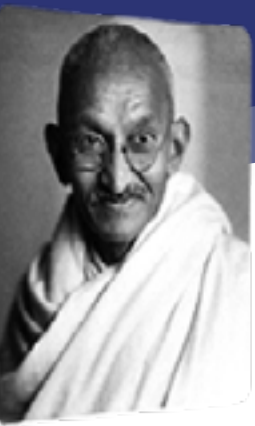


CELEBRATE THE BEST OF HUMANITY



The MY HERO Project  
**TEACHER'S GUIDE**

EDUCATE - INSPIRE - ENGAGE - EMPOWER



[www.myhero.com](http://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's mission is to use media, art and technology to celebrate the best of humanity, one story at a time.**



Dear Educator,

I write to you as a fellow teacher, an activist, and a Global Ambassador for The MY HERO Project. I write to you about the power of education and the opportunity for inspiration at your fingertips. My own education has enabled me to rebuild my life, after having lost everything in a conflict that enshrouded my home country of Sierra Leone. Now I help bring MY HERO's tools and technologies to teachers worldwide.

Education helps us to work towards creating a more just world. As modern life rapidly changes, the fundamental values of our educational system must be taught in innovative ways. Our challenge as teachers and as concerned citizens is to leverage the power of technology to ensure the robust intellectual and moral development of our youth. This new Educator Guide will give you an in-depth look at some of the features available on The MY HERO Project website so you can more easily integrate these interdisciplinary, skill and character building resources into your own classroom.

The MY HERO Project helps bring classrooms advanced technology and media arts education that aligns with the core values that we hold dear--peace, tolerance, courage, and justice. Myhero.com hosts free educational resources and a child-friendly digital library that enable individuals of all ages to create, share and discover inspirational stories, art, audio, and short films with a global learning community that spans 197 countries. The MY HERO Teacher's Room ([myhero.com/teachersroom](http://myhero.com/teachersroom)) provides standards-aligned, project-based lesson plans and tools to customize and present curated content, including your students' own work. MY HERO makes positive media accessible and interactive, facilitating Learning Circles with classrooms across the world. Through participating, students build skills in critical thinking, project management, research, communication, new media literacy and more.

Welcome to The MY HERO Project - I hope it will challenge you and your students to see the world differently, as it has done for me.

Regards,

Mohamed Sidibay  
The MY HERO Project  
Global Ambassador



Mohamed Sidibay meets the Dali Lama at the 2016 gathering of world leaders and nobel laureates in India.



# PARTICIPATE

TELL THE WORLD ABOUT YOUR HERO

STORIES  
MUSIC  
FILMS  
ART  
VR



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

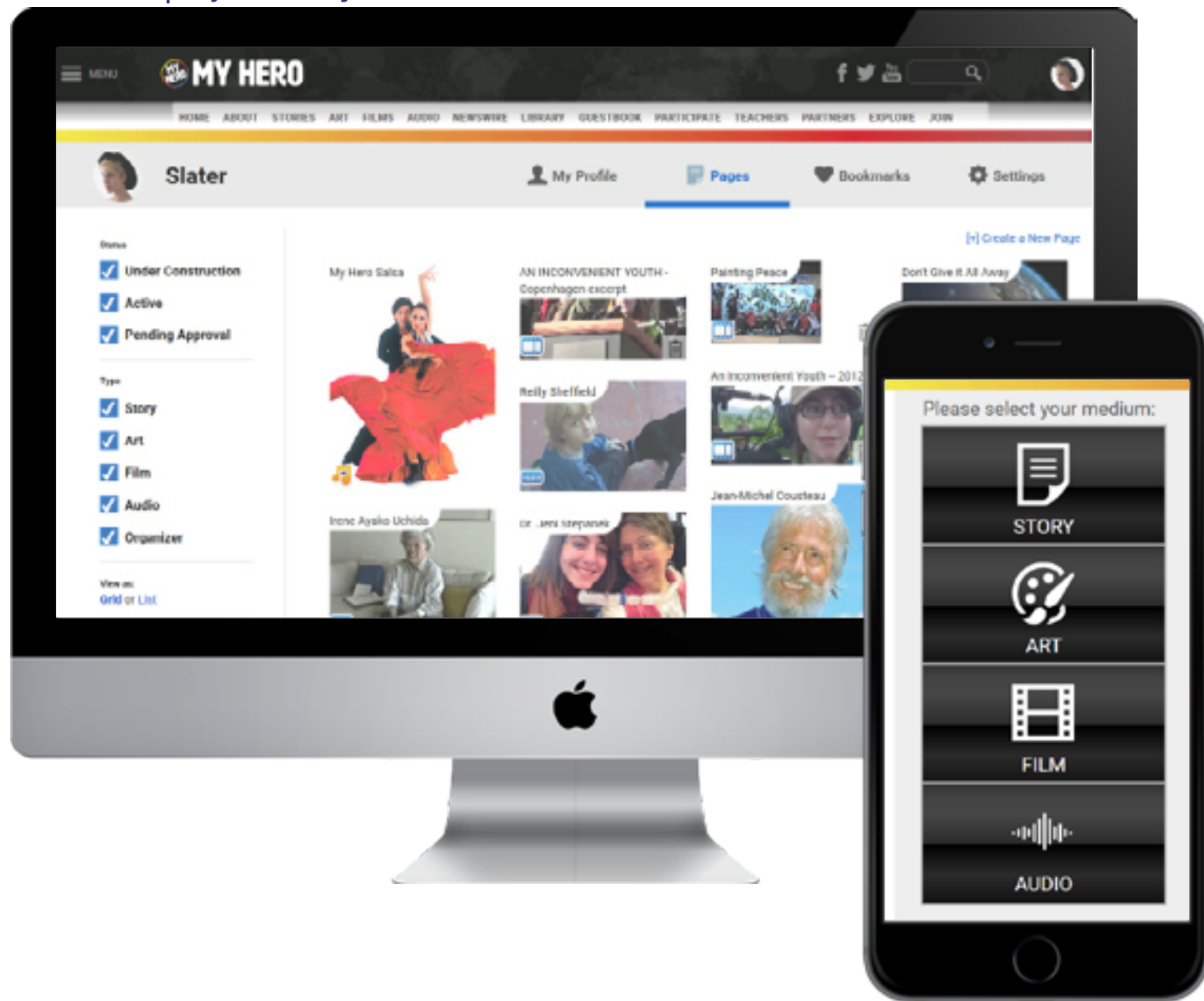
*"Through MY HERO, students learn to become reporters and filmmakers celebrating unsung heroes in our midst."*

