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## **MEET IRENA SENDLER**

## A POLISH SOCIAL WORKER WHO RESCUED 2,500 JEWS IN THE WARSAW GHETTO



Irena Sendler was a 29-year-old Polish Social Worker who lived in Warsaw when WWII broke out.

She had access to the ghetto where the Jews were forced to live, and she obtained a permit to inspect the sanitary conditions when the ghetto was sealed off. This enabled Irena to smuggle children out and establish hiding places for them. With her connections to various orphanages, religious facilities, and Aryan families, she was instrumental in saving approximately 2,500 children from certain death.

In 1943, Irena was arrested and sent to the Pawiak Prison where she was interrogated and tortured. With the help of the Polish underground, she was released and went into hiding. Irena and her small band of assistants never veered from their mission to save as many lives as possible, no matter the cost.

Her story is not only compelling, it inspires all of us always to lend a hand and do what is right. Her story needs to be heard, and I am honored to tell it. In this one-woman show, I use a series of slides from WWII to create the background for the setting. The program runs about 45 minutes and it is my hope it will open a dialog afterward to honor Irena and other unsung heroes of the war.