



## **Susan Warhaftig** Holocaust Survivor

I was born in Vienna just before the outbreak of World War II. I was the daughter of Isaac and Helene, and I also had a half brother, Herbert.

When it was imminent that we should leave Austria, we tried to go to Switzerland and then America. Unfortunately it was too late and my father was sent to a Concentration Camp where he was murdered. Somehow with the help of relatives, friends and even strangers we managed to survive through some horrific experiences.

In 1942 my Uncle Max, who was living in Hungary, paid two men to smuggle us into Budapest. My mother was faced with the unbearable choice of deciding which child to bring as the men would not take all three of us. As I was only five years old, she chose me. My brother was supposed to be sent to Palestine with his Jewish School. Unfortunately this never happened and it was only in 2003 that I found out he was killed, he was 11 years old.

In 1947, two years after the war had ended, my Uncle Eugene found out my mother and I had survived and helped us immigrate to Australia. He and his wife were fortunate enough to have fled Vienna pre-war and start a new life in Sydney. I have led a full and mostly happy life in Australia and have two very caring children and six gorgeous grandchildren.

I am acutely aware that I would not have survived had it not been for the kindness and wisdom of people who were there to help irrespective of the risks to themselves.

I joined Courage to Care because I felt my story needed to be told so that such atrocities would never happen again and also to illustrate the triumph of the human spirit. To see students from different ethnic and religious backgrounds than myself show enthusiasm and attentiveness when they listen to my story or ask questions is priceless.