

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF HUMANITY
ONE STORY AT A TIME



www.myhero.com

“ There is a great and perhaps decisive battle to be fought against ignorance, intolerance, and indifference in the world.”
-Edward R. Murrow



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

The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education organization that works to empower people of all ages to realize their own potential to create positive change in the world.

Since 1995 myhero.com has provided millions of visitors a safe online venue to discover and share essays, art, audio and films that celebrate heroes around the world. Our website features positive role models from diverse backgrounds who work for peace, human rights, and to protect the environment. MY HERO hosts a website, salons, festivals and media arts workshops to further our mission. Our award winning programs raise awareness of amazing local and global heroes working to solve the great challenges our time.

Teachers in 197 counties use our library and resources to promote cross-cultural understanding, media literacy and awareness of the accomplishments of pioneers in the fields of education, science, technology and the arts.

Support from individuals, foundations, and corporations keep our growing online media library and digital story telling tools freely accessible to classrooms, families and community organizations worldwide.

Please join our global learning community!





"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*

PARTICIPATE

TELL THE WORLD ABOUT YOUR HERO

STORIES
MUSIC
FILMS
ART
VR



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.





Slater meets her hero Jean Michel-Cousteau

Filmed on location on Catalina Island by The MY HERO Project.
Check out her short film and essay on MY HERO

MY HERO

SLATER JEWELL-KEMKER

Slater Jewell-Kemker is an environmental activist. Mentored by The MY HERO Project at a young age, she was able to meet one of her heroes, Jean-Michel Cousteau. Her debut feature documentary is about the rise of the global youth climate movement and kids on the front lines of climate change.

myhero.com/Slater

"The MY HERO Project taught me the power of storytelling. It's endlessly inspiring to me as an artist (and at a deeper level, as a human) to see the empowered community of young storytellers that MY HERO has fostered impact their own communities and bring a little bit more love, understanding and tolerance into a world that so badly needs it."

Slater Jewell-Kemker



Slater Jewell-Kemker

MY HERO REPORTER
since 1997, Slater is an environmentalist, activist, filmmaker, and beekeeper. Her feature documentary, "ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE: My Decade in the Global Youth Climate Movement" is a call to action around the world.

