

## 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.

\*\* Taken from *Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust* by Gay Block and Malka Drucker, Holmes & Meier Publishers, 1992.