*-Cheikh Darou Seck, Educator  
Martin Luther King Jr. School for Girls,  
MY HERO Global Exchange, Senegal*

# 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.

The MY HERO Project will not knowingly publish any work that has been plagiarized or reproduced from any other source and will not promote hate, violence or prejudice anywhere on our website.



# MENTORS

The MY HERO Team supports teachers, students and activists to help them use media to tell their hero stories with free online mentoring. Our staff is available for educational workshops.



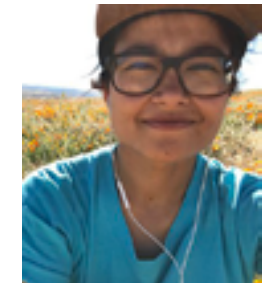
Story Editor  
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Gallery Editor  
Victoria Murphy



Films Director  
Wendy Milette



Film Festival  
Anabelle Vo



Audio Director  
Stu Pearlman



WTM  
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## Global Educators / Partners



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Sidibay



Cheikh Darou  
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Skip Blumberg



Laura Nietzer



Jerrilyn Jacobs



Sarah Armstrong  
Ph.D



Mali Bickley

# TEACHER'S ROOM

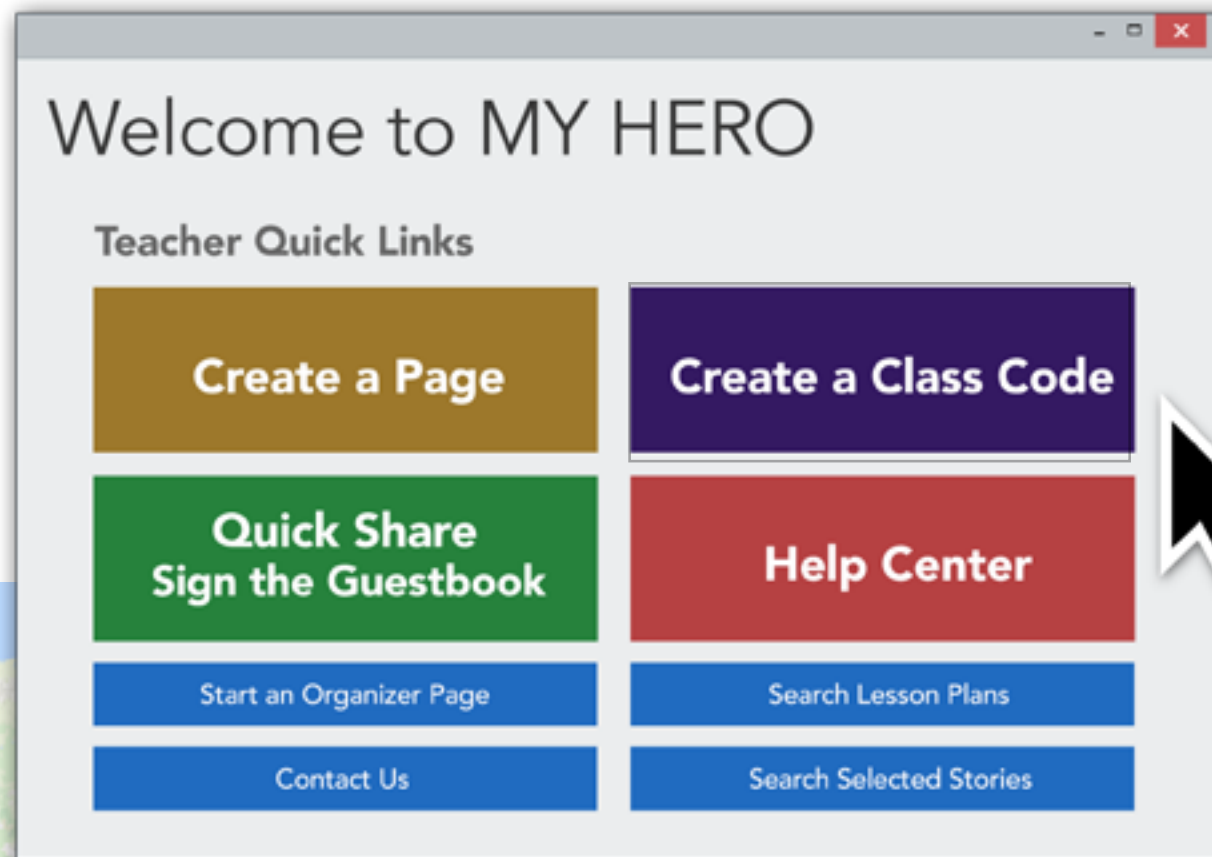
MY HERO's Teacher's Room provides standards-aligned lesson plans, resources and tutorials. Teachers share their curriculum on using MY HERO in the classroom to provide character education and role models to students from around the world. Teachers connect with other educators via our community board and our social media platforms.