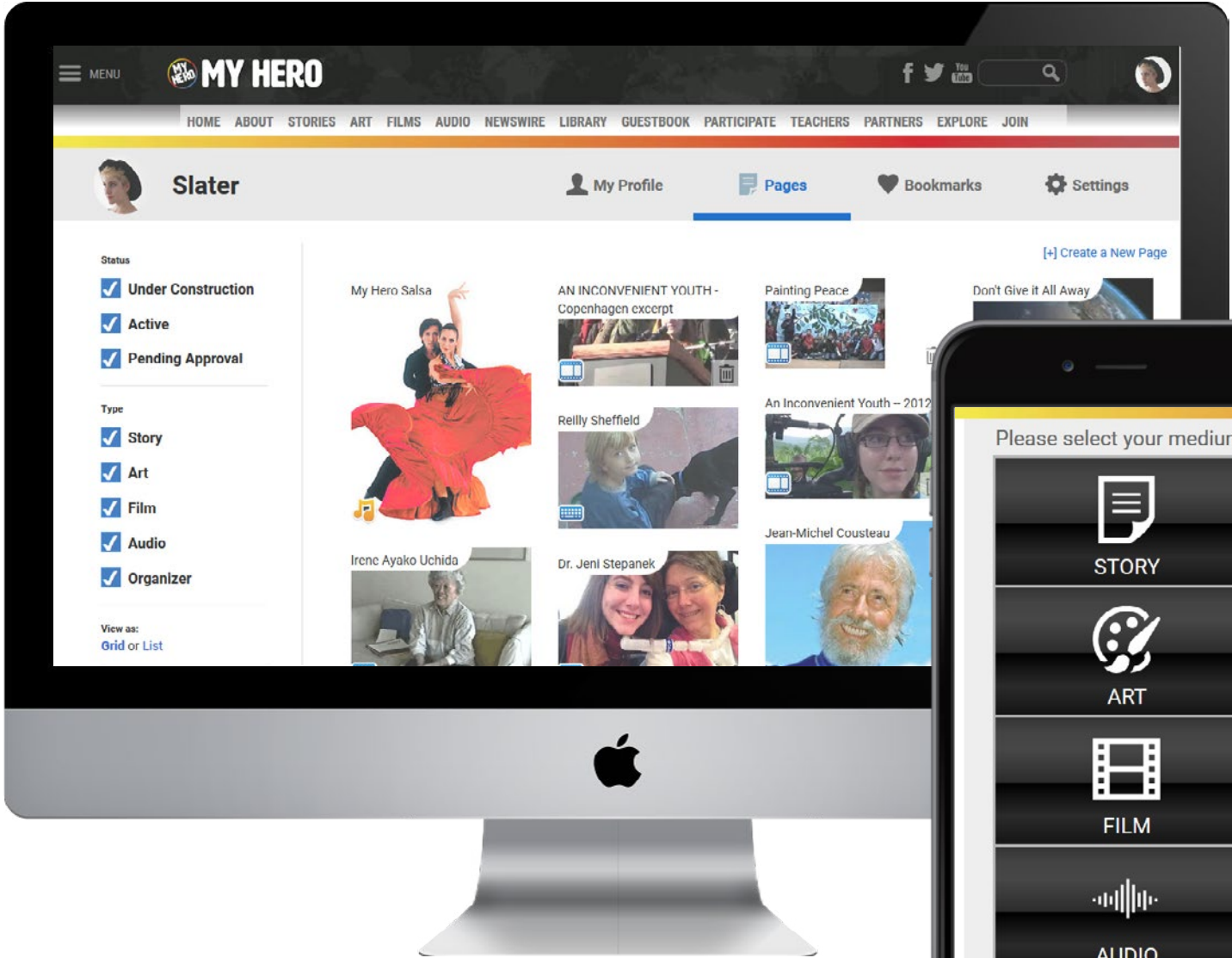


Media Mentoring

Slater Jewell-Kemker helping with MY HERO outreach in Nepal

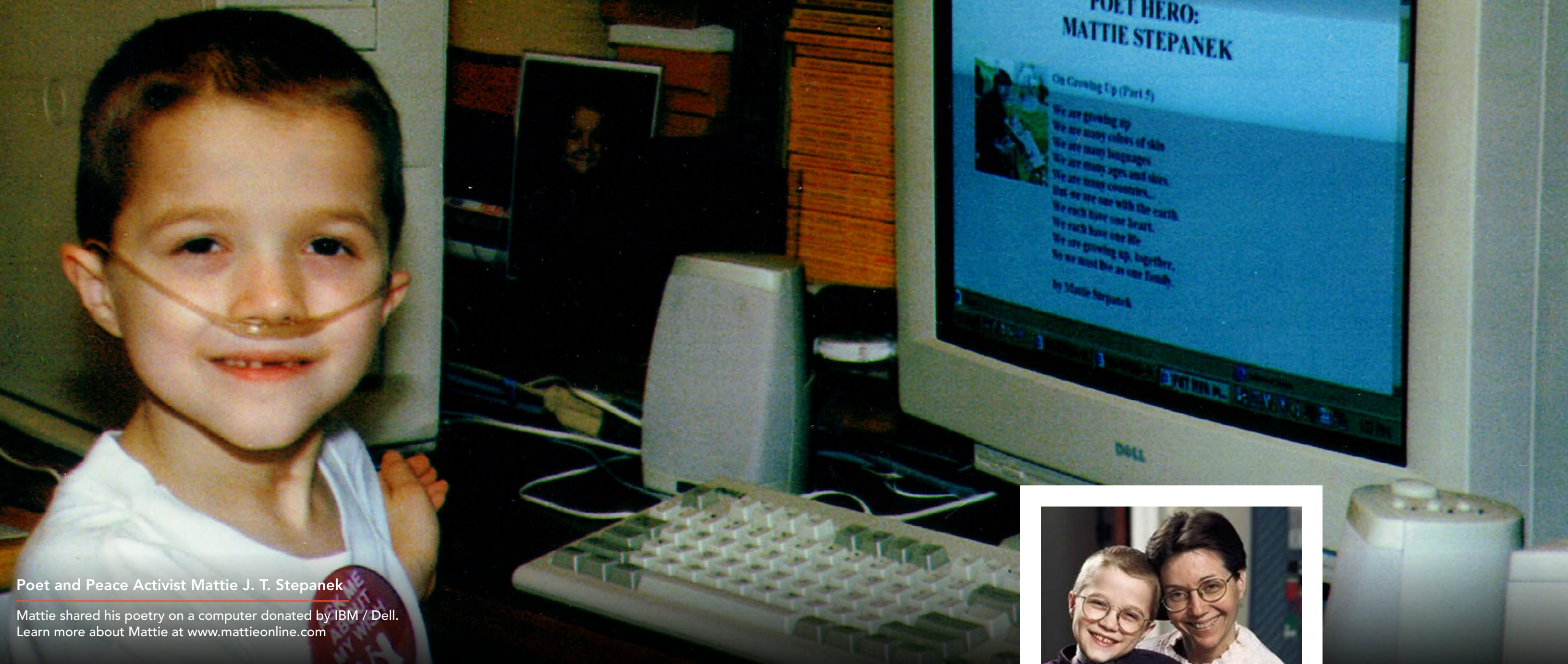
DIGITAL STORYTELLING

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.



