

“Whoever saves a single life, saves an entire universe.” The universe is a dark place but it is full of stars. The stars bring light and hope at the darkest of times. They bring happiness when they shine. Unfortunately, in 1941 the Star of David was used to bring six million Jews to their deaths and very few who witnessed it said anything about it. Six million lives were lost to just one man because very few stood up and said, “Stop!”

However, the few who did were just like those stars and made the world a brighter place. They helped people to see the darkness that Hitler was bringing to the world. One of those few was Nicholas Winton. He saved 669 children on eight trains prior to the outbreak of World War II in 1939. He found them foster parents in England and Sweden.

Winton thought of the idea of the Czech Kindertransport when he visited Prague. He noticed that the refugee camps were dealing mostly with elderly and vulnerable adults, but nothing was being done about the children. Although he was just a British stockbroker, he became an inspiration and hero to hundreds of people everywhere, including me. This shows that anyone can be a hero, whether it's standing up to a bully at school or saving a whole race of people.

When those 669 children grew up, they told their stories about him and inspired many people. Winton's humanitarian efforts went unrecognized until 1988, but he didn't mind. He is known as the “Schindler of Britain” and was knighted in 2002 and nominated for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. Nicholas Winton didn't just save those 669 children; he also saved hundreds of universes of stars, which means he brought light and hope in the darkest of times.