## EDUCATOR FEEDBACK



*"The students really enjoyed 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**



For technical support,  
go to [myhero.com/help](https://myhero.com/help)  
or email [techsupport@myhero.com](mailto:techsupport@myhero.com)

**"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**

# EDUCATOR FEEDBACK



"We enjoyed researching and writing about our heroes, as we enjoy reading about yours!"

**-Abdelaziz R Rhazzali**

**Agbalou Elementary School - 6th Grade Class, Morocco**

"My students have enjoyed reading other essays and then submitting their own. It is one of their favorite projects. Thank you for providing a format for these young writers. It is so motivating for them to have an audience!"

**-Joyce Christman, Mary Emma Bailey ES - Dublin, OH**

"The children and I have enjoyed participating in The MY HERO Project. They have gained a great deal from this experience. Thank all of you connected with this endeavor; it's a terrific learning experience."

**-Jonathan Feinn, Carlos Rey ES, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

"I cannot say enough about the educational value as well as the enjoyment the students receive from participating in your program. Thanks so much for providing us with such a unique and delightful opportunity!"

**-Sarah Meyer, Lancaster School ES - Madisonville, Louisiana**



"This project has given us a vast perspective toward different people from different parts of the world. We loved doing this. Thank you MY HERO."

**-Farnoush Ahmadzadeh**

**Mashar United High School - 11th Grade Class, Iran**



"Thank you all for this great experience. You have been an inspiration to me and my teaching. My students and I had a great time being a part of MY HERO and making films about their heroes."

**-Yao Yawen**

**National Chauchou High School - 10th Grade Class, Taiwan**

# EDUCATOR'S QUICK START GUIDE

Explore our rich online multimedia library.

## STORIES

[myhero.com/Stories](https://myhero.com/Stories)

Our online archive hosts over 50,000 Hero Essays celebrating local and global heroes. Students share their vision of heroism here.

## ART

[myhero.com/Art](https://myhero.com/Art)

Our online gallery features over 3,000 works of art to get your class thinking about what makes a hero.

## FILMS

[myhero.com/Films](https://myhero.com/Films)

Our online screening room hosts over 2,500 short films made by professionals and students from around the world.

## VIRTUAL REALITY

[myhero.com/VR](https://myhero.com/VR)

Featured winners and finalists from the MY HERO Immersive Storytelling contest sponsored by Oculus.

## AUDIO

[myhero.com/Audio](https://myhero.com/Audio)

Listen to music, stories, spoken word and poetry celebrating heroes from around the world and read the text along with the narrator.

## HEROES IN THE NEWS

[myhero.com/NewsWire](https://myhero.com/NewsWire)

Explore current events with an emphasis on heroism...selections from AP, Christian Science Monitor and MY HERO.

## CALENDAR

[myhero.com/Calendar](https://myhero.com/Calendar)

365 DAYS OF HEROES - The MY HERO calendar notes hero birthdays, UN International Days and other special events bringing together curated multimedia content from our archive.

## GUESTBOOK

[myhero.com/Guestbook](https://myhero.com/Guestbook)

A quick way to honor a HERO - mobile friendly - post a photo and a short tribute!

# USING MY HERO IN THE CLASSROOM

## TEACHER'S ROOM

[myhero.com/TeachersRoom](https://myhero.com/TeachersRoom)

## EDUCATOR ACCOUNTS

[myhero.com/Register](https://myhero.com/Register)

MY HERO is used by a community of more than 35,000 registered educators worldwide. By registering as a teacher on MY HERO, you will be given special tools to organize your students' work as well as thematic content on MY HERO. You can also connect with teachers around the world taking part in the project by placing yourself on the community map or participating in a learning circle.

## STUDENT ACCOUNTS

[myhero.com/Register](https://myhero.com/Register)

Students are invited to become reporters sharing their hero stories using our online tools. Students can add to their digital portfolio of inspiration year after year.

## LESSON PLANS, RESOURCES AND TUTORIALS

[myhero.com/Resources](https://myhero.com/Resources)

Teachers of language arts, social studies, environmental ed., ESL, visual arts, and media have contributed standards-aligned lesson plans for using MY HERO in the classroom. Downloadable flyers and tutorials help you use MY HERO's online digital storytelling tools.

## MEDIA ARTS EDUCATION

[myhero.com/MediaArts](https://myhero.com/MediaArts)

Resources to help your students make inspiring short films.

## FORUM

[myhero.com/Forum](https://myhero.com/Forum)

"How Should We Choose Our Heroes?" This topic is a great starting point for exploring the theme of heroism.

## LIBRARY

[myhero.com/Library](https://myhero.com/Library)

A virtual collection of thousands of books about heroes whose stories have been featured on the MY HERO website.