MENTORING

MY HERO bridges the digital divide - mentoring teachers, students and activists to tell their hero stories. We support underserved communities by providing technology training and a safe venue to share stories.



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

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.

myhero.com/Mattie

"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*

MY HERO

MOHAMED SIDIBAY

Mohamed Sidibay is a former child soldier who is now a teacher, global peace activist and MY HERO ambassador.

"People spend so much time highlighting our differences, we actually forget how similar we are...people find it easy to separate themselves and just say, 'It's not us, it's them, and I can't relate to their problems.' I speak to give a name and a face behind the stories."

-Mohamed Sidibay

myhero.com/Sidibay

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

-Mohamed Sidibay



Mohamed Sidibay

Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit -India 2106
Mohamed Sidibay meets his hero the Dalai Lama



Wangari Maathai

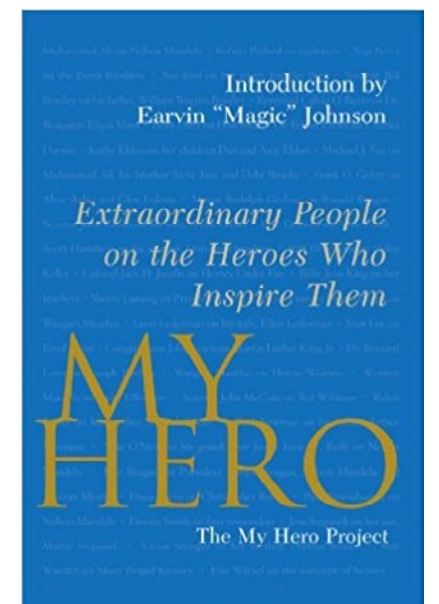
"I will be a hummingbird.
I will do the best that I can."
-Excerpt: "dirt! THE MOVIE."
Best of Fest, MY HERO 2010
International Film Festival

MY HERO

WANGARI MAATHAI

Wangari Maathai is founder of The Green Belt Movement, an organization that has mobilized thousands of Kenyans, mostly women, to plant more than 30 million trees across the country, providing much-needed firewood, lumber, shade, and food.

"Women have an innate sense of service. It is part of who we are. We give rise to new life by nurturing it inside us for nine months. Then we bring it forth and feed it with our own milk, with our own body, and eventually, our own self. My mother was the first strong woman in my life. I know that it was she who instilled in me a true sense of my own power and my responsibility as a woman..."



Excerpt: MY HERO: Extraordinary People
on the Heroes Who Inspire Them.

myhero.com/Wangari

MY HERO
ESTHER WOJCICKI

Esther Wojcicki is a journalist, educator, and author of the book "Moonshots in Education." She was the recipient of the MY HERO 2016 Global Educator Award.

"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

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

Esther Wojcicki
is an outstanding journalist,
author and educator,
and recipient of the MY HERO
2016 Global Educator Award

MY HERO EVA HALLER

Eva Haller is a philanthropist, activist, and mentor.

“My greatest joy is to help young people when they’re struggling with a good idea, with clearly something that could make a difference. I love to help them.”

-Eva Haller

“I am so impressed by the outstanding work of MY HERO. 20,000,000 people visit their website annually to see the filmed profiles of extraordinary role models. Stories of survival, courage, and inspiration are shared and amplified through MY HERO’s website and film festival.”

-Eva Haller

myhero.com/Eva



Eva Haller

featured in MY HERO's
Women Transforming Media blog
and in an award-winning documentary
“Eva Haller: A Work in Progress”

"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



MY HERO 2013 International Day of Peace Celebration

Ron Kovic is interviewed by Robert Sheer, journalist, USC professor and editor of TruthDig.com. Every year, Ron presents the Peace Prize at The MY HERO International Film Festival.

MY HERO RON KOVIC

Ron Kovic is an author, artist, and peace activist. His best selling autobiography, "Born on the Fourth of July" became an award winning feature film.

"Despite all our differences, there is a powerful connectedness to our humanity—a deep desire to reach out with kindness, with love and great caring toward each other, even to our supposed enemies, and to bring forth 'the better angels of our nature'—that is undeniable and cannot be extinguished, even in death."

