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Mission Statement of the Shoah Foundation

To overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry
 –and the suffering they cause–
 through the educational use of the
 Foundation’s visual history testimonies

SURVIVORS OF THE
SHOAH
 VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION®

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THE NEWSLETTER OF SURVIVORS OF THE SHOAH VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION®

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A Global Vision Winter 2005

By Douglas Greenberg

Ten years ago, the Shoah Foundation set out to accomplish a daunting task: to record on video, before it was too late, 50,000 first-person accounts of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses all over the world. Today, our archive includes nearly 52,000 testimonies, almost all of which have been indexed. Using

that a society free of racial hatred is theirs to build. Here is how we help make this dream a reality.

In the United States, the entire Visual History Archive is electronically available at four major universities, and significant portions of it are already accessible in libraries, archives, and museums around the world. This year, we will further broaden access to our testimonies. Our collection is unique

Holocaust memorial, archive, and museum in the world. That agreement will eventually place electronic copies of all 52,000 testimonies in our collection at Yad Vashem for use by over two million visitors annually.

Sadly, genocide has become more, not less, frequent since World War II. Too many men, women, and children bearing witness to the horrors of the last century and this one are yearning for their stories to be told. While we will continue to produce educational products and documentary films based on our archive, we also have plans to use our expertise to support the documentation of other genocides, and to work collaboratively with organizations and individuals who collect oral and video history.

You are a much-needed partner in this effort, and with your support, the Shoah Foundation can enter this new chapter of its existence with confidence, and succeed in helping to build a less violent and more tolerant world for the future. Thank you for joining us as we begin our second decade of transformative work. ■



Douglas Greenberg
President and Chief Executive Officer

Just as the mission of the Shoah Foundation transcends national boundaries, so do we need an international commitment to implement our ideals most effectively.

a unique technology, our indexing permits users to search the archive for whole testimonies, or for specific segments of video that match their interests—as easily as they can now search a page of text. While we marvel at the significance of this achievement, we also recognize that the task ahead is monumental.

The Shoah Foundation now confronts an even greater challenge: to fight racism, to educate against prejudice, and to uphold the fundamental value of individual human dignity. In the face of international turmoil—whether racial violence, civil conflict, or genocide—in the United States or France, in Sudan or Rwanda, or dozens of other places around the world, we must embrace this challenge unconditionally and work tirelessly to defeat intolerance and bias wherever they are found.

In a sense, our work of the last ten years, though focused on the past, has built a foundation for the future. Our dream, our goal for the decade hence is that children in schools throughout the world will be able to see the face, hear the voice of a survivor, and realize

because it is international, collected in 56 countries and in 32 languages. We intend to use it to develop and distribute additional educational materials, not only in the United States and other English-speaking countries, but also in countries directly affected by the Holocaust. We have recently received funding that will permit us to move ahead with research and activity in Poland as well as in other countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Just as the mission of the Shoah Foundation transcends national boundaries, so do we need an international commitment to implement our ideals most effectively. As the scope and reach of our work broadens, we are fortunate to have as partners a growing support system of educators, librarians, scholars, and curators at institutions around the globe. These partnerships are key to our effectiveness, and we will develop them even further to accomplish together what none of us could do alone.

One such partnership led to the historic agreement the Shoah Foundation recently signed in Israel with Yad Vashem, the leading



On the Cover

List of massacres, compiled by Darfur refugees in Touloum refugee camp, Chad. The refugees are desperate to have their stories told—they want the world to know where, when, what, and who.

Since February 2003, in the context of a conflict between Sudanese government forces and rebel groups, tens of thousands of civilians have died and some 1.6 million have been driven from their homes in the Darfur region of Sudan. Government forces and militias known as “Janjaweed” have systematically targeted civilian communities that share the same ethnicity as the rebel groups, killing, looting, raping, and forcibly displacing civilians, and destroying hundreds of villages. According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 350,000 or more civilians may die over the coming months. ■

Photograph by Jerry Fowler—

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Committee on Conscience



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Getting Real About Bias

Teens find their own voice to address prejudice

You never really know how judgmental you are, until you stop being judgmental. A single experience can help you make that change. For me, it was *Giving Voice*.” A 17-year-old student from Venice, California, Roxanne participated in the filming of *Giving Voice*, the Shoah Foundation’s new educational offering. Inspired by the dynamic style of reality TV, the Shoah Foundation produced this educational project, with generous funding from Universal Home Video, to engage students in grades 9 through 12 in various activities that help them find their own voice while addressing issues of racism and intolerance.

