

Starts With Us Emerges as a Shorty Impact Awards Finalist: Champions of Radical Compassion, Curiosity, and Courage

Starts With Us is nominated in three categories. Voting Open Online Until October 26, 2023.

NEW YORK, NY, October 25, 2023 – By harnessing the power of creative storytelling and technology to equip millions of Americans to overcome toxic polarization, [Starts With Us](#) (SWU) is proud to announce it is a finalist for the [Shorty Impact Awards](#), an international awards program dedicated to honoring the most purposeful and impactful work organizations are doing to make the world a better place. SWU is nominated in three categories:

- **VIDEO SERIES** – [Radical Heroes](#)
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE** – [Radical Heroes: Alice Marie Johnson](#)
- **STORYTELLING** – [Undivided: Pati & Maurice](#)

These stories highlight the 87 percent of Americans who are tired of how politically divided we have become and who are ready to chart a better path forward by overcoming toxic polarization and cooperating across lines of difference to solve our toughest problems.

“These nominations are a testament to how crucial the work of amplifying the stories of problem solvers is, and countering the false narrative that Americans are irreparably divided. This is how we chart a more productive future focused on solutions over polarizing antics,” **says Amelia D’Entrone, Head of Content at Starts With Us.**

SWU’s innovative content and tools – including the flagship *Radical Heroes* and *Un/Divided* series – continue to flood mainstream social media channels reaching tens of millions of Americans. These efforts have helped everyday people recognize our shared values and break out of the echo chambers perpetuated by social media algorithms.

Radical Heroes, which is nominated as a finalist for the category “Video Series”, shines a light on leaders who exemplify the transformative power on what SWU calls the 3Cs – curiosity, compassion, and courage. Un/Divided is a documentary series featuring stories of real people bridging divides. Key features include:

- [Alice Marie Johnson](#) (Radical Heroes): A criminal justice reform advocate and former federal prisoner who was granted clemency by then-President Donald Trump in 2018, Alice has committed her life to lead with compassion through helping others and continuing to fight for criminal justice reform for the women and men who are still incarcerated.
- [Pati and Maurice](#) (Un/Divided): An unlikely friendship between a mother who created a gun buyback program after losing her son to gun violence and a gun rights advocate who trolled her.
- [Tony McAleer](#) (Radical Heroes): A former white supremacist, now assisting others in abandoning hate groups, emphasizes the profound impact of compassion on his transformative journey.

- [Leon Ford](#) (Radical Heroes): Tragically and mistakenly shot by the police in 2012, leverages his painful experience to foster understanding and collaboration between public safety officials and communities.

Support Starts With Us at the Shorty Awards by voting daily for all three of Starts With Us' nominations at <https://shortyawards.com/vote/>. Voting continues until October 26. Join our community of Solvers and stay up to date on the latest videos by [signing up](#) for The Human Standard, SWU's weekly newsletter, and following SWU on all social media platforms.

About Starts With Us

Starts With Us is a rapidly growing civic movement equipping Americans to overcome toxic polarization and more effectively solve our toughest problems. In addition to more than 2 million followers committed to engaging constructively across lines of difference, Starts With Us' mission is supported by 240+ ideologically diverse leaders in business, entertainment, journalism, faith, sports, academia, and national defense. To learn more, visit www.startswith.us.