-Ron Kovic

myhero.com/Kovic

MY HERO

DANIEL ELLSBERG

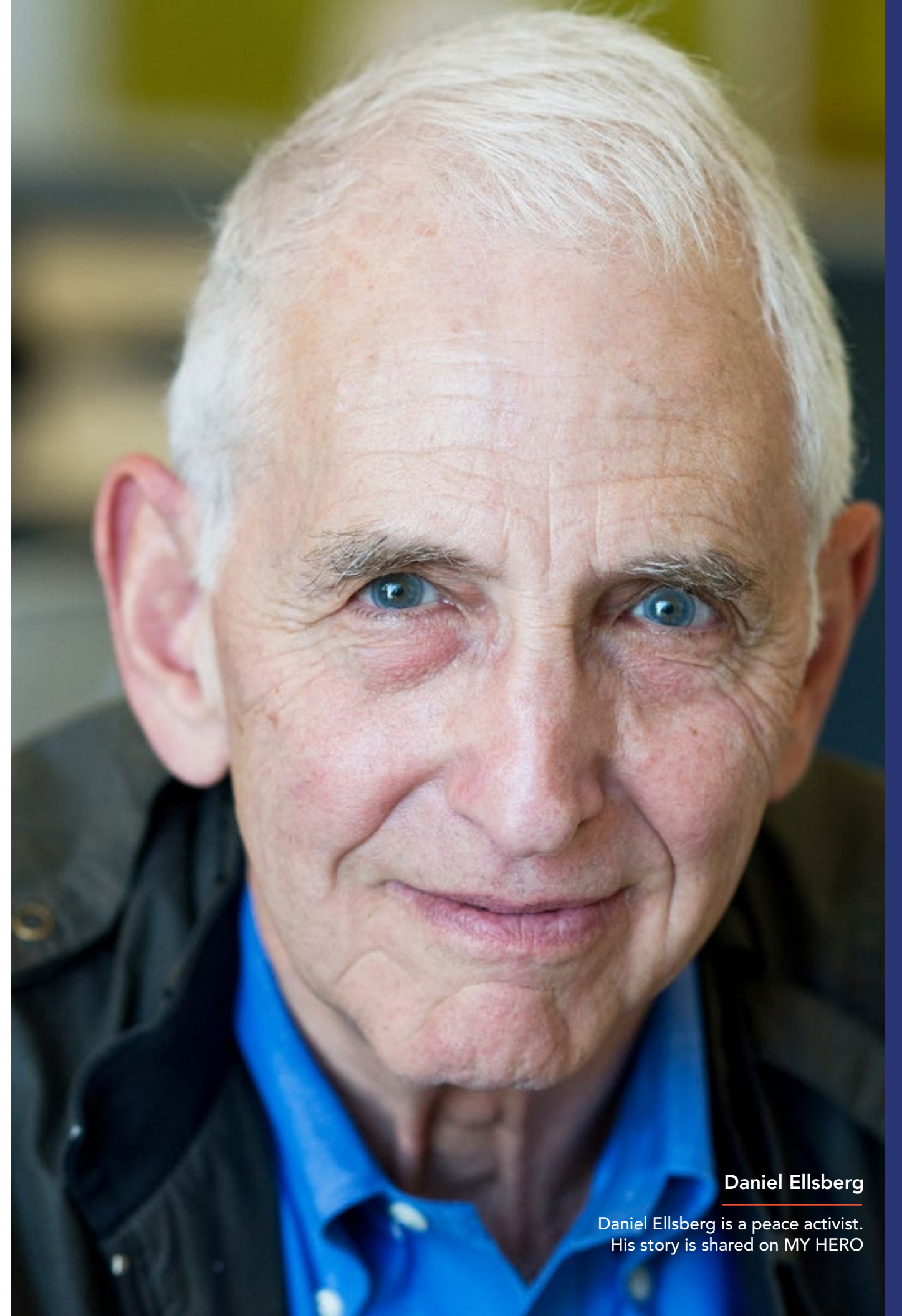
Daniel Ellsberg is an outspoken champion for whistleblowers working for the cause of peace.

"Many people regard my father as a hero. And he is my hero as well.... I know that my father, too, was inspired by witnessing others, some well known, others obscure and uncelebrated. It is a very high responsibility to remember and honor such stories. In the chronicle of conscientious actions, one candle lights another."

-Excerpt from Robert Ellsberg's MY HERO essay written for his father on his 80th Birthday.

Presented at the MY HERO 2014 Salon @ Jazz at Lincoln Center

myhero.com/Ellsberg



Daniel Ellsberg

Daniel Ellsberg is a peace activist.
His story is shared on MY HERO

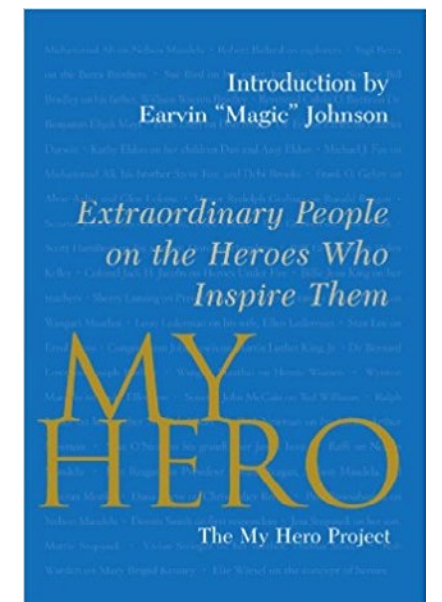
Author and Activist

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Elie Wiesel
is the author of *Night*.