The concept of *Giving Voice* began with the Shoah Foundation’s extensive video archive of testimony. Just as the Shoah Foundation gave Holocaust survivors and other witnesses an opportunity to give testimony, *Giving Voice* offers students an opportunity to create their own video testimony, tell their own story, and at the same time hear eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust. In the process, students are taught to make connections between history and their own lives.

“I expect people my age to have the same values, but to realize that we shared so many values with Holocaust survivors, such as the importance of family, or standing up for one’s rights—that was unbelievable!” says Roxanne’s friend Nikki, who is also featured in *Giving Voice*.



conversations on bias and racism. “A guy at school the other day was saying something was ‘gay,’ meaning it was lame,” shares Nikki. “So, I asked him why he used that word and tried to explain to him why it wasn’t right. Until I pointed it out to him, he just didn’t get it.”

“*Giving Voice* clearly shows that prejudice and intolerance are universal experiences to which all children—regardless of their background—can relate and learn to address,” says

video, weaves survivor testimonies with the video diaries of Nikki, Roxanne, and five other teenagers, and follows them through a one-day workshop as they respond to watching the testimonies, and participate in a facilitated workshop. The other, the *Survivor and Witness First-person Testimonies* video, contains seven testimonies from the Shoah Foundation’s archive that students can view with their teacher. Finally, every activity from the student work-

“To realize that we shared so many values with Holocaust survivors, such as the importance of family, or standing up for one’s rights—that was unbelievable!”

Giving Voice does more than bridge the gap between generations. By helping teenagers develop a sensitivity to stereotyping, scapegoating, prejudice, and discrimination—and allowing them to see the dangers of remaining silent in the face of injustice—it can foster genuine

Shoah Foundation President and CEO Douglas Greenberg.

Giving Voice is a comprehensive classroom “kit,” available in VHS or DVD formats, consisting of a Teacher’s Guide, and two videos. One, the *Student Video Diaries and Workshop*

shop is adapted for classroom use, and presented as an individual lesson plan in the Teacher’s Guide, allowing teachers to recreate the workshop in their own classroom.

“When we encourage students to tell their own stories, when they see their own personal

narratives as a part of history,” says Kimberly Birbrower, Shoah Foundation Director of Education, “they begin to feel a responsibility for others, they are empowered. Suddenly, children are no longer passive recipients, they don’t just feel sad or overwhelmed when they learn about the Holocaust, but they believe they can make a difference.”

Giving Voice has been available to order since the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year from the Shoah Foundation’s website



(www.vhf.org/givingvoice), and on the Films for the Humanities & Sciences website. It is already being used in schools across the country, reaching approximately 3,000 students across the United States.

“I want *Giving Voice* to be known, seen, heard,” says Nikki. “It inspired me so much. I’m really happy other kids can have the same experience I had being part of it.” Roxanne agrees with her friend: “I think about it a lot. It made me happier, more accepting of people’s differences, and taught me to fight stereotypes around me. Now, I can even tell my Mom why she shouldn’t say certain things.” ■

Left: The seven teenagers featured in Giving Voice (clockwise from top): Cameron Ducker, Adrienne Klein, Jared Schachner, Roxanne Davis, Nicole Barnes, Jesus Valdez, and Nhan Mai
Above: Nicole Barnes with The Today Show’s Katie Couric

A True Testimony to Tolerance—Communities in the United States Get Involved



The *Testimony to Tolerance Initiative* is a new program designed by the Shoah Foundation to bring anti-bias and Holocaust education—in partnership with libraries, educators, and students nationwide—to mid-sized communities in the United States.

