



## **Yvonne Halas**

### **Holocaust survivor**

I was born in Budapest in 1942. When I was two years old, we were in a small village in Hungary and my parents were directed onto a train going to a concentration camp. My father talked to a guard who seemed shocked by the efforts to put so many people in a cattle car with no facilities.

So he essentially told my father to get off if he wanted to, but not to be seen or he would have to shoot. So, my mother threw me off the train and at the second station flung herself off the train and she walked back to me. She then kept walking towards where the train had gone, hoping to find my father, but we never found him.

We left Hungary and came to Australia in 1948, after it became clear that my father would not return.

I heard about Courage to Care from a friend. I thought it was wonderful, especially because the bottom line was to help educate against discrimination and bullying. I cannot abide cruelty to children, even by other children. I thought that if I can tell my story and I can help children understand that you should not bully other people, it is a good thing. The response from the students is wonderful. I hope that the Courage to Care message to children has a lasting effect.