



### The Rescued: Sabina van der Linden

The last time she saw her mother, Sabina was 12 years old. In her home town of Borislav in Poland, she was

taken by the Nazis, with 9 other young girls for special work. When she was allowed home a few days later, only her father and brother Joseph were there. Joseph, himself only 15, arranged for her to go into hiding as a gentile.

For the next year, Joseph contacted her via smuggled letters, arranging for her to move from one family to another and then to a bunker in the forest. When it was raided by the Ukrainian militia, miraculously, Sabina evaded being caught! Soon after, she learned that Joseph and her father had been shot in the labour camp. Now, just 14 years old, she was completely alone. Joseph would often say to her: "You must survive!" Remembering this, she found the will to live. She went to a hiding place she knew about and here, within a few weeks, she was liberated by the Russians in August 1944.

Many families had the courage to care for Sabina, ensuring that one young girl survived. She often didn't know their names, in case she was captured and, if tortured, revealed them. Yet all have a place in her heart.

**"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?  
And if I am only for myself, what am I?  
And if not now, when?"**

Hillel

**I was called up to the Office — the Principal wanted to see me. "What had I done?" I thought. She asked me: "Did you know that Shanti is being picked on by other students in your class? She has been so upset that she has not been at school for two days."**

**I did know what had been happening — it's been going on since Shanti first came to our school half way through this Term — she's from India. There's been name-calling and she's been cut out of games at lunch break. It was none of my business because I was in another group.**

*In Germany they first came for the communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.*

*Then they came for me — and by that time no-one was left to speak up.*

Pastor Dietrich Niemoeller



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Moree Plains Gallery, 2003 Photograph taken by Jozef Vissel, Survivor.

**I was at Town Hall station when a lady getting on to my train with a little child hanging on to one hand and carrying some large shopping bags with the other, bumped up against a man standing near the door. He shouted "Watch what you're doing, you silly cow."**

**The lady was shocked by this and her little daughter was upset and began to cry. "Excuse me," I said, loud enough for all the other people around to be able to hear, "She is not a silly old cow. That was just an accident and you were very rude." The man moved away and the lady said "Thank you."**

**The little girl smiled at me and her mum.**

**What does it mean to have the courage to care?**

## A program about people who had the courage to care

How does it feel when you are made to feel that you are not only different but you don't belong? If you have ever had this happen to you or seen it happen to someone else, you would have seen discrimination in action. It could have been that this discrimination occurred because of a person's religion, race or even because of a physical disability.

*Courage to Care* is a program about those people who stand up for the rights of people who face any forms of discrimination, whether it's racism or bullying or because of some physical difference.

The program you have taken part in is about your life today in Australia. It uses the example of what happened to the Jewish people in Europe just over sixty years ago to show how some brave individuals had the courage to care, had the courage to do something about the injustices they saw happening to others.

These non-Jews risked their lives and the lives of their families to rescue Jews from death at the hands of the Nazis who ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945 and had conquered most of Europe during the Second World War.

**“Whoever saves a single soul  
saves the whole world.”**

The Talmud

**What does it mean to have the courage to care?**

### The exhibition

A volunteer guide took you through the exhibition. You saw items from that period of history in Europe often called “The Holocaust.” You learned about one of the most important lessons that has come out this terrible time: an individual can make a difference. You heard stories about discrimination and death but also of rescue. For the most part, rescuers were ordinary people, whose courage to care saved lives. Some of these rescuers have been honoured as *Righteous Among the Nations*.

### An encounter with a survivor of the Holocaust

Six million Jews were murdered during The Holocaust. You had the unique opportunity to meet with survivors of the Holocaust and to listen to their personal stories: how they survived the war and heard about the strength and courage they needed. Some told of the rescuers who risked everything to have the courage to care for them.

### Living in Harmony workshops

You took part in a *Living in Harmony* workshop which gave you a chance to think about how you feel about what you have seen and heard and how you might act if you or someone else were faced with discrimination, racism or bullying at school or in your local community. It gave you the skills to make a difference — to have the courage to care.

## Some of the people you heard about from *Courage to Care*



### THE RESCUER: Raoul Wallenberg

Save Hungarian Jews!  
This was Wallenberg's mission. In 1944, the young Swedish diplomat was sent to Budapest by the American government

to achieve this end. Immediately, he set about his mission using two techniques. Firstly, he designed impressive passports, decorated with the official seal of Sweden, stating that the bearer was under Swedish government protection. He then rented buildings to house those holding his passports, claiming that those living there had diplomatic immunity. In all, he issued passports to an estimated 20,000 people, who lived in 32 “Swedish Houses” in Budapest.

Using daring, bluff and bravado, he would foil the Nazis in order to save Jews. He stormed deportation trains and interrupted death marches, pulling out those holding his passports or issuing passports on the spot. When Nazis tried to enter his safe houses, he simply ordered them out. In January 1945, in his most daring exploit, he halted an attempt to liquidate the Budapest ghetto, an action that, in itself, saved an estimated 70,000 Jews.

Wallenberg disappeared into Russian custody in 1945. Although his fate was unknown for many years, it now seems that he died in a Russian prison in 1947. His courage, brilliance and daring in saving 100,000 Jews has ensured his eminent status as *Righteous Among the Nations*.



### THE RESCUERS: Adrianus and Bertha Vanas

Adrianus has always fought injustice. When he saw the Nazi persecution of Jews in Holland,

he and his wife, Bertha, immediately joined the underground. In 1942, when Jewish deportations began, his role was to find out what happened at the end of their journey.

And so they came to Westerbork, which became the largest Nazi transit camp in Holland. Adrianus, an employee of the Dutch government, was in charge of food distribution in the camp, ensuring that rations were fairly distributed. However, his major work was for the underground: removing names from deportation lists; supplying false papers and finding safe houses. Bertha hid documents under her corset and smuggled them out of the camp. They knew that the Nazis suspected them and Adrianus was threatened more than once. Assurances from the underground that their two children would be cared for, gave them the courage to continue.

On 12 April 1945, the Germans fled the camp and Adrianus became Camp Commander, on the orders of the Dutch Government-in-exile. He stayed on after liberation, until August, when he had escorted the last Jews from the camp. A true hero, Adrianus has never lost his passion for justice nor his willingness to fight for it. Adrianus and Bertha were recognised as *Righteous Among the Nations*.