Jackson, Mississippi and Des Moines, Iowa are the cities where this comprehen-

humanizing. Everybody in the community knows these survivors. They are an integral part of the history of our city and state,” says Jan Kaiser, Marketing Coordinator for the Des Moines Public Library. “Today, Des Moines has a large population of immigrants from Latin America, as well as refugees from Sudan, who came here to live and work. As our city becomes aware of this great diversity, your initiative has the potential for creating synergy, and a lot of people can benefit from this project.”

Delivering a collection of testimonies to the public libraries in Des Moines and Jackson is just the beginning of the *Testimony to Tolerance Initiative*. Once the collections are in place, the Shoah Foundation will conduct school outreach workshops to Jackson’s 10 middle schools and eight high schools, and to the 14 middle schools and eight high schools in Des Moines. ■



sive program begins. With funding from the Levy-Marcus Foundation and Andrea and James Gordon respectively, the public libraries in these two cities will now each host collections of videotaped testimonies given by survivors and witnesses in the Shoah Foundation archive.

“The fact that our collection features testimonies of Iowa residents is very

Above: the Des Moines Public Library. Top left: Mark Levy, with daughter Jennifer Levy and Douglas Greenberg (center) Bottom left: James and Andrea Gordon, with Steven Spielberg.

Lessons for Tolerance

New classroom tool written by teachers, for teachers

How, and why, do you choose between staying neutral and helping someone? That is a profound ethical question that Marcia Spies often asks herself. In 1943—as a child escaping the liquidation of the Lithuanian ghetto of Kovno—a Polish family of farmers chose to risk their lives to hide her. “It’s really incredible how wonderful, how humanitarian they were, to jeopardize

thinking about fairness, individual identity, and character.

Lessons for Tolerance is the direct result of a weeklong workshop for middle and high school teachers. The workshop, funded by the National Science Foundation, took place at the Shoah Foundation headquarters in Los Angeles. Selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants, the eight teachers who participated in this project came from very diverse communities, and had unique perspectives—not only

“Something profound happens to you when you watch the videotape.”

The testimonies featured in *Lessons for Tolerance* are not simply testimonies of the Holocaust. These are the stories of students and teachers, brothers and sisters, of best friends, of families, of teenagers and children; stories with themes that can be used to tackle questions that adolescents often confront in their daily lives: What defines character? How do we communicate? How tolerant are we?

Helping Teachers Through Visual History

With little time and very limited resources, today’s teachers face a myriad of challenges when engaging students in anti-bias and tolerance education. The Shoah Foundation is meeting the evolving needs of educators by providing them with a new service, through which they can request customized testimony segments on VHS tapes intended specifically for classroom use.

Sandra Milakovitch, a Holocaust Resource Consultant specializing in the Nazi

her with a videotape specifically tailored for her use, with 16 minutes (six clips) from the testimony of a Jehovah’s Witness survivor. Ten additional requests for copies of the same clips followed from Ms. Milakovitch’s colleagues, all interested in using them in their own classroom presentations in Florida, North Carolina, Illinois, Massachusetts, Arizona, Oregon, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

In addition, the same Jehovah’s Witness clip reel was used for a presentation at the teacher’s workshop *Holocaust, Law, and Human Rights* organized by the College of

testimony we selected provided an invaluable stepping stone for a discussion about the importance of making choices in life and what it means to have a clear conscience.”

“I think the words of the people who survived need to stay in our world and be passed on,” shared Jon, 14, a student at Sherrard High School, Illinois, after watching the testimony presented in his class. Sarah, a 6th grader in Walcott Intermediate School, Iowa, said: “Watching the testimony made me think that I shouldn’t be selfish and cherish what I do have, and don’t worry about what I don’t have, because they had much less...”

“It makes a tremendous difference for students to be able to see a survivor, to hear their voice. The testimony we selected provided an invaluable stepping stone for a discussion about the importance of making choices in life and what it means to have a clear conscience.”

