



COURAGE TO CARE ORDINARY PEOPLE – EXTRAORDINARY ACTS

“One day my mother and I were in a crowd of people rounded up by the soldiers. About one hundred of us were crowded into a flat and held overnight. There was no food – just a bit of bread thrown at us. The next day we were lined up and forced to march – we didn’t know where.”

Ernie

“Nearly every day after school I went around to my friend’s house. Then one day when I knocked at the door their maid came out. She told me that I was not welcome and that I could not come there again.”

Ana

Have you ever been bullied or discriminated against? Perhaps you have seen others gang up on someone, making fun of them for the way they look, dress or talk.

Did you ever think that what you were witnessing was wrong, but not know what to do about it?

Have you been picked on because of your skin color, religion, or for no reason at all? How did you respond? How did you feel about the silence of the bystanders?

Courage to Care is about people and the ways in which lives can be affected by acts of discrimination. It is also about the impact of the intervention of those who step in to help and support the victims of such acts – ordinary people, whose actions made a difference.

In 1933, in Germany, the Nazi Party, led by Adolf Hitler, was elected to government. They believed that certain groups of people were not desirable in society and introduced policies that discriminated against them. People in any of these groups were unprotected. When World War II began, in 1939, the same policies were implemented in the countries conquered by Nazi Germany. A time of great suffering began for millions of people.

However, across Europe there were also many thousands of people who believed that what was happening was wrong. At great personal danger they did what they could to save lives. They refused to be bystanders who looked the other way while people suffered.

The *Courage to Care* program has three main parts:



A Guided Tour of the Exhibition
Personal stories – of ordinary people doing extraordinary things – and memorabilia, puts *Courage to Care* into historical context.

A Survivor Story

You will meet a survivor like Ernie or Ana, who will tell you eye-witness accounts about the rescuers whose choices and actions saved their lives.



A Discussion Group

You have the opportunity to explore and reflect on what you experienced. How is it relevant today?

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Some Suggestions:

- ⇒ Become familiar with the map of World War II Europe, especially the location of Germany and the countries surrounding it.
- ⇒ Research the groups deemed undesirable by the Nazis.
- ⇒ Look up the meaning of terms such as resistance/underground, camp, transportation, ghetto, etc.
- ⇒ Read *The Diary of Anne Frank*.
- ⇒ Watch a film such as *Schindler’s List*.

Recommended websites:

Historical context: <http://www.pbs.org/auschwitz/learning/index.html>

Rescuers: <http://www.hearthasreasons.com/nonprintresources.php>

“Courage to Care is an eye-opener – it makes you want to stand up for what you believe in and not just stand back and let wrong things happen.”

Student response to Courage to Care

We look forward to meeting you soon!