## LEARNING CIRCLES




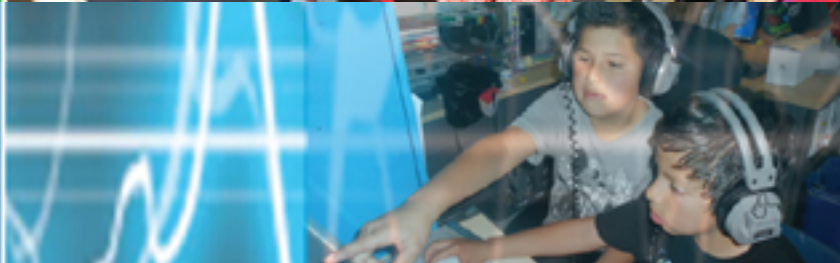

[myhero.com/LearningCircles](https://myhero.com/LearningCircles)

This MY HERO-iEARN partnership brings together classes from around the globe.

## TELL THE WORLD ABOUT YOUR HERO

Teachers, students and professionals share their hero stories, art and films with our audience of visitors from around the world.

Click on the banners below to see examples of student and professional work on MY HERO:

STORIES	
ART	
FILMS	
AUDIO	
VR	

## CLASSROOM TOOLS & OPPORTUNITIES





# MANAGING YOUR STUDENTS' CONTENT ON MY HERO

## 1. Register for an Educator Account [myhero.com/register](http://myhero.com/register)

A MY HERO educator account allows you to access and review your students' work prior to publishing media online. You can also create a unique directory of all of your students' work published on MY HERO using our simple web management tools so you can share their work with your school community and MY HERO visitors.

Tutorial: [Registering an account](#)

## 2. Request a "Class Code" [myhero.com/user/profile](http://myhero.com/user/profile)

Class Codes help you group your students' work together online in a published directory. Request a Class Code **before** your students begin the project. Educators can receive multiple Class Codes for different class periods.

Tutorial: [Class Codes](#)

## 3. Students register for a MY HERO student account

Students enter their name, user-name, password, and Class Code.

By entering their Class Code as they register, you will be able to easily locate all of your students' work on MY HERO.

Tutorial: [Student Registration](#)

## 4. Have your students create MY HERO webpages

Using our digital storytelling toolkit, students can publish web pages sharing art, stories, films, and music that celebrate their heroes within their community and their world. The MY HERO account becomes a student's digital portfolio and can be used year after year.

Tutorials: [Creating a Story Page](#) / [Audio](#) / [Art](#) / [Film](#)

## 5. Organize your students' work on MY HERO

Create classroom web pages or thematic pages using the MY HERO Organizer Tool. Gather and display all your classes' work (stories, art, short films, music) on MY HERO into a unique directory page.

Tutorial: [Classroom Organizer](#)

# SAMPLE CLASSROOM ORGANIZER

**MY HERO ORGANIZERS** DONATE f t v All

ABOUT STORIES ART FILMS AUDIO WTM NEWSWIRE LIBRARY GUESTBOOK PARTICIPATE TEACHERS PARTNERS EXPLORE CREATE

Share + f t v G+

## Taft High School - Stories, Art and Films

Example of selected student work published by MY HERO

### Featured Stories

<p><b>Oscar R. Ortiz</b> By: Kenneth from Sherman Oaks Oscar R. Ortiz is a devoted family man who became a minister and now helps the</p>	<p><b>Ian McKellen</b> By: Christyl Tiffany Ian McKellen is an accomplished English actor and human rights activist.</p>	<p><b>Malcolm X</b> By: Ida from Woodland Hills</p>	<p><b>Maxine Waters</b> By: Michelle from Hidden Hills Maxine Waters is a Congresswoman who works fervently for her community.</p>
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### Featured Art

<p><b>Jane Austen</b> By: Samantha Park of Taft High School Jane Austen is my hero because she is a writer, a writer who inspires</p>	<p><b>Martin Luther King, Jr.</b> By: Nicholas Jennings from Taft High School</p>	<p><b>Muhammad Ali</b> By: Deon Rieux of Taft High School</p>	<p><b>Through So Much HeartAche You Hold On...</b> By: Pamela Santos of Taft High School Achieved with CAC/NEA Grant for My Hero and Taft High School</p>
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### Featured Films

<p><b>Brian Lamb - A Hero for Maintaining Democracy</b> Producer: McKenna Young Brian Lamb, the hero behind C-SPAN.</p>	<p><b>Pass the PEACE</b> Producer: Justin Cohan A Native American tradition is carried through many languages at TAFT High</p>	<p><b>Signs of Peace</b> Producer: La La Signs of PEACE reminds us of the value of symbols.</p>	<p><b>Taft High version of Ingrid Michaelson's Blood Brothers</b> Producer: Jenilyn Jacobs Featuring the Taft High School Choral Ensemble, Orchestra.</p>
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# MY HERO CALENDAR: 365 DAYS OF HEROES

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

Use the MY HERO Calendar throughout the year to enrich learning with media celebrating heroes' birthdays, special events, and UN International Days.

