

Search Yields Unexpected Joy.

Stefan Ircha spent the war years in forced labor on a German farm. His sister, Maria, and mother fled into hiding when Nazis took over their Ukrainian village. Unable to find each other at the war's end, sister and brother searched without success for years. Maria turned to the Russian Red Cross in 1989 and discovered that Stefan had immigrated to New York. The American Red Cross—through its Greater New York Chapter—located Stefan. A 52-year search ended with a joyful reunion.



A Red Cross caseworker (left) helps celebrate the reunion of siblings Maria and Stefan Ircha.

The Mission of Holocaust & War Victims Tracing Service

To help alleviate the emotional, spiritual and psychological distress of survivors and their families by providing them with humanitarian tracing, reunification and certification services, and information about missing loved ones.

The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Unity
- Universality
- Voluntary Service

For more information, contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross or visit <http://www.redcross.org/services/intl/holotracer/index.html>

Hope.
Information.
Answers.



HOLOCAUST & WAR VICTIMS TRACING SERVICE



American Red Cross

It's never too late to trace.

Days pass.

Years go by.

Yet the yearning to learn the fates of family and friends never fades for Holocaust survivors.



The Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Service uses the combined resources from a worldwide network of national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, the Magen David Adom and approximately 900 chapters throughout the United States, as well as countless museums, archives and organizations around the world.

Holocaust survivors can search—for themselves or family members—for proof of:

- internment.
- forced and slave labor.
- deportation, evacuation or dislocation from occupied regions.

For more than a decade, the American Red Cross Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center has been working with survivors and their families to bring solace, hope and, in some cases, reunion after years of heartbreak and uncertainty.

Every Answer Is a Gift.

Meyer Schwartz last saw his parents at the gates of Auschwitz. His connection with other Holocaust survivors provided support through the years; yet he still ached to know what happened to his parents. Meyer went to his local Red Cross to ask for help. After an extensive tracing effort, a caseworker met with Meyer and gently broke the news: his father had died in Dachau on March 3, 1945. The caseworker assured Meyer that the Red Cross will continue to search for information about his mother. Today, he can say prayers for his father at *Yahrzeit*.



Meyer treasures his parents' wedding portrait.

Benefits of a Red Cross Search

- **Primary source documentation**
- **Comprehensive and worldwide**
- **Free and confidential**
- **Highly skilled, knowledgeable and compassionate staff provides**
 - regular updates
 - expert translation of documents
 - sensitive delivery of information
 - emotional support

How to Initiate a Search

Contact your local Red Cross office and ask to speak to a caseworker about international family tracing. After you complete a simple form, a global search begins on your behalf.