“It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.”

-Christopher motto-
Dear Friend,

We’re often told that we can better understand a person if we walk a mile in their shoes. While that may not be physically possible, our Christopher Award-winning books, films, and TV programs allow us to do that through engagingly told stories that introduce us to people and places different from our own, yet relatable in a variety of ways. Thank you for using your creativity and talent to add light to our world.

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications & Christopher Awards Program Manager

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Testimonials
from Past Christopher Award Winners

“It’s a great honor to win a Christopher Award as I truly believe that people make sense of life and the world through stories. We can all contribute tremendously to wellbeing, meaning and happiness if we can tell transformative and inspiring stories that give hope. Thank you so much for encouraging this with your Awards!”

—Fredrik Wikström Nicastro, producer of “A Man Called Otto”

“I was thrilled to win a Christopher Award, I would say uniquely so, because The Christophers’ mission of ‘affirming the highest values of the human spirit’ so closely mirrors my own, which is to celebrate the triumph of the human spirit. That spirit is embodied by the subject of my award-winning documentary, former Brooklyn Dodgers’ pitcher Carl Erskine, who singlehandedly effected enormous improvement in the lives of those with intellectual disabilities, and also served as a role model for interracial friendships throughout his life. Whether they are showcased in films, books or just workaday life, stories like Carl’s speak to hope, which is the most important thing of all.”

—Ted Green, writer/director/producer of “The Best We’ve Got: The Carl Erskine Story”

“I love the Christopher Award slogan, Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. I personally believe that with all my heart…I am very proud at how God works through me to shine a light, and to help heal a lot of hurt in a lot of people, and I am very proud of this award.”

—Four-time Christopher Award winner Dolly Parton

Past Award Winners
**Books for Adults**

**The Black Angels:**
The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons/Penguin Random House)
by Maria Smilos

**Soccer Grannies:*
The South African Women Who Inspire the World
(Rowman & Littlefield)
by Jean Duffy

**The Hard Parts:**
A Memoir of Courage and Triumph
(Scribner/Simon & Schuster)
by Oksana Masters with Cassidy Randall

**Hidden Potential:**
The Science of Achieving Greater Things
(Viking/Penguin Random House)
by Adam Grant

**More Than I Imagined:**
What a Black Man Discovered About the White Mother He Never Knew
(Convergent Books/Penguin Random House)
by John Blake

**What We Remember Will Be Saved:**
A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry
(Broadleaf Books/1517 Media)
by Stephanie Saldaña
**Books for Young People**

**Preschool and up**

*When I Talk to God, I Talk About You*

(Flamingo Books/Penguin Random House)
by Chrissy Metz & Bradley Collins,
illustrated by Lisa Fields

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**Kindergarten and up**

*Willow and Bunny*

(Two Lions)
by Anitra Rowe Schulte,
illustrated by Christopher Denise

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**Ages 6 and up**

*Henri and the Magnificent Snort*

(Sea Lavender Publishing)
by Samantha Childs,
illustrated by Hannah Farr

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**Ages 7 and up**

*The Dog That Gave My Brother Words*

(End Game Press)
by Wendy Hinote Lanier, illustrated by Jieting Chen

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**Ages 8 and up**

*Food for Hope*

(Creston Books)
by Jeff Gottesfeld, illustrated by Michelle Laurentia Agatha

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**Ages 10 and up**

*Hands*

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House)
by Torrey Maldonado

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*When I Talk to God, I Talk About You* by Chrissy Metz & Bradley Collins, illustrated by Lisa Fields

*Willow and Bunny* by Anitra Rowe Schulte, illustrated by Christopher Denise

*The Dog That Gave My Brother Words* by Wendy Hinote Lanier, illustrated by Jieting Chen

*Food for Hope* by Jeff Gottesfeld, illustrated by Michelle Laurentia Agatha

*Hands* by Torrey Maldonado
ABC News: After the Blast: The Will to Survive
(ABC News)
Director: David Hoffman
Producers: Sohel Uddin, Bader Katy
Field Producer: Katerina Rosen
Senior Producer: Freda Kahen-Kashi
Executive Producer: Wendy Krantz
Senior Executive Producer: David Sloan
Correspondent: Bob Woodruff

The American Buffalo
(PBS)
Director: Ken Burns
Writer: Dayton Duncan
Producers: Julie Dunfey, Ken Burns

Sabbath
(PBS)
Producer/Director: Martin Doblmeier
Producers: Carrie Snyder, Mark Comberiate
Writer: Martin Doblmeier

A Small Light
(National Geographic)
Directors: Tony Phelan, Susanna Fogel, Leslie Hope
Writers: Joan Rater, Tony Phelan, William Harper, Ben Esler, Alyssa Margarite Jacobson
Created by: Joan Rater, Tony Phelan
Producers: Guy Riedel, Katie O’Hara
Co-Producers: Kate Wagener, Austin Lapiere
Co-Executive Producers: David Minkowski, Matthew Stillman

Special Abilities: Living Fully with Down Syndrome
(Family Theater Productions)
Writer/Director/Producer/Creator: Jay Cooney
Executive Producer: Father David Guffey

A World Record Christmas
(Hallmark Movies & Mysteries)
Director: Jason Bourque
Writer: Mark Hefti
Story by: Mark Hefti and Antonio Cupo
Producer: Stephen Harmaty
Executive Producer: Antonio Cupo
The Hill
(Briarcliff Entertainment)
Director: Jeff Celentano
Screenwriters: Angelo Pizzo, Scott Marshall Smith
Producers: Jeff Celentano, Warren Ostergard
Co-Producer: Mark Ellis

A Million Miles Away
(Amazon MGM Studios)
Director: Alejandra Márquez Abella
Screenwriters: Bettina Gilois, Hernán Jiménez, Alejandra Márquez Abella
(Based on the book “Reaching for the Stars” by José M. Hernández)
Producers: Mark Ciardi, Campbell McInnes

The Holdovers
(Focus Features)
Director: Alexander Payne
Screenwriter: David Hemingson
Producers: Bill Block, Mark Johnson, David Hemingson

When This Light
(Miraflores Films)
Directors: Nicole Bernardi-Reis, Laura Bermúdez
Producer: Nicole Bernardi-Reis
Executive Producer: Jessica Sarowitz

It Ain’t Over
(Sony Classics)
Writer/Director: Sean Mullin
Producers: Mike Sobiloff, Peter Sobiloff, Natalie Metzger, Matt Miller
Co-Producer: Michael Connors
Executive Producer: Lindsay Berra

Testimonial

“I wrote my memoir, ‘Wild Ride,’ to be a source of hope for those going through dark times. The phrase ‘It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness’ is the message I hoped to spread through ‘Wild Ride,’ and it meant so much to be recognized through the Christopher Award.”

— 2023 winner Hayley Arceneaux, author of “Wild Ride,” about surviving childhood cancer thanks to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, becoming a physician’s assistant at St. Jude, and later becoming an astronaut
The Christopher Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

—attributed to St. Francis of Assisi