



The Survivor Mitzvah Project

*Passover
Acts of Kindness
Then and Now*

"We Were Once Strangers in a Strange Land"

These words from the Passover *Hagaddah* guide us to be kind and generous, to help those in need, and to set a place at our table for a stranger.

This Passover, *The Survivor Mitzvah Project* recognizes all **kind strangers**, whose acts of compassion during the Holocaust were life-saving, and all of you, who help the Last Survivors.

"Thanks to Strangers" Petr's Escape

"In 1941, we children were forcefully taken from our parents, brought to a deep pit, stripped naked and lined up by height. I was 12 years old.

I remember it like it was yesterday. It was autumn, in the evening. A machine gun was set up. They opened fire.

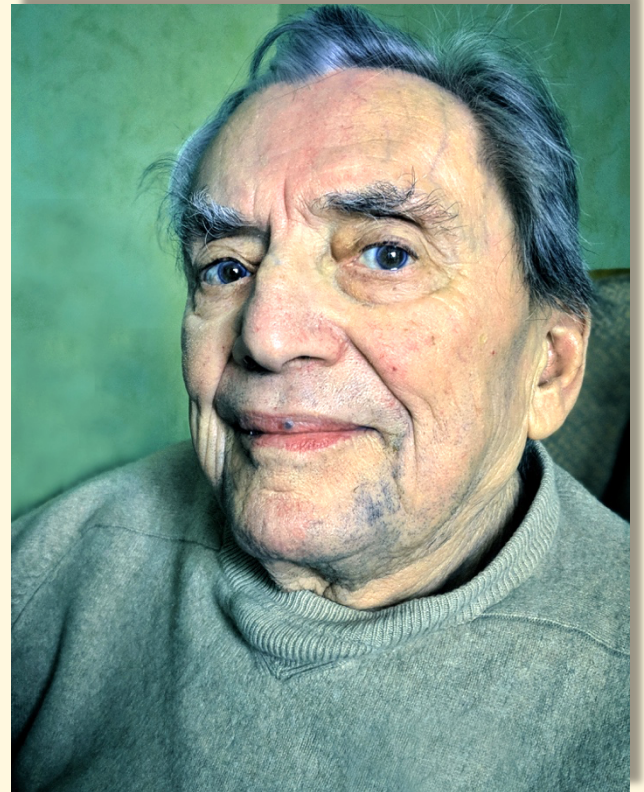
What do children do when they hear someone shooting? They fall down on the ground. I fell down, too, into the pit.

When I regained consciousness I realized that I was alive. I had not a scratch on my body. I lay still.

They began burying us but then decided to finish it the next day, and left. I crawled out of the pit full of murdered and wounded children, and ran toward the nearby forest.

I was covered in blood and very tired.

I entered a village. I went to the first house I saw. A kind Ukrainian woman took me in, washed me and fed me."



"I have lived a hard life. The effects have damaged my health. Now I am an old man who needs taking care of. I express my deep gratitude to all of you for your aid."

- Petr Semenovich (Moldova)

**"She was a stranger,
but she helped me.
She knew what I ran from,
but she asked nothing."**

Petr Semenovich passed away just after we visited him in Moldova and recorded his Holocaust testimony. In his youth he had kind strangers to help him survive, and in his old age he had you, kind strangers, who provided him with comfort and care, kindness and dignity.

Jewish families tried to escape the mass killings by railway. The trains were often bombed. But there were kind strangers who helped.

Vladimir Davidovich

"We were bombed at the Orechovo-Zuevo train station, and in the crowd and chaos I was separated from my mother. She could not find me, and I ended up wandering the world for two years. It was extremely difficult. I was cold and hungry. As for my possessions, I had a long sharp nail and a doggy, Druzhok. ["A little friend"]. I was fed by kind people passing through on military trains.

Valeria Yevgenievna

"People jumped off the train in a panic. We hid in a swamp. I still remember the smell of the rotting slime. When the air raid was over, I stayed behind because I had lost one of my little shoes in the swamp. As the train was starting to move, a woman's voice rang out, 'Whose child is this!?' She held me by the hand and would not let me go until we found my mother. G-d bless her!

We came to a station and were told we would have to wait several days for the next train. I can see it like it was yesterday - the filthy, slimy floor, crawling with lice. There were not enough benches. People had to sit on that floor.

Then some local people arrived. They invited us, dirty and hungry evacuees, to their houses. A Russian woman named Olga Petrovna (I hope she is in Heaven now!) took us in. She heated her bathhouse where we could finally wash, and treated us to a hot, homemade dinner! We had a good sleep in her clean beds.

I don't remember how long we stayed, but I do remember our emotional farewell. We hugged and cried. Olga Petrovna held me close and kissed me. Her kindness should not be forgotten."



Anna Efimovna

"From 1941 to 1944 it was very hard. Trying to escape, we suffered hunger and cold. We moved around, living with kind strangers."

- Anna Efimovna

Your kind support provides Anna with funds to heat her rooms, keeping her warm during the brutal Ukrainian winter.

At Passover, let's come together to celebrate the compassion, the humanity, and the goodness that unite us. May we realize the importance of our freedom and remember that we were once strangers in a strange land.

Please make a Passover donation for those in need of kind strangers like you.

Donate online at www.survivormitzvah.org or send a check to:

The Survivor Mitzvah Project
2658 Griffith Park Blvd., Ste. #299
Los Angeles, CA 90039

800-905-6160 survivormitzvah@gmail.com 213-622-5050

The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit public charity
100% of your donation goes directly into the hands of a Holocaust survivor in need