These are the stories of students and teachers, brothers and sisters, of best friends, of families, of teenagers and children; stories with themes that can be used to tackle questions that adolescents often confront in their daily lives: What defines character? How do we communicate? How tolerant are we?

their lives, and their children’s lives, to hide a Jewish child.”

The Shoah Foundation’s mission focuses on the use of Holocaust survivor and witness testimonies as a point of departure for a broader exploration of ethics and values, encouraging today’s students to think about their own lives, choices, and actions. Based on that concept, the Foundation, with the help of classroom teachers from around the United States, created *Lessons for Tolerance*, a multidisciplinary classroom lesson that uses a reel of testimonies from the Shoah Foundation archive to stimulate critical

on the art of teaching, but on the material with which they were working.

“[This program] is a fantastic vehicle for transformation,” said Sharon Hine, who teaches 6th-8th grade Language Arts, Literature, ESL, and Literature of the Holocaust at Hammocks Middle School in Miami, Florida, and who participated in the workshop.

“I [teach] children who have never heard of Nazi Germany,” continues Ms. Hine, “and this also allows me to provide an experience that will help them understand the complexity and the scope of what happened, and how it can happen again.” ■



persecution of Jehovah’s Witnesses, works with teachers and students around the country as part of the Stand Firm Education Group. She recently requested testimony segments from the Foundation’s website for a classroom presentation titled “Conscience vs. Conformity.” The Shoah Foundation provided

Saint Elizabeth Holocaust Education Resource Center in Morristown, New Jersey.

“The story of Jehovah’s Witnesses is unique, and there are valuable lessons students can learn from it that can help them make sensible decisions regarding issues they face today. It makes a tremendous difference for students to be able to see a survivor, to hear their voice,” said Ms. Milakovitch. “The

For more information about this service, visit www.vhf.org/educationalaccess. ■

High School students in Illinois and 6th grade Language Arts students in Iowa watch the testimony of Robert Wagemann, a Jehovah’s Witness Survivor.

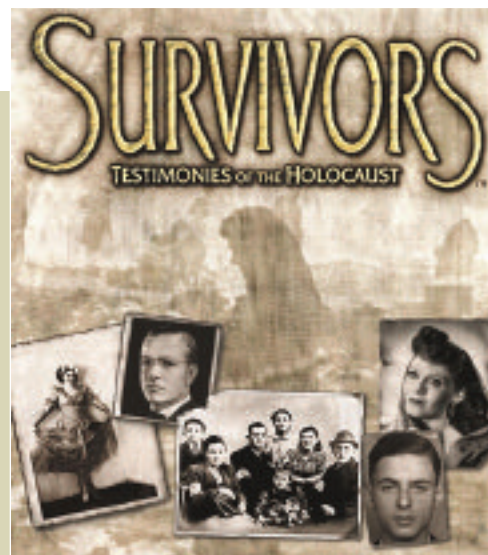
The Shoah Foundation is currently seeking funding for distribution of the *Lessons for Tolerance* classroom kit, which includes a teacher’s guide, materials for students, and testimony video segments, to schools across the United States. For more information about funding opportunities, please contact the Shoah Foundation’s Development Department at 818-866-2004.

Online Resources Available at vhf.org

As more and more students and educators turn to the web for resources, the Shoah Foundation is creating a variety of multimedia interactive exhibits on its website that meet the need for dynamic educational tools.

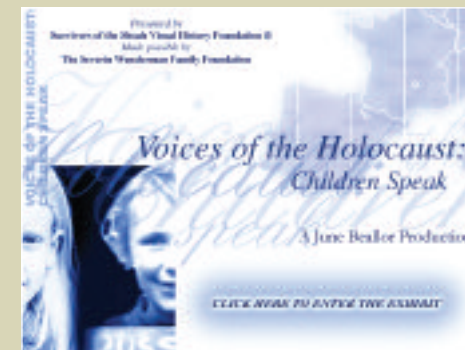
VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST: CHILDREN SPEAK, an interactive English-language web exhibit specifically tailored

for students ages 11 to 13, is now available on the Foundation's website at www.vhf.org/childrenspeak. Narrated by actors Peter Coyote, Elijah Wood, and Natalie Portman, *Children Speak* highlights the stories of four survivors who were middle-school aged children during the Holocaust, and allows students to interact



