



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.

"Whoever saves a single soul saves the whole world."

The Talmud

"Australians all, let us rejoice, for we are young and free"

The first line of our national anthem expresses sentiments that we often take for granted. *Courage to Care* confronts us with some fundamental questions:

- To what extent am I prepared to stand up to fight bigotry and racism?
- To what extent can I ensure that the value of a "fair go" will continue to be the hallmark of being an Australian?
- Will future generations continue to respect our traditions of mateship and equality?

The final word has to go to a student from the Wagga *Courage to Care*:

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, you've never been in bed with a mosquito."



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Remember that it is easy to save human lives. One did not need to be heroic or crazy to feel pity for an abandoned child. It was enough to open a door, to throw a piece of bread, a shirt, a coin; it was enough to feel compassion... In those times, one climbed to the summit of humanity by simply remaining human.

Elie Wiesel

Courage is never alone, for it has fear as its ever-present companion. An act deserves to be called courageous if, and only if it is performed in spite of fear. The greater the fear, the more courageous the action that defies it. Thus, it is only when fear and anxiety rule supreme that courage can truly assert itself.

Shlomo Breznitz

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

What does it mean to have the courage to care?

A program about people who had the courage to care

Caring — really caring for your fellow human beings — sometimes takes courage. This program is about people who had the courage to care.

During the Holocaust, all over Europe, Jewish people were rounded up by the Nazis and sent to their death. In every country where this happened, there were some non-Jewish people who saved Jews. Had they been caught, they would have been killed, as well as their families and, in some instances, their entire village or neighbourhood. Yet they took these extraordinary risks because they believed it was the right thing to do.

For the most part, they were ordinary people, like you and me. Because of the times they lived in, their courage saved lives. The times we live in — fortunately — do not require us to save lives. Yet they still require our courage. They still require that we speak up for those people in our society who have become victims, not because of who they are, but what they are.

The courageous people in this program are an example to us all of the power of the individual to make a difference.

What does it mean to have the courage to care?

The exhibition

The exhibition uses the unique historical event of the Holocaust to teach one of its universal applications: the individual can make a difference. The stories of those non-Jews who risked their lives and the lives of their families to save Jewish lives and of Jews who were saved, give eloquent voice to this message. For the most part, rescuers were ordinary people, whose courage to care saved lives. Some of these rescuers have been honoured by Yad Vashem, Israel, as *Righteous Among the Nations*.

School groups and individuals are guided around the exhibition by our volunteer guides.

An encounter with a survivor of the Holocaust

Personal accounts by survivors of the Holocaust are powerful. They connect us not only person to person but also with an era in history that is difficult to comprehend. Survivor testimony translates the countless victims into a single person's feelings and thoughts. Students visiting the exhibition are given a unique opportunity to meet with survivors of the Holocaust and to listen to their personal stories: how they survived the war, the strength and courage they needed. Some of their stories will tell how their rescuers had the courage to care for them and for others in need.

Living in Harmony workshops for students

Living in Harmony workshops provide an opportunity for students to explore their reactions, feelings and thoughts. It is a forum that brings all the components of the program together. The workshops are conducted by facilitators who have been carefully selected and fully trained in the skills of facilitation. Their role is to help the students integrate what they have learned into their own lives. The goal of the workshop is for students to identify issues of prejudice and intolerance: for example issues of discrimination, racism and bullying. The workshops will empower students with the confidence that as individuals they can make a difference — in school, at home and in their own communities.

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



THE RESCUER: Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara

On the morning of 27 July 1940, Chiune Sugihara looked out of the consulate windows in Kaunas (Kovno) in Lithuania, to see some 200 Jewish refugees

from Poland outside the gate. Each day the numbers grew. They came to beg Sugihara for transit visas to escape Poland and travel across the Soviet Union to Japan. Sugihara sought permission from Tokyo to issue the visas and was refused. Nonetheless, he decided to assist the desperate Jews, saying: "I may have to disobey my government, but if I don't, I will be disobeying God."

Working day and night, Sugihara wrote out visas by hand. When ink supplies became low and replacement impossible in war-time Lithuania, he watered down the remaining ink and kept writing. On 28 August the consulate closed and Sugihara was relocated to Berlin. In one short month he had issued approximately 6,000 visas. Because of his bravery, today there are more than 40,000 descendants of the refugees he saved.

On his return to Tokyo after the war, he was dismissed from the diplomatic service for disobeying orders. However, a group of Sugihara survivors located him and saw him honoured as one of the *Righteous Among the Nations*. Posthumously, Japan apologised for his dismissal and paid tribute to his humanitarian deeds.



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*.