



Irena Sendler

2,500 children saved

“Heroes do extraordinary things. What I did was not an extraordinary thing. It was normal.”

Irena Sendler



Family and home.

- Irena was born February 15th 1910.
- Born in warsaw but lived in Otwock Poland.
- Parents are Dr. Stanislaw a physician and mother Janina.
- Parents part of Polish socialists party.
- Father died of typhus in 1917.
- Irena is the only child; she had a son and daughter.
- Son is Adam and daughter is Janka.



Occupation.

- Irena studied Polish Literature.
- Social worker.
- Her father was a medical doctor.



The Ghetto

- Irena helped Jewish families from the Warsaw ghetto.
- Irena obtained a permit to enter the ghetto and inspect sanitary and cleanliness.
- Irena contacted activists of Jewish welfare organization.
- Żegota (a Jewish resistance organization) became established.
- Sendler became main activist for organization.

Ghetto life

- Although Irena was never in the ghetto she did do a lot of things to help those who were.
- Saved 2,500 children.
- Used secret passages to help children escape.
- Helped feed the Jewish.
- Used occupation as an advantage.



Irena to the rescue



- Irena made Zegota full of men and women comfortable saving Jewish children.
- Irena began helping the Jews by feeding and giving water
- Helped give Jews fake identities.
- Provided medicine and shelter.
- Since she was a social worker that got her into the ghetto.
- Nazis were scared of typhus so Irena often came in and checked Jews “for the Nazis”.
- When entering she would convince Jewish parents to give her their children.
- She would hide them under the stretcher or even put the children in suitcases to get them out of the ghetto.
- She would also lead them through secret passages .
- Once they are successfully out she teaches them Christian prayers so they could pass for Christian children
- Then placed in orphanages outside of town.
- Irena owned a dog that would bark each time a nazi let her in or out the ghetto.

After war

- Irena continued her job as a social worker.
- She became a director of vocational schools.
- She continued living the rest of her days in Warsaw.
- Irena died May 12, 2008.
- She lived a long life of 98 years.
- She was rewarded by Poland with its order of white eagle.



Important lesson

- Do what's right no matter what you have to go through.
- Irena would want you to take her peace with you and hope history does not repeat.



I was taught that if you see a person drowning, you must jump into the water to save them, whether you can swim or not.

— Irena Sendler —

AZ QUOTES