<p>3 ○○○○○</p>  <p><b>Te Ata Fisher (aka Mary Frances Thompson)</b> Chickasaw Native American Storyteller born 1895</p>	<p>4 ○○</p>  <p><b>Nick Vujicic</b> Inspirational speaker born 1982</p>	<p>5 ○○○○○</p>  <p><b>Christina Rossetti</b> English poet was born 1830</p>	<p>6 ○○○○</p>  <p><b>Ryan White</b> American AIDS hero born 1971</p>	<p>7 ○○○</p>  <p><b>Willa Cather</b> Author born 1873</p>	<p>8 ○○○</p>  <p><b>Eli Whitney</b> Cotton gin inventor born 1765</p>	<p>9 ○○○</p>  <p><b>John Milton</b> Poet and essayist born 1608</p>
<p>10 ○○○○○</p>  <p><b>Selma Lagerlöf</b> Swedish writer Selma Lagerlöf born 1858</p>	<p>11 ○○○○○○</p>  <p><b>Carlos Gardel</b> Tango singer born 1890</p>	<p>12 ○</p>  <p><b>Jennifer Connelly</b></p>	<p>13 ○○</p>  <p><b>David Russell</b> African American storyboard artist born 1950.</p>	<p>14 ○○○</p>  <p><b>King George VI</b> born 1936</p>	<p>15 ○○○</p>  <p><b>Chico Mendes</b> Brazilian environmentalist born 1944</p>	<p>16 ○○○</p>  <p><b>Margaret Mead</b> Anthropologist born 1901</p>
<p>17 ○○</p>  <p><b>Wright Brothers</b> fly the first airplane in 1903</p>	<p>18 ○○○</p>  <p><b>Paul Klee</b> Swiss-German Painter born 1879</p>	<p>19 ○○○</p>  <p><b>Bernice Pauahi Bishop</b> Hawaiian princess born 1831.</p>	<p>20 ○○○○○</p>  <p><b>DeeDee Jonrowe</b> Iditarod champion 1952</p>	<p>21 ○○○</p>  <p><b>Apollo 8</b> , first manned space flight to leave Earth orbit lifted off in 1968.</p>	<p>22 ○○○</p>  <p><b>Jean Henri Casimir</b> French entomologist and writer Fabre born 1823</p>	<p>23 ○○○○</p>  <p><b>Roz Savage</b> Environmentalist born 1967</p>

# MULTIMEDIA JOURNAL

Our homepage changes weekly to feature thematic content and diverse heroes. Themes and celebrations include Human Right's Day, International Women's Day, Black History Month, Earth Day, World Ocean's Day and more on myhero.com.

## March 8<sup>th</sup> - International Women's Day



## April - Jazz Appreciation Month



## April 22 - Earth Day



## October 11<sup>th</sup> - Day of the Girl Child



## November 10<sup>th</sup> - Malala Day



## December 10<sup>th</sup> - Human Rights Day



# STORIES

[myhero.com/stories](https://myhero.com/stories)

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.

Upload your original hero-themed essay or story. Join our global learning community and celebrate those working to effect positive change in the world.



# MY HERO Stories

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



Calling WRITERS of all ages!  
Share YOUR Hero Stories

## Awards

MY HERO awards prizes to outstanding student writers who eloquently share their hero's story.

## MY HERO PRIZE WINNERS

### Elementary and Middle Schools



**Maggie Doyne**

By: Samantha from Cincinnati



**Danielle Gletow**

By: Courtney from Cincinnati



**Jennifer Leary**

By: Camryn from Cincinnati



**Umra Omar**

By: Alyssa from Cincinnati



**William Shakespeare**

By: Ella from Cincinnati



**Baroness Caroline Cox**

By: Lauren and Lizzie from Cincinnati



**Clara Barton**

By: Elena and Annabel from Cincinnati



**David Bowie**

By: Griffin and Aiden from Cincinnati

## Stories by Students



**Joneice**

By: Kia

Joneice proved how strong a young girl can be to her sister, Kia.



**Jeremy Glick**

By: Emmy from Saddle River

Jeremy Glick was a hero of Flight 93 and Emmy's beloved father.



**Raden Adjeng Kartini**

By: Trisha from Spokane Kartini is my hero because, without ...



**Temple Grandin**

By: Kobie from Riley

Temple took control and embraced her autism for the greater good.

## Celebrate heroes and acts of courage

To see examples of work posted by writers from around the world, browse our directory of hero stories at [myhero.com/directory](http://myhero.com/directory).

Lesson plans and resources are freely available for educators interested in integrating my hero storytelling tools into their curriculum: [myhero.com/teachersroom](http://myhero.com/teachersroom).

Download the [Create Tutorial here](#) to share with your students as they prepare their essays to publish as web pages on MY HERO.

