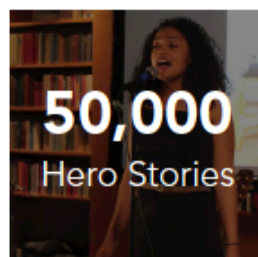
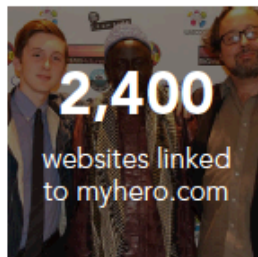
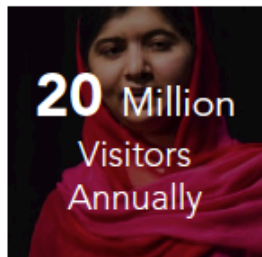
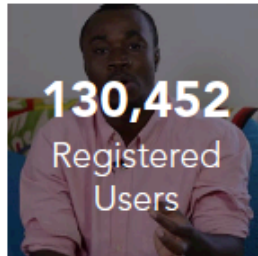
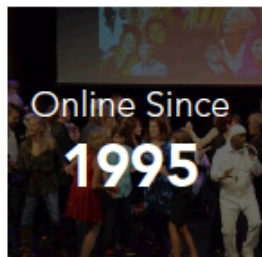
Great classroom activity to explore the theme of heroism:  
Watch several short hero films and vote for your favorite!  
Voting Period October 12 - November 5  
[myhero.com/peopleschoice](http://myhero.com/peopleschoice)

Classes use MY HERO's online film festival ballot to explore what makes a great short film and what makes a hero

# ONLINE PORTAL

## GROWING THE MY HERO ARCHIVE

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



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

## ONLINE MULTIMEDIA JOURNAL

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





# CONTACT

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

For sponsorship opportunities please contact:

Film Festival Director Wendy Milette

[media@myheroproject.org](mailto:media@myheroproject.org)

The MY HERO Project

1278 Glenneyre #286 Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Email: [myhero@myheroproject.org](mailto:myhero@myheroproject.org) Tel: 949.376.5964

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