SURVIVORS: TESTIMONIES OF THE HOLOCAUST, the Shoah Foundation's award-winning educational CD-ROM, is now available as an English-language, interactive web exhibit on the Foundation's website at www.vhf.org/survivorexhibit. Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio and Winona Ryder, the exhibit features the testimonies of four Holocaust survivors born in Europe before World War II. Their video testimonies introduce students to a wealth of information on the Holocaust and World War II, and underscore the importance of tolerance in their own lives with themes that include identity, labels, and choices and consequences. Simple navigation among personal testimonies, maps, historical overviews, timelines, and glossary terms gives high school students the flexibility to learn at their own pace.

The *Survivors: Testimonies of the Holocaust* web exhibit was funded through the generosity of the Leo Rosner Foundation. ■



with them by exploring their testimonies. Archival film footage, a glossary, maps, and survivors' personal photos make the testimonies user-friendly and accessible.

Also available online are easy-to-use lesson plans geared towards a middle-school audience, and pre-designed student handouts that incorporate testimonies into lessons that focus on history, vocabulary, or geography.

Children Speak was made possible by a generous grant from the Severin Wunderman Family Foundation. ■

The Shoah Foundation is working to make its archive broadly available to students, teachers, and the general public. With that in mind, the Foundation created the **ONLINE TESTIMONY VIEWER**. Short segments of various English-language testimonies from survivors and witnesses are organized by themes such as pre-war, hiding, ghettos, or liberation and can be accessed from any computer with a high-speed internet connection. The *Online Testimony Viewer* is available at www.vhf.org/testimonyviewer. ■

The Shoah Foundation is currently seeking funding for two web exhibits that will engage students in the exploration of history through the personal narratives of eyewitnesses.

Within the Walls: Life in the Łódź Ghetto This exhibit will use testimony excerpts to chronicle the experiences of survivors of the Łódź Ghetto.

Liberators: Opening the Gates An interactive online web exhibit that will use testimony from liberators to present the unique perspective of soldiers walking into camps.

Please contact the Shoah Foundation's Development Department at 818-866-2004 about funding opportunities at various levels.

Education Funds

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation recently received a generous grant of \$25,000 from the Frederick R. Weisman Philanthropic Foundation to establish the **FREDERICK R. WEISMAN EDUCATION FUND**. The Fund will support the development and delivery of a variety of anti-bias educational programs and activities to classrooms, students, and teachers around the world.



According to Billie Milam Weisman, President of the Frederick R. Weisman Philanthropic Foundation, "The opportunity to learn about the atrocities of the Holocaust, through the testimonies the Shoah Foundation has recorded, will open the eyes and the hearts of the children who view them, and will hopefully lead to a more tolerant world." ■

With a generous \$50,000 donation from the Darivoff Family Foundation, the Shoah Foundation established the **THE MILLBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION FUND**. The Fund acknowledges the students at Millburn Middle School in Millburn, New Jersey who have taken a leadership role in paying tribute to Holocaust survivors.

The students at Millburn Middle School recently held "The Prom of Your Dreams" to honor a survivor they met in class who expressed regret at never being able to attend her own high school prom.

"The Millburn Middle School Fund at the Shoah Foundation is a fitting tribute to the remarkable teacher and students for their

thoughtful concern and desire to make certain that the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten," said Phil Darivoff, Trustee of the Darivoff Family Foundation. "We are very

"The opportunity to learn about the atrocities of the Holocaust, through the testimonies the Shoah Foundation has recorded, will open the eyes and the hearts of the children who view them, and will hopefully lead to a more tolerant world."

proud of what this extraordinary 8th grade class has done."