MY HERO ELIE WIESEL

Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel was an American Romanian-born Jewish writer, professor, political activist, Holocaust survivor, and Nobel Laureate. He was the author of 57 books and contributed to the MY HERO book.

"My heroes are those who stand up to false heroes. If I had to offer a personal definition of the word, it would be someone who dares to speak the truth to power."



Excerpt: *MY HERO: Extraordinary People on the Heroes Who Inspire Them.*

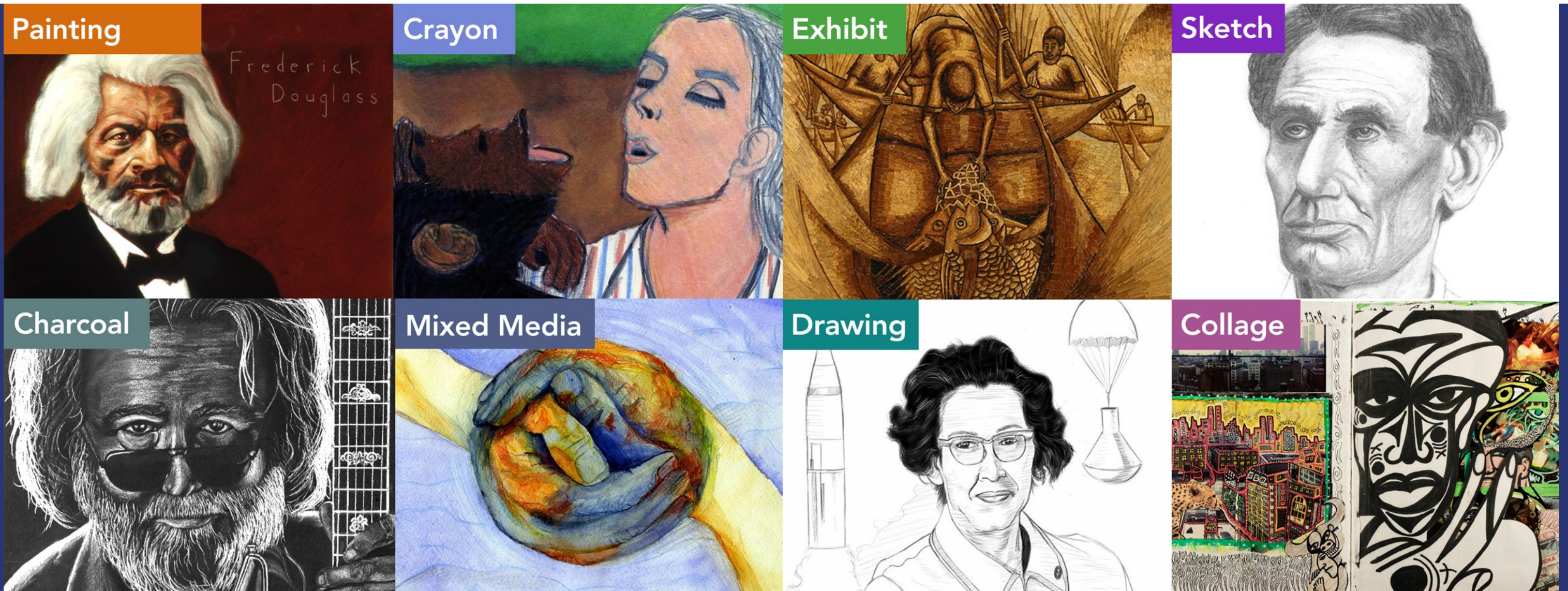
myhero.com/Wiesel

ART

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.