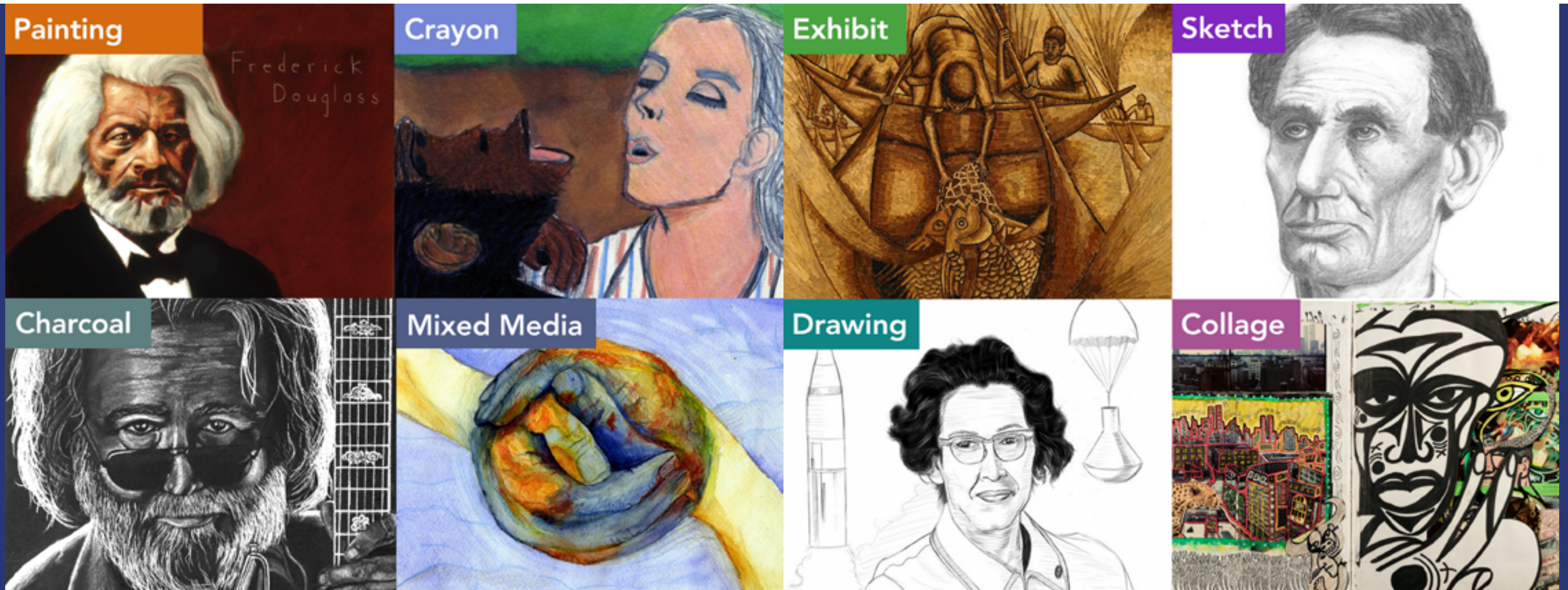
For more information, contact: [shannon@myheroproject.org](mailto:shannon@myheroproject.org)

# ART

[myhero.com/gallery](https://myhero.com/gallery)

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 Scrypnik - 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

# MY HERO Gallery

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



## Celebrate heroes and acts of courage

All art submitted must be original, family friendly and positive in its message. **Tutorials** to help students are available. **Register** to publish and share their art with our audience of visitors from around the world.

**Resources** are available for arts educators.

## Student Prizes Awarded

Elementary, middle, high school and college student art will be awarded prizes at our HERO Fest.

## The Shetterly Portrait Prize

This prize recognizes the artist who most eloquently represents a hero or an act of heroism in an artwork. This \$500 award is given by artist **Robert Shetterly**, founder of **Americans Who Tell the Truth**.

Learn more: [myhero.com/robert-shetterly](http://myhero.com/robert-shetterly).

## Browse Examples of Hero Art

**Click here** to view selected highlights of student and professional hero art on MY HERO.

## Students share their vision of heroism!

Teachers, inspire your students to create portraits, environmentally themed art and graphical PSAs to promote local and global heroes.

## Visualize Heroism

**Watch a short film introduction** to the MY HERO gallery by director Victoria Murphy

Use art to teach the themes of peace, social justice, and environmentalism with **this lesson plan**.

# AUDIO

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.

[myhero.com/audio](https://myhero.com/audio)

Listening to audio recordings of MY HERO stories in English while reading along enriches ESL programs and supports early readers.

Charlie Parker



Delicate Dreams



Hannah Taylor  
Ladybug Foundation



Richard John McLaughlin



Student @ the Children's Foundation of Technology  
in Sierra Leone record audio for MY HERO Song Contest



Olivia Milch





# MY HERO Audio

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



Students, teachers and professional musicians share original hero songs, poetry and stories about heroes and the concept of heroism in **MY HERO Audio Studio**. To upload audio files register online for a MY HERO account and publish your music, your poems, your interviews with heroes to share with our global learning community.



## Song Contest

MY HERO and **Guitars in the Classroom** sponsor a Hero Song Contest where categories of students and professionals share their hero tunes!

Learn more at [myhero.com/songcontest](http://myhero.com/songcontest)

### EFFECTIVE STORYTELLING

Does the song tell the story of a real hero? Does it foster planet conscious ideas and action?

### POETIC LYRICS

Using language to creatively share a concept of idea celebrating heroism. Do the words inspire others with their beauty, clarity, creativity and accuracy?

### MELODIC CONTENT

Do you like the tune? Is it memorable?

### PLAYABILITY

Can teachers, students and others successfully play and accompany the song with guitar or ukulele?

### SINGABILITY

Is the song musically accessible and engaging? Can children successfully learn and sing it well?

### MEMORABLE QUALITIES

Can students easily memorize the song and sing it by heart?

All winning songs will also be shared with students around the world online on MY HERO & Guitars in the Classroom.

