



Thanks & Giving

The Survivor Mitzvah Project's expeditions to Eastern Europe bring emergency aid to the Holocaust Survivors you are supporting. We also seek out and identify new survivors in remote towns and villages so that they too can be helped. Our video and photo archives document the history of a vanished world – the testimony of survivors, the life and death of thousands of innocent men, women, and children brutally murdered, and the burning of hundreds of towns, villages, and once vibrant Jewish Communities. We do this because soon there will be no other record that these people and places ever existed.

The Survivor Mitzvah Project's Holocaust Educational Archive is our gift to future generations of students and educators.

The homes of Jewish families that were systematically killed by the Nazis and their collaborators are rarely still standing, left just as they were the day of the mass killings. Most were quickly occupied by strangers, or have since crumbled and fallen down, the logs used as firewood by local townspeople.



photo credit: Stuart Samuel Goldberg /
The Survivor Mitzvah Project
Holocaust Educational Archive 2016

In an old settlement in what was then the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (now Belarus), we find this old hut. Even in ruins, it gives us a glimpse of the family that lived there and the life that once filled this home.

We find a bed, a coverlet, a few pots, a bread paddle, a jug, a basket, a toy, some shoes.

It's easy to imagine a cold winter night, the only warmth being the old wall stove, the children sleeping snugly on the shelf above it, lovingly wrapped in feather quilts sewn by their grandmother.

But we cannot imagine the day the killing squads came.



A local man describes the unimaginable – babies smashed against rocks and thrown into the river, mothers and children dragged out by their hair, children shot in front of their parents or thrown alive into wells, families massacred and pushed over the riverbank. We've heard these terrifying accounts before in many other locations, but that does not diminish the impact his words have on us.

We try to imagine, but we can't.

Abandoned huts, left just as they were 75 years ago when the killing squads came, stand as reminders of a world that once was, and the darkest days of human history.

There was no one to help them then.
But we can help them now.

All of the survivors in our program lived through unimaginable horrors. Many are sole survivors who made their way through life without even one person they had known before the war, without one person they once loved or who once loved them. I am thankful that we are the generation to have this opportunity to give them comfort and care.

All funds donated go directly to survivors like Elena Aronovna Zhuravel, (pictured at right), age 88, alone and in need of medication and heating fuel for the brutal winter. With your generous support and the support of other caring individuals, *The Survivor Mitzvah Project* can help Elena Aronovna and others in desperate need.



This Thanksgiving inspires a major call to action for everyone to **give thanks and to give help!**

This year the number of survivors in need has increased dramatically. Thousands of elderly men and women need us. At your Thanksgiving table, tell their stories. Reach out to family and friends and urge them to donate today.

Please put a donation envelope at each place setting at your Thanksgiving table, inviting your guests to be part of this remarkable grass roots effort to provide Holocaust Survivors with immediate aid for food, medicine, heat and shelter.

Make a special generous donation now to help the survivors who are out there waiting for us.

Compassion. Understanding. Empathy. Responsiveness.
These are the words that define everyone who participates in this urgent humanitarian effort.

“Because of you, I believe in miracles” – Valeria Yevgenievna Busygina, Bratslav, Ukraine

We are here to repair the world. Act now to stand with survivors. They need heroes.

We wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving! - *Zane Buzby*

Donate Online at survivormitzvah.org or by check:

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You can also donate to support The Survivor Mitzvah Project's Holocaust Educational Archive. The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit public charity.