

HEIDI KUHN BIO

CEO AND FOUNDER – ROOTS OF PEACE



Heidi Kühn is the Founder and CEO of Roots of Peace, launching the organization in 1997 with a vision of turning Mines to Vines. Since then, Roots of Peace has facilitated the removal of over one hundred thousand landmines and unexploded ordnances and provided food security to local communities in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Guatemala, Iraq, Israel, Palestine and Vietnam.

In 2021, Heidi's visionary leadership was acknowledged with her inclusion in the inaugural Forbes 50 Over 50 "Women Who Are Leading the Way in Impact" List. In 2002, Kuhn received the University of California at Berkeley Alumni of the Year Award for Excellence in Achievement. In 2005 she was awarded the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations Peace & Security Award. In 2006 she received the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship. In 2007, she was given the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for Outstanding Public Service– the foremost award for American changemakers.

Heidi also won the 2019 Mahatma Gandhi Seva Medal. She is the proud recipient of the International Women's Forum (IWF) Making a Difference Award and was honored as one of IWF's "Ideas Remaking the World" honorees in 2020. In November 2022, Heidi was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the American University of Afghanistan at a dinner hosted by former First Ladies Laura Bush and Hillary Clinton.

Heidi is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in Political Economics, and a former CNN reporter and producer. She lives in San Rafael, California, with her husband, Gary, with whom she has four children—Brooks, Tucker, Kyleigh, and Christian. She also has six grandchildren.