# 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 from Senegal.  
[myhero.com/Birdmaker](http://myhero.com/Birdmaker)



**Watersong**



**Upstanders: The Mosque Across the Street**



**SFU Public Square ONE VOICE Music Project**



**Believe**



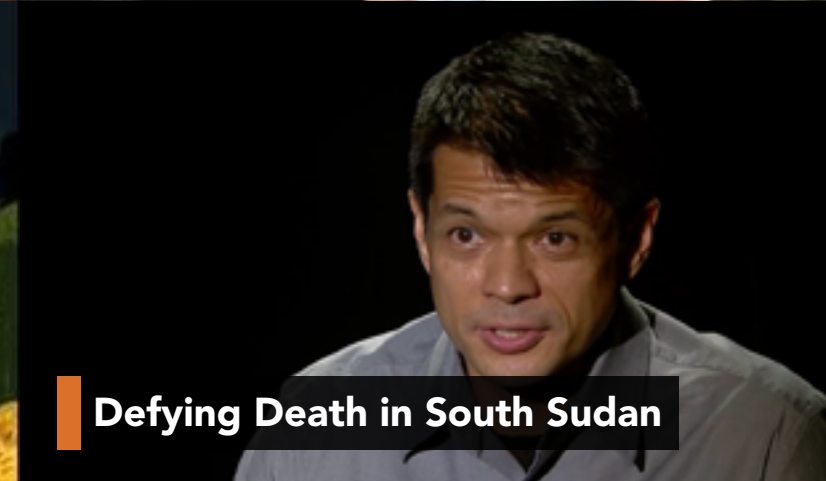
**Hands Up Don't Shoot**



**Heartbeat of the Earth**



**Hummingbird**



**Defying Death in South Sudan**

# MY HERO Films

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



## Calling FILMMAKERS of all ages!

Participate in **The MY HERO Project!**

Share short films 10 minutes and under with our global learning community.

Celebrate individuals who are working to effect positive change in the world. Create inspired films that promote local and global heroes. Share your vision of heroism with millions of visitors from around the world who visit our educational website.

Browse our Screening Room to see short films created by visitors from around the world:  
[myhero.com/films](http://myhero.com/films)

## Celebrate unsung heroes around the world working for positive change

All films submitted must be original, family friendly and positive in its message. The MY HERO Project will NOT knowingly publish any work that has been plagiarized or reproduced from any other source and will not promote hate, violence or prejudice anywhere on our website.

## MY HERO International Film Festival - Prizes and Awards

Prizes are awarded annually to students and professionals. Cash prizes include:

- Dan Eldon Activist Award
- Sylvia Earle Ocean Conservation Award
- Relationships First Award
- Ron Kovic Peace Prize
- Teen Press Prize
- Immersive Storytelling Award
- Women Transforming Media Award

To learn more visit: [myhero.com/filmfestival](http://myhero.com/filmfestival)

To submit work visit: [myhero.com/submit](http://myhero.com/submit)

Media arts education resources available to help you get started: [myhero.com/mediaarts](http://myhero.com/mediaarts)

# 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

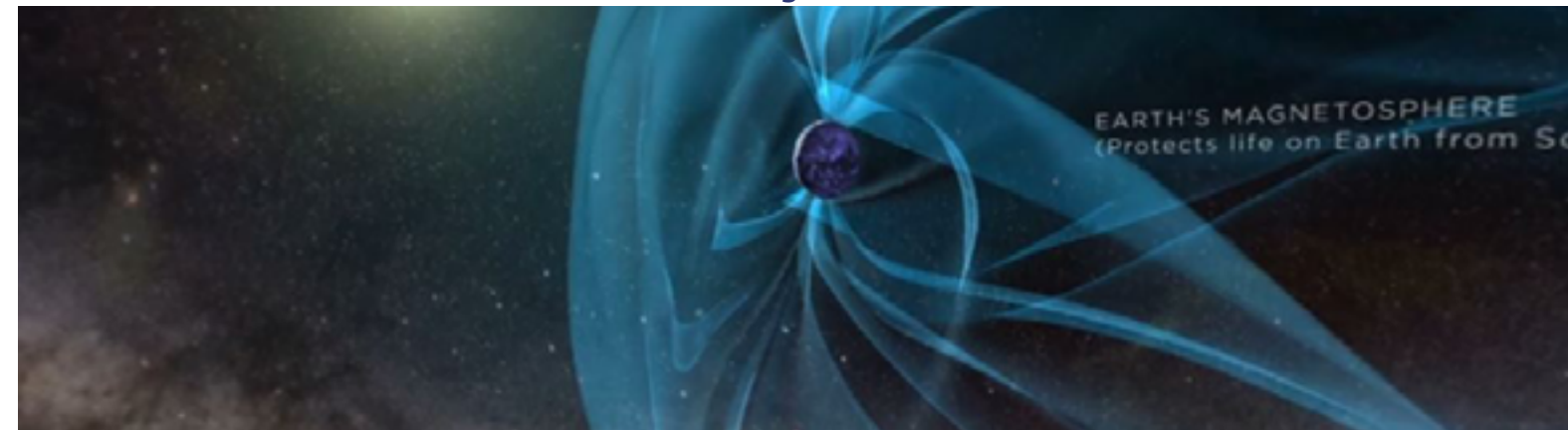
RYOT Foundation brings uplifting Virtual Reality experiences to children who are patients at CHOC Hospital

# IMMERSIVE STORYTELLING 2017 AWARD WINNERS

360 VIDEO  
IN HARMONY by ELLIOT DILLMAN



ENVIRONMENTAL  
BELLA GAIA VR by KENJI WILLIAMS



HONOREE  
BASHIR'S DREAM by ANGEL MANUEL SOTO | RYOT



# HEROES IN THE NEWS

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

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

## Alyse Nelson, co-founder/CEO/President of Vital Voices speaks out on violence against women at 13th Annual MHIFF



Photo Credit: The MY HERO Project

## Meet the 11-year-old inventor working to improve lead water testing



Photo Credit: Andy King/Discovery Education

## SpaceX 1st: Recycled rocket soars with recycled capsule



Photo Credit: NASA via AP

# WOMEN TRANSFORMING MEDIA

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

Read interviews, watch short films with women leaders, mentors, activists and creators. The WOMEN TRANSFORMING MEDIA portal on MY HERO was launched on Women's Day, 2015, with generous support from the American Association of University Women (AAUW).