The Millburn Middle School Education Fund enables the Shoah Foundation to pursue a wide range of educational activities in public institutions and schools across the United States and around the world, providing them with materials and resources to explore issues related to diversity, tolerance, and multi-cultural understanding. ■

For the second year in a row, the Boeing Company funded **THE BOEING CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS EDUCATION FUND** with a \$10,000 grant. "Boeing is very proud to support the educational work of the Shoah Foundation in California," said Nancy Lurwig, Boeing's Manager of Community and Education Relations. "The Shoah Foundation's commitment to tolerance

education will help create safe, culturally diverse communities for our children to grow and thrive." ■

Marilyn and Jack Belz of Memphis, Tennessee awarded \$24,000 to the Shoah Foundation to establish **THE BELZ COLLECTION OF TESTIMONIES FROM TENNESSEE**. The Belz Collection consists of 44 testimonies from survivors and other witnesses residing in Tennessee. Their generous funding sponsors the indexing and digitizing of the testimonies, a process that gives scholars, students, and the general public immediate access to the testimonies at institutions worldwide, and enables them not only to watch them in their entirety, but also to search for specific information within the testimonies.

"The first-person testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust who came to Tennessee to rebuild their lives provide impor-



tant lessons of tolerance and perseverance. We wanted to honor the enormous contributions made by Holocaust survivors and rescuers to 'The Volunteer State.' Also," said Jack Belz, "we were extremely impressed when we toured the Shoah Foundation, and wanted to support their efforts." ■

Left: Ellen Morehead (left) and Billie Milam Weisman (right), from the Frederick R. Weisman Philanthropic Foundation, with Douglas Greenberg (center).

Above: Marilyn and Jack Belz

Educational Initiatives Around the World

RUSSIA During the 2003/2004 school year, the Shoah Foundation organized screenings of *Children from the Abyss*, the Shoah Foundation's Russian-language documentary, in the former Soviet Union. Nearly 2,500 students, educators, and community leaders across Russia attended the screenings, with more than 50% conducted in classrooms. One screening was held in Labytnangi, a town in the remote Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District in Russia, located approximately 1,200 miles northeast of Moscow and about 1,500 miles south of the North Pole. ■



HUNGARY For the first time in Hungary, Eötvös Lóránd University (ELTE) in Budapest is offering a series of five courses about the Holocaust. One of the courses, *The Holocaust Through Survivors' Testimonies*, is specifically designed to feature seven Shoah Foundation testimonies recorded in Hungary.

The student response to this curriculum is exceeding all expectations. "We have more students enrolled in this course than space available," said Ágnes Várnai, a history professor who also includes testimonies from the Shoah Foundation in her high school class, and is now using them to teach the course at ELTE. "I just did not want to send anybody

away, /.../ so we start each session by taking all the tables out of the conference room to make more space for students to sit down."

Eötvös Lóránd University is the oldest and with eight academic divisions and more than 30,000 students, the largest university in Hungary. The Department of Social Work of the Institute of Social Studies at Eötvös Lóránd University also used the testimonies in a course entitled *Racism-Antiracism* in 2003 and again in 2004. The course, designed to examine issues of prejudice and intolerance for social workers, is being offered again for a third year.

"I chose the Shoah Foundation testimonies because they are all different, and have a very powerful and striking effect on the students," says Professor Várnai. "Some of them become so confounded while watching the survivors that they have to look away and can't look at the screen. What they learn from these accounts is new for them. They hear about the Holocaust in those terms for the first time, and most of them don't know how to cope with it at first." Each class concludes with a discussion between students and a guest lecturer to further awareness and understanding of the topic. ■

Shoah Foundation Establishes the Ambassadors for Humanity Education Fund

The Ambassadors for Humanity Education Fund promotes and advances the Shoah Foundation's educational mission. Contributions to the Fund will go towards the development of

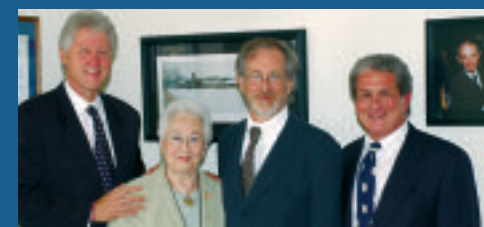
educational activities and partnerships that address cultural diversity. The Fund will also support the use of Shoah Foundation products in a variety of educational contexts to stimulate critical thinking, foster multi-cultural understanding, and counteract ignorance and hatred.

