

Genevieve Carmody
St. Joseph Catholic School

7th Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Flowers

Irena Sendler was "a 29 year old social worker... ' when she rescued more than 2,500 children between the years of 1942-1943 ("Women of Valor"). She was born in 1910 in Otwock, very close to the town where she rescued the children, Warsaw.

The Jewish Virtual Library writes, "She was a Senior Administrator in the Warsaw Social Welfare Department." This means they were people who provide food, helped with money, and helped with orphans, the elderly, the poor, etc. Irena convinced the Warsaw Social Welfare Department to provide money and food to the Jews.

Then, the Nazis gathered more than a hundred thousand Jews and shoved them into a 16-block area. This became established as the Warsaw Ghetto. It was sealed with no way out, away from the outside world. Irena was annoyed and angry with these conditions, so she joined the Zegota. "The Zegota was the Council Aid to the Jewish..." (Jewish Virtual Library")

Irena convinced the Warsaw Epidemic Control Department to let her visit the people every day. She provided them with food, water, and even basic living supplies. She tried to help as many as she could, but diseases were spreading fast. 5,000 people were dying a month; she had to get those children out of here.

She gathered the children in many different ways. She smuggled children in ambulances, gun sacks, body bags, buried inside goods, potato sacks, and more. One mechanic even took a baby in his toolbox. By the end of this, Irena rescued 2,500 children. She ended up signing papers changing their names and putting them in new families. She put all of the children's original names in a jar and buried it by a tree.

Years later, she found the jar and she found all of these kids. She returned them to their relatives or even parents, and told them about their past.

She never said anything about why she did it. All she said was, "I could've done more..." ("Jewish Virtual Library") She died May 12, 2008. She was 96.

Works Cited

"Irena Sendler." Irena Sendler, 28 Feb. 2018 www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/irena-sendler.

"Irena Sendler." Yadvashem.org, 28 Feb. 2018,
www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous-women/sendler.asp.