



CNN Names Maggie Doyne, BlinkNow Founder & CEO, 2015 CNN Hero of the Year

CNN Honors Maggie Doyne for her work to empower women and provide a home and education for impoverished, orphaned and at-risk children in Surkhet, Nepal.

The CNN Hero award show will air Sunday, December 6

Nov. 17, 2015 – Tonight, CNN honored Maggie Doyne, CEO & Founder of The BlinkNow Foundation, with the 2015 CNN Hero of the Year Award. Maggie was recognized for her humanitarian efforts in Nepal, where she founded The Kopila Valley School and Home for impoverished, orphaned, and at risk-children. Maggie was also recognized for developing a women’s center to empower the women of Surkhet through job training and education. By winning the top honor, Maggie will receive a \$100,000 grant to continue her work with The BlinkNow Foundation.

The annual CNN Hero award ceremony took place at New York’s American Museum of Natural History. Maggie attended the event with, BlinkNow co-founder, Top Malla, and was introduced by actress, Victoria Justice.

The award show marked the conclusion of a voting competition that began on October 8 after the top ten heroes were announced by Anderson Cooper. Maggie competed against nine other nominees through a global contest that ran through November 15. Fans supported their favorite heroes by casting their votes through Facebook and on the CNNHeroes.com website. With this win, Maggie will join the likes of Pushpa Basnet and Anuradha Koirala, former winners of the CNN Hero Award who were honored for their work in Nepal.

Maggie Doyne Statements:

- “I’m so honored by this prestigious award! I want to thank all of my little heroes. I draw all of my inspiration from them. My co-founder, Top Malla, my amazing staff at BlinkNow and our incredible network of donors and everyone who has had faith in the vision. I also want to thank the Kopila Valley faculty members and our team of aunties and uncles who keep us healthy, safe and fed. “
- “I’m so thankful for the city of Surkhet, a wonderful community who has supported us the entire way.”
- “A huge thank you to my Nepali Family. Your beauty and charm won me over at 18. Thank you for embracing me and allowing me to represent you with this award.”
- “There is no time to waste. If you are educated and free, empowered and safe, use your power, and your gifts to help the rest of our human family. We can’t lose site of the task at hand. We all have the power to change the world in the blink of an eye.”

- “I want my project to be a model for what other people can do around the world. I was just one girl who helped another girl in a country devastated by poverty and war.”

BlinkNow Information

- **Facebook:** [BlinkNow](#), [Maggie Doyne](#)
- **Instagram:** [@BlinkNowOrg](#), [@maggiedoyne](#)
- **Twitter:** [@BlinkNow](#)
- **Website:** [BlinkNow.org](#)
- **Donations:** [www.BlinkNow.org/donate](#)

Maggie Doyne

After Maggie Doyne’s senior year of high school, she decided to take a gap to set off and see the world. Four countries and 20,000 miles later, she found herself trekking through the Himalayas and walking on dirt roads through poverty-stricken villages in Nepal. During this time, Maggie met a six-year-old girl named Hima who was breaking stones in a dry riverbed and selling them to earn money for her family. Maggie was shocked by what she saw and decided to enroll Hima into school by paying for her tuition, uniform, and books. Maggie started to help a few more children, and one by one witnessed their young lives being transformed. Over the next two years, Maggie made her dream of building a safe, clean, stable home for these suffering children a reality. She purchased land in Surkhet, Nepal with her entire life savings of \$5,000. The local Nepalese community, led by BlinkNow co-founder Top Malla, helped pour the home’s foundation. Maggie had many supporters from her hometown of Mendham, New Jersey, and in 2008, Kopila Valley Children’s Home opened. Kopila is now home to 50 children ranging in age from 17 months to 18 years old.

In 2010, the Kopila Valley School was built out of locally harvested bamboo and is currently bustling with 400 children from Surkhet and surrounding areas. Many of these children are the first in their families to attend school. The students are provided health care and a daily nutritious meal which, for some, is their only meal of the day. Currently, construction is under way for a new, environmentally friendly school campus.

The BlinkNow Foundation

The BlinkNow Foundation provides an education and a loving, caring home for orphaned, impoverished and at-risk children. We also provide community outreach to reduce poverty, empower women, improve health, and encourage sustainability and social justice. The Foundation fulfills its mission by providing financial support and management oversight to the Children’s Home and Kopila Valley School in Surkhet, Nepal. In addition to the home and school, we have a Health Clinic and a Women’s Center for the Kopila Valley community.

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