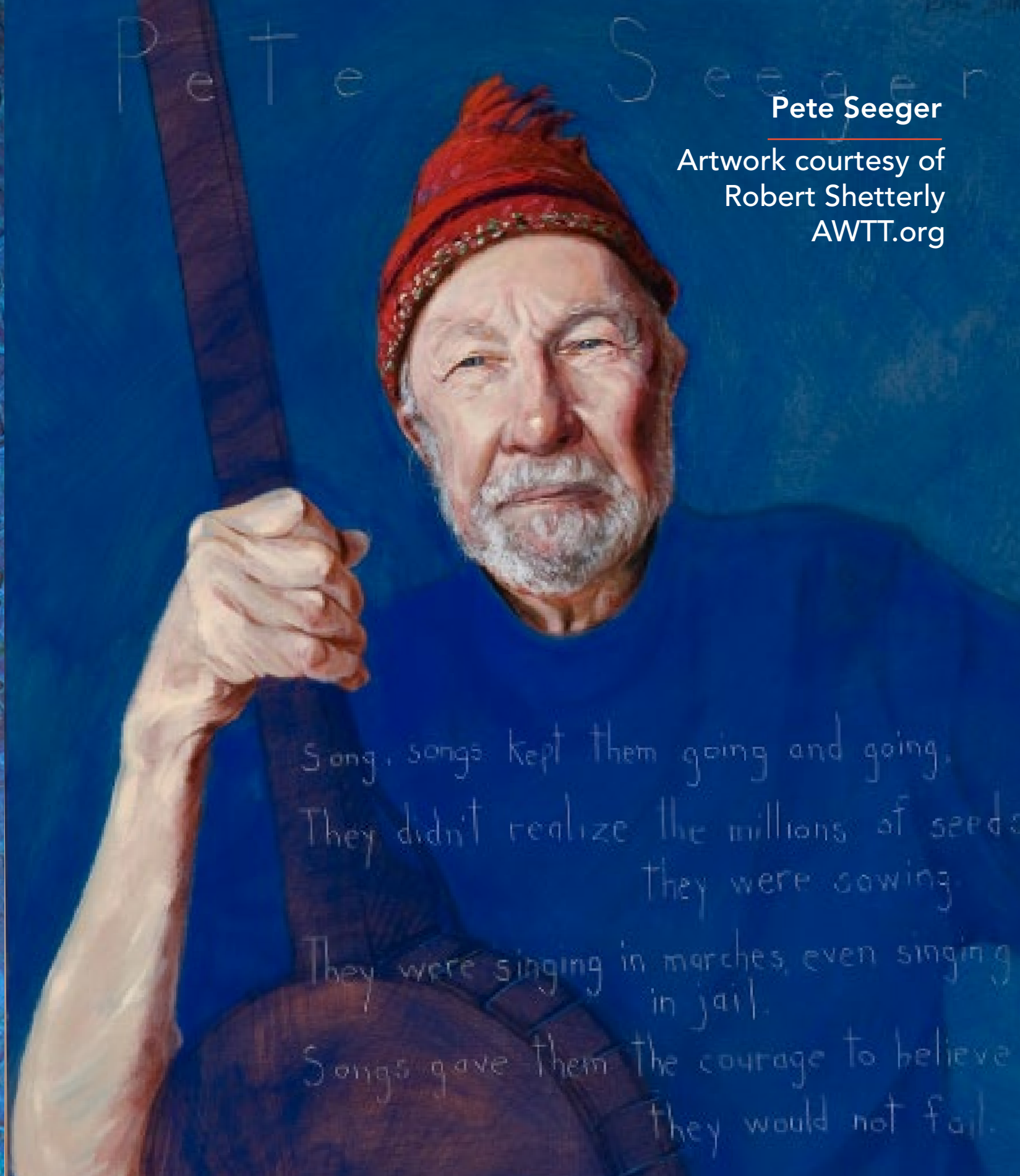
Credits (clockwise from top-left): Frederick Douglass by Robert Shetterly - AWTT.org, Jane Goodall by Samantha Gamble, May Peace Prevail on Earth by Nick Scrypnik - Peace Pals International, Jerry Garcia by Gail G. Slockett

