Characteristics of Rescuers

According to Nechama Tec, professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut and expert on the rescue of Jews during World War II, there is “a set of interdependent characteristics and conditions that Holocaust rescuers share:”

1. They don’t blend into their communities.
   This makes them less controlled by their environments and more inclined to act on their own principles.

2. They are independent people and know it.
   They do what they feel they must do, what is right, and the right thing is to help others.

3. They have a long history of doing good deeds.

4. Because they have done the right thing for a long time, it doesn’t seem extraordinary to them.
   If you consider something your duty, you do it automatically.

5. They choose to help without rational consideration.

6. They have universalistic perceptions that transcend race and ethnicity.
   They can respond to the needy and helpless because they identify with victims and injustice.