

# HEROES AMONG US

## A Hildegard Center for the Arts Project for Grades K-12 For the 2012-2013 School Year

### Overview

#### Project Objectives:

Upon completion of this project which considers multiple disciplines, the students will be able to:

- Understand and define the meaning of the words hero and heroic
- Learn the difference between someone who is famous and someone who is heroic
- Identify the characteristics of a hero
- Enter into classroom discussions to verbalize their opinions, insights and feelings
- Learn how everyday people can be heroes and demonstrate an understanding of how famous heroes and real-life heroes compare
- Show and honor (through their art, writing and school programs) heroes they have identified in their communities
- Learn how (through their actions and conduct) they, too, can be heroes in their schools—in their communities
- Participate in writing, art and/or short-film competition(s) with the theme “Heroes” (for grades 6-12)

In addition, the various lesson plans offered may also meet the National Standards and applicable Standards are included with the objectives.

**Target audience:** School children grades K-12, in public, private and home-schooled settings within a 50 mile radius of Lincoln (with grades 6-12 being invited to participate in the “Heroes” Competitions)

On-line learning packets/lesson plans have been assembled for teachers who wish to participate in this program for the 2012/2013 school year along with guidelines for students who wish to enter the competitions. Through these materials, students will learn about heroes from the past and present, identify characteristics of a hero and learn how they can become heroes themselves through their conduct, example and actions. By identifying heroes and creating art/literature representing personal role models, students will recognize the life-forming values that heroes possess in order to accomplish extraordinary things. Students will explore the distinction between a hero and an idol. Students can learn how individuals have been transformed through an act or an event to become a lifesaver, a peacemaker, a freedom fighter, an inventor or an “angel.” Participating in the “Heroes” project can be inspirational

and demonstrate to society that humanity and compassion create cooperation and mutual respect to make the world a better place.

### **The Accompanying Hildegard Competitions:**

Hildegard Center for the Arts provides opportunities for artistic expression and education that will enrich our community and enhance humanity.\* Through the “Heroes Among Us” Competitions, students in grades 6-12 will be invited to submit their stories of heroes known to them personally or from their communities in written or visual-art form. In addition, a special competition will be included for students who may wish to create short film/documentaries focusing on the stories of unsung heroes. These original submissions should uplift and inspire the students, readers and viewers. \*Taken from Hildegard Center for the Arts Mission Statement

### **Descriptions of the Competitions:**

*Writing Competition:* Through their teachers/facilitators, students may submit a written entry that is an original, non-fiction work that follows the form of an essay, diary/journal entry, blog, memoir or poem and is 500 words or less. With these entries, students will tell a story about a hero known to them personally or a hero within their community whom they wish to recognize. These real-life stories must follow all Competition Guidelines and may be subject to a plagiarism check. No group efforts will be accepted; only creations by individuals will be eligible for the competition. All entries will be judged by a panel and winning entries will be published in a limited-edition book entitled Heroes Among Us. A special reception for winning authors and their “Heroes” will take place on April 28, 2013 in Lincoln.

*Visual Art Competition:* Through their teachers/facilitators, students may submit an original piece of artwork (drawing, painting, collage, textiles, quilt, sculpture/ceramics, photography, assemblage and multi-media) that relates to the theme “Heroes Among Us”. No group efforts will be accepted; only creations by individuals will be eligible for judging. The art submitted must follow all Competition Guidelines and will be judged by a panel. The winning art will be digitally photographed and saved in disk form and winning student artists and their “Heroes” will be honored at a special reception on April 28, 2013 in Lincoln. A public display of the art will also take place at the conclusion of the Competition at the Lincoln/Lancaster City/County Building. The art submitted will be returned to the students at the conclusion of the exhibit in August, 2013.

*Short Film/Documentary Competition:* There are countless statues, portraits, depictions, books and movies about “Heroes” from the past and present; however, true heroes are often overlooked. Whether it is because of their humility or the fact that they are “quiet” heroes doing the difficult jobs others cannot or will not do, they often do not receive the recognition they truly deserve. Students will be invited, through their teachers/facilitators, to submit a

short film/documentary/media production (8 minutes or less in length) arising from the theme "Unsung Heroes". For example, students may decide to base their productions on the stories of a senior citizen, a retired or active military person, a community service person or some other "Unsung Hero" in their midst. Students are invited to use their imaginations and the rich human resources they can find in their own backyards to capture the stories that have gone untold. *Group efforts/collaborations will be accepted for this competition as well as individual efforts.* The short film/documentary must follow Competition Guidelines and will be judged by a panel. Winning film producers will receive a special award and, along with their "Heroes", will be honored at a special reception on April 28, 2013 in Lincoln.

### **Teaming with Arts Are Basic:**

Arts Are Basic will be sharing the theme of "Heroes" for the 2012-2013 school year in conjunction with Hildegard Center for the Arts' "Heroes Among Us" project. The Arts Are Basic organization strives to put artists and their works central to learning. Arts Are Basic fosters the development of aesthetic education as an important part of learning. Through the formation of long-term partnerships with schools and community leaders, the aesthetic dimension of the human experience will be explored through encounters with a broad spectrum of performing and visual arts. In order to serve teachers and students fully, Arts Are Basic serves as a catalyst not only to create a greater aesthetic awareness of the world but also to foster greater understanding of the world's peoples through culturally specific arts. To learn more about Arts Are Basic and how the organization can bring the Arts to your school or community, please visit [www.doane.edu/artsarebasic](http://www.doane.edu/artsarebasic) or contact [rhea.gill@doane.edu](mailto:rhea.gill@doane.edu) .

### **Special Outreach:**

"Heroes Among Us" will also be reaching out to children in special settings and circumstances in the City of Lincoln. Hildegard Center for the Arts (HCFA) and Arts Are Basic (AAB) are teaming up to bring special Art and Storytelling/Writing workshops to the children of Cedars Youth Services, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, People's City Mission and Lighthouse. The mission of HCFA and AAB is to encourage, educate and empower these children by providing specially-designed lesson plans, teachers and supplies to bring the "Heroes" project to kids "at risk".

In addition, HCFA and AAB are in talks to bring "Heroes Among Us" to Cherry County. Several one-room school houses and the schools of Valentine could be included in this pilot program. In an area where geographic distances can pose challenges, Hildegard and AAB are working to "close the gap" and bring "Heroes" to the students of Cherry County, Nebraska.