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



African Woman

Artwork courtesy of
Fary Sakho
Senegal



Pete Seeger

Artwork courtesy of
Robert Shetterly
AWTT.org

myhero.com/gallery

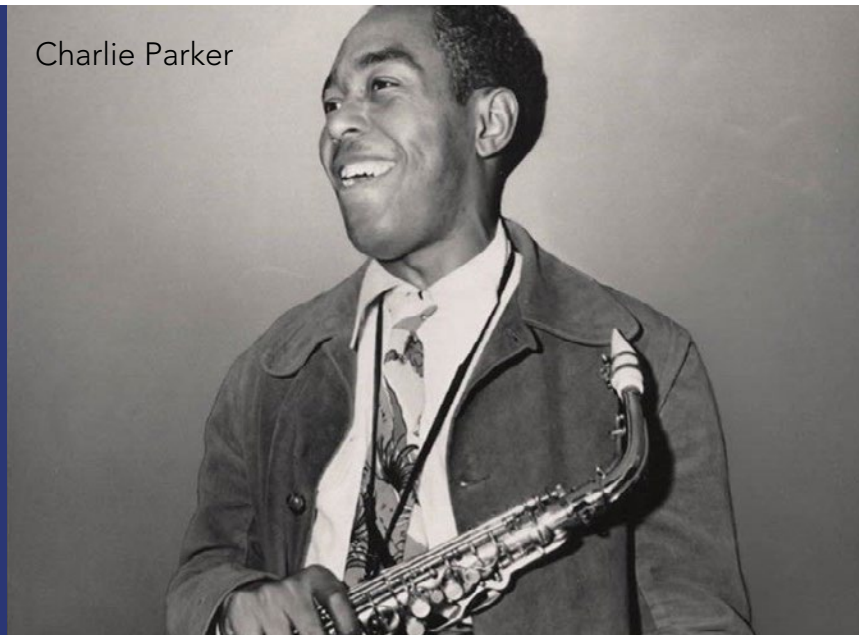
AUDIO

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

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



Olivia Milch



Dana Williams



Louis (Sachmo) Armstrong

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

myhero.com/audio

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



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



Watersong



Upstanders: The Mosque Across the Street



SFU Public Square ONE VOICE Music Project



Believe



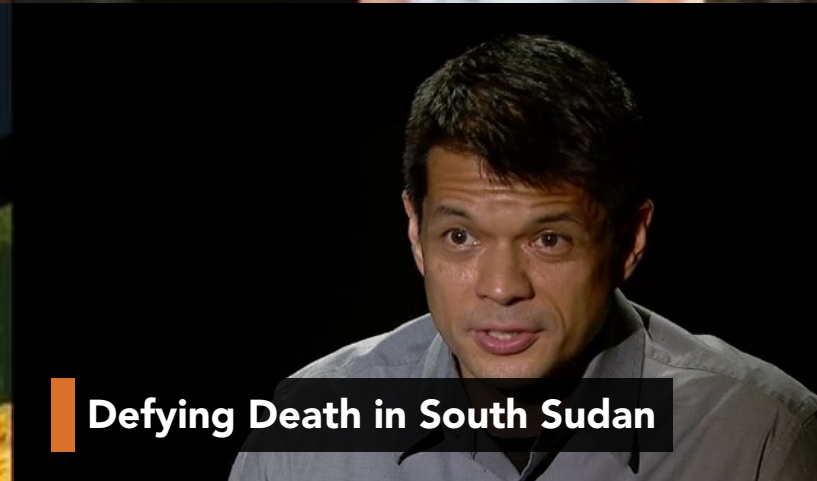
Hands Up Don't Shoot



Heartbeat of the Earth



Hummingbird



Defying Death in South Sudan

FILMING A HERO

MY HERO Media Arts Mentor, Anabelle Vo, films students interviewing their hero at the Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club.





International Film Festival

Winners and heroes onstage celebrate
with musician Pato Banton

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

SALONS & CELEBRATIONS

MY HERO hosts live events with speakers, films, music & art to celebrate a diverse range of heroes working for positive change. We also provide media & resources for schools and community groups planning local events.

Salons include:

Jazz & Poetry
Women Transforming Media
Mandela Day
Accessibility Awareness
International Day of Peace
Music Educators Day
World Oceans Day
Earth Day

Day of Peace Celebration

Kenji Williams,
director of **BellaGaia.com**
performs at the MY HERO

2015 International Day of Peace Celebration

VIRTUAL REALITY

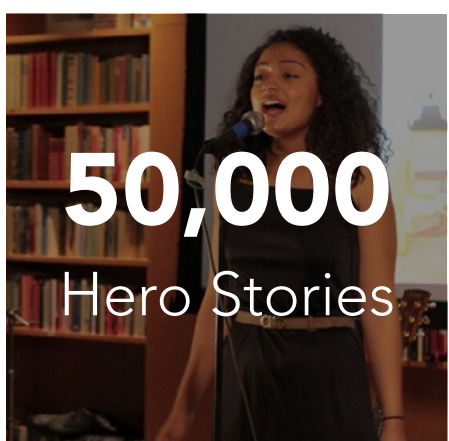
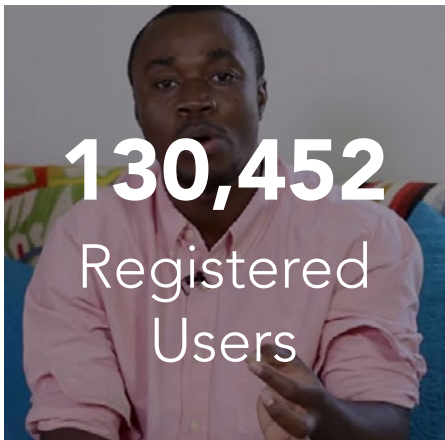
The **MY HERO Immersive Storytelling Award** is for VR storytelling that promotes engagement, activism & social good. Prizes for this award are donated by **Oculus**.

THE GREAT ESCAPE PROJECT

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

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

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.