On February 17, 2005, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation will present its prestigious Ambassadors for Humanity Award to President William Jefferson Clinton. Ambassadors for

Humanity promote tolerance and social justice through social action and philanthropy. Donors of \$500 or more to the Ambassadors for Humanity Education Fund will receive a copy of this special event's Tribute Book. Please use the enclosed envelope, or call the Foundation at 818-866-2004 to make a donation. ■

Left to right: President William Jefferson Clinton, survivor Renee Firestone, Steven Spielberg, and Douglas Greenberg

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ALSO IN HUNGARY, the Haver Foundation is incorporating Hungarian testimonies into its educational programs. Haver, which means friend in both Hebrew and Hungarian, uses volunteer educators to reach out to young people by organizing and conducting open discussions to fight prejudice and misconceptions about Jews and Judaism and promote tolerance and mutual respect between people.

Luca Illy, the Foundation's Regional Consultant in Hungary, and a former classroom teacher herself, is a volunteer with the Haver Foundation and has helped to introduce the organization and students to Shoah Foundation testimonies. Since the beginning of 2004, the Haver Foundation has utilized Hungarian testimonies in a program reaching 500 students in schools in Budapest, Paks, and Szarvas. ■

ITALY The Italian Central State Archives produced a 40-minute video entitled *Gli ebrei a Roma 1938-1944* featuring excerpts of testimony from seven Italian interviewees from the Shoah Foundation archive: five survivors and two rescuers. In addition to exhibiting the reel within the Historic Museum of the Liberation of Rome, the Central State Archives also distributed the educational video to 60 schools in Rome.

Professor Lucia De Sanctis, who teaches at the Liceo Classico Platone, strongly believes that viewing testimonies enhances students' personal exploration of history. She has been using this video to teach history to high school students for more than three years.

"I had my 12th graders interview their grandparents and some of the elderly at a retirement home in Rome about discrimination during the Racial Laws," said Professor De Sanctis. The goal was to carry out the interviewing methodology they learned from viewing the Shoah Foundation testimonies. "From a striking episode of discrimination recalled by both the grandmother and the uncle of a girl in the class, the students ended up discussing the impact of Fascism on the political consciousness of different individuals. It was a fantastic outcome of the lesson."

Each year, 300 to 400 schools, or 8,000 to 10,000 students, visit the Historic Museum of the Liberation of Rome and view the video as part of an educational program administered by the Museum. ■

Left: An image from the Shoah Foundation's Russian-language documentary *Children from the Abyss*

Visual History in Polish Classrooms

Thanks to a generous \$120,000 grant from Edward Phillips, Chairman of Millennium Import, the Shoah Foundation is developing a visual history project that will distribute new educational materials to students in Poland.

"Our company has had a deep commitment to Poland since I first visited in 1993 as a prelude to our launch of Belvedere and Chopin vodka," says Eddie Phillips. "The opportunity to offer the Shoah Foundation archive of testimonies to the Polish educational curriculum strikes a special chord with me."

This grant enables the Shoah Foundation to conduct research, to begin to work with potential project partners, and to identify, with those partners, the most effective mechanism for the use of visual history testimonies in a classroom setting in Poland.

The Shoah Foundation conducted approximately 1,400 of its 52,000 interviews in Poland. An additional 12,000 interviews were conducted with survivors and witnesses born in Poland who moved to other countries after World War II. Like all the testimonies in the Foundation's archive, they capture not only the events of the

Holocaust, but the full life stories of survivors and other witnesses, including pre-war and post-war experiences.

"The Shoah Foundation's Polish testimonies describe how racism and prejudice stained Poland and the world in the mid-20th century," said Douglas Greenberg. "Visual history provides the immediacy and personalization that can make history—and the lessons that students can learn from that history—truly come alive. We are grateful to Edward Phillips for enabling the Shoah Foundation to bring Polish testimonies to classrooms in Poland." ■



Above: Edward Phillips—Chairman, Millennium Import