

2016 Austin College Posey Leadership Award

Co-Recipients:

Sheryl WuDunn & Nicholas Kristof

Founders of the Half the Sky Movement



Sheryl WuDunn grew up in New York City, a third-generation Chinese American hailing from the Upper West Side. She earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and a master's degree in public administration from Princeton University.

WuDunn has worked in investment management at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and was a commercial loan officer at Bankers Trust. In addition, she spent time at *The New York Times* as both a journalist and an executive. During her time as a journalist, WuDunn and her husband, Nicholas Kristof, won a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of China's Tiananmen Square movement in 1990.

Nicholas Kristof grew up on a sheep and cherry farm near Yamhill, Oregon. He graduated from Harvard College and won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford, where he studied law. He later studied Arabic in Cairo and Chinese in Taipei.

Kristof's work has taken him all over the world. He has lived on four continents, reported on six, and traveled to more than 150 countries, plus all 50 U.S. states, every Chinese province, and every main Japanese island.

Joining *The New York Times* in 1984, Kristof initially covered economics. Since 2001, he has maintained an op-ed column.

In addition to his 1990 Pulitzer honors for coverage of China's Tiananmen Square movement, Kristof won a second Pulitzer Prize in 2006 for his journalistic coverage of the genocides in Darfur.



The latest book by WuDunn and Kristof is *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* (2014). They have also written three best-sellers: *China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power* (1994); *Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia* (2000); and *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* (2009).

About the Half the Sky Movement and A Path Appears

Inspiration for the Half the Sky Movement came from the book that shares its name, which can be traced back to a Chinese proverb: “Women hold up half the sky.”

Written in 2009, the book was a call to arms against one of the most pervasive violations of human rights in the 21st century: the global oppression of girls and women. Throughout the developing world, girls and women are victims of gender-based violence, sex trafficking, and maternal mortality.



It is through this darkness that Kristof and WuDunn remind us that with just a little help, the lives of girls and women worldwide can be changed, that the key to freedom from oppression is found through unlocking the potential that girls and women possess. The Half the Sky Movement does this through the use of videos, websites, games, blogs, and other educational tools. The goal is not only to raise awareness of women's issues but also to establish concrete steps to fight these problems.

“This is a path of hopefulness, but also a path of fulfillment: we start out by trying to empower others and end up empowering ourselves, too.”

– Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn,
A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity

Books:

A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity (2014)

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide (2009)

Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia (2000)

China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power (1994)

More Info:

A Path Appears [documentary](#)

[NPR](#) interview about *A Path Appears*

[Ted Talk](#) about the oppression of girls & women

Half the Sky Movement [website](#)

[New York Times](#) article about 21st century oppression