HEROES IN THE NEWS

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

myhero.com/newswire

CALENDAR: 365 DAYS OF HEROES

The calendar notes hero birthdays, UN international days, thematic content and special events of interest to teachers and students.

myhero.com/calendar



October

1 ooooooooo Credit: Nest Marquez National Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15 to 10/15 Sep 15th - Oct 15th	2 ooo Credit: www.spicasso.net Mahatma Gandhi Political leader born 1869	3 ooo Credit: www.flightwatershipping.com James Herriot British veterinary surgeon and writer born 1916	4 oo Credit: photo from American Catholic: Saint Fran St. Francis of Assisi Religious leader born 1181	5 ooooo Credit: insightnews.com Maya Lin Architect and artist born 1959	6 o Credit: insightnews.com Fannie Lou Hamer Civil rights activist, philanthropist, born 1917	7 oooo Credit: wiki Yo-Yo Ma Cellist born 1955
8 o Credit: wiki Walter Kittredge born 1834	9 oooo Credit: history2.com John Lennon Singer and songwriter born 1940	10 ooooooooo Credit: wiki Helen Hayes 1st Lady of American theater, born 1900.	11 ooo Credit: wiki Art Blakey Jazz musician born 1919	12 oo Credit: wiki Ralph Vaughn Williams English composer born 1872	13 ooo Credit: Molly Pitcher Revolutionary War heroine born 1754	14 ooo Credit: uclabruins.ocsr.com/ucla-wooden-pag John Wooden Former UCLA basketball coach born 1910
15 ooooo Credit: ABC [Public Domain] via Wikimedia Penny Marshall Actor, producer, director born 1943	16 ooo Credit: wiki (Photograph taken in 1862 by Napoleon Sarony) Oscar Wilde Poet and playwright born 1854	17 ooo Credit: wiki Mae Jemison Astronaut and scientist born 1956	18 ooo Credit: wiki Ntozake Shange Poet born 1948	19 oo Credit: wiki Lewis Mumford Historian and writer born 1895	20 oooo Credit: Christiane Nusslein-Volhard Pioneer genetic researcher born 1942	21 ooo Credit: Alfred Nobel born 1833

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. Our new classcode system allows easy administration of class projects.



"We live in Tehran, the capital city of Iran, and we are grade eleven. This is an exciting project because it has given us a vast perspective toward different people from different parts of the world. We loved doing this and sharing this much information from all over the world. Thank you MY HERO."

-Teacher Farnoush Ahmadzadeh Mashar
United High School 11th Grade Class,
Iran

Welcome to MY HERO

Teacher Quick Links

Create a Page

Create a Class Code

Quick Share
Sign the Guestbook

Help Center

Start an Organizer Page

Search Lesson Plans

Contact Us

Search Selected Stories

"The students really enjoyed the student forum and learning from other students around the world. The MY HERO Project gave them insight into the fact that there are heroes all over the world that we don't recognize or know about. They learned so much. I am definitely going to sign up for the MY HERO Learning Circles again!"

-Teacher Maria Perryman,
George B. Armstrong School,
USA



"Thanks to this project, we learned about so many interesting scientists, doctors, astronauts and other Canadian heroes who have made a difference not only in their communities but in the world."

-Teacher Mali Bickley,
iEARN Canada

MY HERO-iEARN LEARNING CIRCLES

CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE

MY HERO and iEARN work to bring classrooms together through safe online spaces. Teachers and students connect with other classes around the world, discussing and sharing their ideas and media on heroes.



Collaboration

Classrooms around the world participating in the MY HERO Learning Circles Skype with each other



High School, Egypt



Middle School, USA



High School, Mexico



Middle School, Uganda

CALL TO ACTION CIRCLES



Call to Action

Students in Morocco participate in the Call to Action Circles by delivering supplies to local nomads

MY HERO invites teachers and students to choose a hero or heroic organization in their communities to support. We provide an online platform to share the process with our global learning community.

"We are a fifth grade class from Morocco and because of this project we had the opportunity to take positive actions in our community: raising awareness in our village about the importance of a clean environment."

-Teacher Abdelaziz Rhazzali
Morocco



Middle School, Slovenia



MY HERO - iEARN Learning Circles

Classrooms around the world participate in The MY HERO Learning Circles program

Middle School, Morocco

WORLDWIDE IMPACT

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



MY HERO Global Exchange

Wendy Milette, Director of Media Arts Education,
at the Royal Film Commission in Amman, Jordan



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

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twitter.com/MyHero
[Facebook.com/MyHeroProject](https://facebook.com/MyHeroProject)



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...

FRIENDS

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Helene Cavanagh
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Gregg and Kathy Abel
Judy & Doug Anderson
Kim Brizzolara
And more...



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

myhero.com /
DONATE

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

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