Cari Beauchamp  
Film Scholar /Author/Producer



Melissa Silverstein  
Founder, Women & Hollywood



Kayla Briet  
Filmmaker / Composer



Nicole Boxer  
Dcoumentary Filmmaker



Gabrielle Gorman  
Filmmaker / Activist



Abigail Disney  
Filmmaker/Activist



Jane Fleming  
President Emeritus, WIF



Alyse Nelson, CEO & President  
Vital Voices



Eva Haller presents 2017 Women  
Transforming Media Award to Vital Voices



Eva Haller, inaugural recipient of the  
Women Transforming Media Award

The Women Transforming Media Award is presented annually at The MY HERO International Film Festival to honor women transforming the media landscape and the world.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

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.

## Events 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



# MY HERO-iEARN LEARNING CIRCLES

## CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE

MY HERO and iEARN 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.



[Click to see completed organizer pages](#)

## CALL TO ACTION CIRCLES



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.

### Call to action organizer

*"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



"Communicating with other classrooms around the world is extremely beneficial for students who live in a rural area such as ours to catch a glimpse of other cultures and to consider similarities and differences amongst our world's peoples."

-Teacher Katharine Zimmerman  
South Callway Elementary School  
4th Grade Class, USA

## Schedule for Learning Circles

### Session 1 (September to January):

Learning Circle Placement forms are due in early September.

### Session 2 (January to May):

Learning Circle Placement forms are due by the end of January.

## Four Circles to Choose From

Elementary, Middle and High School Circles as well as a CALL TO ACTION. All circles incorporate student and teacher forums for interaction, a step by step timeline, free media page and culminate in each student choosing a hero to share with their peers and the world at [www.myhero.com](http://www.myhero.com).

## How to Become a Participant

To join MY HERO Learning Circles you must be a member of iEARN.org and complete an iEARN Learning Circle placement form before the start of each session. For more details, visit [myhero.com/learningcircles](http://myhero.com/learningcircles).

## For more information:

Visit [this organizer](#).

Contact the Learning Circles Facilitator:  
[laura@myheroproject.org](mailto:laura@myheroproject.org)

# EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

[myhero.com/Educational-Partners](http://myhero.com/Educational-Partners)

MY HERO resources are used in afterschool and community programs around the world. We welcome participation from other educational nonprofits. For more information, [click here](#).



iEARN is a non-profit organization made up of over 30,000 schools and youth organizations in more than 140 countries... Over 2,000,000 students each day are engaged in collaborative project work worldwide.

The Global Education Conference is an initiative involving students, educators, and organizations with an emphasis on promoting global awareness.



ITSE's mission is to empower learners to flourish in a connected world by cultivating a passionate professional learning community, linking educators and partners, leveraging knowledge and expertise, advocating for strategic policies, and continually improving learning and teaching.



Guitars in the Classroom seeks to train and equip classroom teachers in order to integrate singing and playing guitar into the daily school experience. Founded in 1998, GITC produces programs over 30 states and several foreign countries.



Creative Visions is a global community of impact media makers. The project celebrates the Dan Eldon legacy and promotes human rights through Rock Your World program.



Peace Pals is an International program designed to encourage youth, ages 5-16 to become peacemakers dedicated to living in the spirit of the words "May Peace Prevail On Earth."



Robert Shetterly's Americans Who Tell the Truth portraits and narratives highlight citizens who courageously address issues of social, environmental, and economic fairness...to inspire a new generation of engaged Americans who will act for the common good, our communities, and the Earth.

ART MILES MURALS PROJECT facilitated the creation of more than 4,000 5x12 ft canvas murals by over 1.5 million people from more than 100 countries to share messages of peace from the hearts of many.



Educator accounts are available for non-profit organizations working with young people to promote peace, tolerance, and environmental education. [Click here](#) to learn more.



# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## WHO HAVE HELPED US GROW THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

### 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 - MISC  
LAUSD-Grand Arts Festival  
World Children's Festival  
The American Pavillion Cannes  
Coast Magazine  
Laguna Beach Independant  
AFI - SilverDocs

### 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  
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Puffin Foundation  
FOA Foundation  
California Arts Council  
Cox Cares Foundation  
American Association of University Women  
U.S. State Dept. Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs

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### 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

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  
Global Education Conference  
Mattie J. T. Stepanek Foundation  
Santa Barbara Middle School Teen Press  
One World One Ocean  
Coalition for Engaged Education  
Royal Film Comission - Jordan  
Moss Theatre  
and more...

### MY HERO FOUNDERS

Karen Pritzker  
Jeanne Meyers  
Rita Stern Milch

John & Lynn Seigel Boettner

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Kim Brizzolara  
And more...



We look forward to seeing your students participate in The MY HERO Project.

The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization.  
**[myhero.com/DONATE](http://myhero.com/DONATE)**

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