

Impact Statement

Hannah Leggat, Grade 8.

Brave and Courageous, 2018.

Watercolor and photocopies on paper, 10.5 x 8.5 Inches.

McClure Middle School, Kennesaw, GA

Ungsung Hero: Irena Sendler

My unsung hero is Irena Sendler. She was a nurse during WWII and a resistance member that rescued over 2,500 Jewish children, along with the help of 2,000 other members. If she wasn't willing to help and be selfless then those children would have probably been killed or starved to death. She is a female role model and an inspiration to many generations and her story teaches girls to be helpful and put others before themselves.

Irena showed bravery during a time where you didn't hear much about it. She put her life on the line to make sure the well-being of the children and anyone she could save from the Warsaw Ghetto was good. She took care of the children like they were her own and gave them somewhat of a better childhood. After rescuing the children, she provided them with false identity documents and shelter. Apart from the diplomats, Sendler saved more Jews than any other individual during the Holocaust. No one made her become a resistance member or care for the children like she did, but she knew she had to do something to help those poor innocent people. She inspires me because I know that I am probably not that brave or would ever be able to do something that amazing. Her story gives me hope and makes me feel empowered to know that one person can impact so many lives with just a little bit of courage and kindness.

The Holocaust was a time filled with lots of depression and sadness. So, I found a news article about Irena, painted it with a variety of blues and greys, and made it my background to symbolize those emotions. Since most of the people she saved were Jewish, I painted a golden Star of David in the middle to highlight and identify the religion that was the whole reason behind the need for her heroism. Irena loved the children that she rescued so, I added a picture of her with them across the bottom of the project for you to see just a portion of the children she cared for. In the ghetto from which she rescued the Jews, the Germans kept them in by forming a wooden and barbed wire fence. To replicate this, I took thin silver wire and made little curls. I then slid the curls onto long misshaped wires and clamped them on. I chose to string them across only the picture of the children because they were the ones being held captive in the labor camps. To tie it all together and make it look more distressed, I burned the edges. These ideas came out of nowhere, to be honest, but I'm glad it all worked out like it did in my head.

To make people more aware of her good deeds, I posted my artwork to my website. I will have it linked below. Here is the finished project. I hope you can consider this when you are choosing the winner and thank you for taking your time to examine my work.