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“Stars can't shine without darkness”~ Anonymous

Even in the midst of one of the most horrifying events in history, The Holocaust, there was goodness and heroism. A hero is an ordinary person who does extraordinary things for others. What Irena Sendler did could be described exactly as that. She was an ordinary woman who did extraordinary things for others in need.

During the Holocaust millions of Jews were forced into sectioned off areas of the cities called ghettos. The Jews couldn't legally leave the ghetto, and living conditions were quite poor, leaving many children malnourished. Irena Sendler worked with a group called Zegota to rescue these children.

Irena Sendler was quite selfless, as all of the children she helped were complete strangers. During Irena's time with Zegota she saved more than 2,500 Jewish children. One of the most impressive things about Irena Sendler was that she was not Jewish nor was she good friends with anyone Jewish. This means that her reasons for helping these innocent children were because she thought it was the right thing to do. Irena didn't help the children to be famously known, or because she was being paid to do so. She didn't benefit at all from this until later in life when she was a contestant for the Nobel Peace Prize, and many others found out what she had accomplished.

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Irena Sendler was dedicated to the children she saved. After she smuggled each child out through sewers, ambulances, and delivery trucks she found them a safe home. Irena pleaded and begged her friends and family members to take in Jewish children and keep them safe until the war was over and they could be reunited with their families. Not only did she find them a safe place to live, she wrote down each name on thin tissue paper so the children's families could find them after the war. By doing so she put herself at a very high risk of being found by the Nazis. Sadly most of the children's parents were gassed or worked to death at Auschwitz or another death camp.

The Nazi did unimaginably horrifying things to those who helped the Jewish. This made what Irena Sendler did even more significant. After saving many children from the horrors of the Ghetto and Concentration Camps, Irena was caught by Nazis. The Nazis threatened Irena with execution. Both of her legs ended up breaking from constant beatings.

Irena Sendler is someone we can all only hope to be. Brave, courageous, selfless, hopeful, kind... the list could continue on forever. We all hope that another event similar to the Holocaust will never happen. But if an event similar to the Holocaust did occur we all would want to have more Irena Sendlers. If we all tried to be a bit more like Irena Sendler, our world might be a very different place.