



NEWS

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HALO Honors 2017 Award Winners Advocates, Volunteers, Supporters, Artist and Stars of the Year

KANSAS CITY, MO — Local Kansas City nonprofit HALO, which provides housing, healing and education to at-risk and homeless children, announces its annual 2017 Award Winners: Janie Schrader and Irina Protopopescu as Volunteers, Jeff Albright and Lene Westerman as Advocates, The Farmer Family and Clockwork as Supporters, Nina Irwin as Artist and Marjai, Tiana, Tia and Winnie as HALO Stars. The HALO Stars is a new addition to the annual awards, honoring extraordinary children. It takes many to make HALO a success; these individuals and companies are recognized for their exceptional involvement and commitment.

“We are excited to recognize our 2017 HALO Award Winners,” said HALO Founder Rebecca Welsh. “They have raised thousands of dollars to support more than 1,200 HALO children in six countries, expanded our HALO mission within Kansas City, Jefferson City and New York City communities, constructed and furnished the new Jefferson City HALO Home and given countless hours creating art that has changed lives. I am so proud of our HALO Stars; they have become incredible role models to all HALO children.”

2017 Awards will be presented at the [12th Annual HALO Kansas City ArtReach Auction on February 24, 2017](#). All award videos can be seen here <Blog Post link>. A group photo will be shared after the event.

About 2017 HALO Award Winners

Volunteers

- Janie Schrader has volunteered at HALO for over five years. She serves as the Event Chair of the Ambassador Board, helping to raise over \$500,000 from the last five [ArtReach Auctions](#).
- Irina Protopopescu premiered [BLOOM](#), an international collaborative exhibition of works inspired by the artistic expression of HALO children paired with international artists, at Slag Gallery in Brooklyn, N.Y. This event raised over \$18,000 for HALO, in addition to introducing new supporters and volunteers, helping to grow the New York City HALO Branch.

Advocates

- Jeff Albright introduced HALO to the Kansas City Securities Association and its scholarship program “[KCSA Education Fund](#),” providing scholarships to six HALO children. He volunteers at the Kansas City Learning Center, providing multiple hot meals to HALO children and participating in empathy activities. Albright is an avid attendee and supporter of the HALO ArtReach Auction.
- Lene Westerman is a philanthropist for HALO. For two years, The Westerman Foundation has provided grants to meet needs ranging from a projector to beds and sheets for our HALO children.

Supporters

- The Farmer Family has supported HALO for over 10 years. In 2016, after learning of the urgent child homelessness issue in Jefferson City, they helped build the first ever HALO Home that can house up to 48 children. Without them, this project would not have been possible.
- Clockwork has supported HALO for over five years. They donated their vision and services to help create the perfect home for homeless children in Jefferson City in addition to our upcoming Kansas City Capital Project.

Artist

- Nina Irwin hosted the first Kansas City HALO Learning Center workshop in 2010 teaching ceramics. She has donated her artwork to the HALO ArtReach Auction for over 10 years. Irwin supports HALO in every way possible, attending events and serving as a good friend to the HALO team. Her artwork has raised thousands of dollars to support HALO children internationally and locally.

Stars

Due to protection of HALO children, only first names are shared.

- Marjai has been involved with the Kansas City HALO Learning Center for five years, participating in the HALO art & life skill workshops, Fashion Shows and Summer Showcase events. She was recently accepted to Upward Bound, a summer camp at Northwest Missouri State University with only 25 area high school students selected annually. She was the only African American female to be accepted. Marjai excels in high school and is an integral part of her school's poetry team. She is sharing a poem at the Kansas City ArtReach Auction Feb. 24.
- Tiana has been involved with the Kansas City HALO Learning Center for three years. She was the first HALO child to receive a scholarship through the Kansas City Security Association. Tiana completed her associates degree at Longview Community College in May of 2016 and served as the vice president of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. She transferred to the University of Central Missouri and currently works on campus working with students who are at risk of not completing their courses. She serves as committee chair for Association of Black Collegians; a campus organization focusing on problems facing the black community and actions students on campus can take to help. Tiana was recently accepted to study abroad; she will travel to the Middle East in Summer 2017 for three weeks.
- Tia has been involved with the Kansas City Learning Center for three years, participating in art and life skill workshops. She enjoys singing and shares her talent across HALO events and programs. Tia works at a local elementary school, helping children in an after school program, facilitating activities, helping with homework, and lending the teachers an extra hand when they need it. She is currently taking physics, chemistry, and a biology lab, fueling her love for all animals and leading to a potential career in the animal behavior field. Tia is singing "I am a Lost Boy from Neverland" with pianist Mark Lowry at the Kansas City ArtReach Auction Feb. 24.
- Winnie has been involved with the Mengo HALO Home in Uganda for nine years. She has grown up to be a caregiver to the other girls in the Mengo Home. Winnie has volunteered for the Red Cross at schools in her community, helping to educate people on disease prevention and treatment. Winnie has aspirations of becoming a business woman and continuing to help children who have suffered difficult times at young ages, similar to herself.

2015 winners include:

Advocates—Billy and Mara Hodes

Volunteers—Josh and Leena Fry

Artist—Vera VonHoldenberg

Special Hero Award—HALO Founder Rebecca Welsh.

Supporters—Jon and Tara Darbyshire of the Archer Foundation

2016 winners include:

Advocate—Gould Evans

Volunteer—Kaity Woody

Artist—Lacy Voight Gordon

Supporter—Moroccanoil

About HALO

Featured in the Moroccanoil INSPIRED film series, “American Spirit” of CBS Evening News, “Heroes Among Us” and “25 Women Changing the World” of PEOPLE magazine, “The Today Show”, and Variety Magazine, HALO provides housing, healing and education to at-risk and homeless children, in other words, love. Each year, HALO serves over 1,200 children and supports 21 homes and programs around the globe. Internationally, HALO supports orphanages and programs in Uganda, Kenya, Mexico, India, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Domestically, HALO has Learning Centers and housing programs in Kansas City, and Jefferson City, Missouri, and art programming in New York and Portland. Join the HALO tribe at www.haloworldwide.org.

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