



## WHY?

We have been looking for a person who could become a patron of our school since the beginning of our existence, the year 1999. Our community was not unanimous - there have been plenty of candidates, they were often people from the distant past. The difficult part was to find a person who, with their life and activity, would help to shape the personality of the young generation in the way we expect.

In the beginning of 2007 we came to the conclusion that our potential patron should be a person going by the values important also in the XXI century. We thought they should be: tolerance, will to help victims and the ones in need, belief in everybody's inner good, nonconformity in fighting the evil.

We prove with our activities that those values are very important to our community. Since 2004 we have taken part in "Distant Adoption" programme. Every year new-coming freshmen adopt one child or continue taking care of the ones previously adopted by the graduates. With the collected money their African peer gets the possibility of education and the chance of successful future life (more information [www.gimnazjum-toszek.edupage.org/text9](http://www.gimnazjum-toszek.edupage.org/text9)) Apart from above mentioned activities our students have joined charity actions such as "Mountain of Gosh", money collection organized by WOŚP (more information <http://gimnazjum-toszek.edupage.org/text/?text=teachers/92&subpage=6&>) or material help for Children's Home nr 2 in Bytom. It is important to mention occasional presentations of our students in Social Help Home in Wiśnicze (more information <http://gimnazjum-toszek.edupage.org/text/?text=text/text3&subpage=0&>) or Łubie., as well as taking care of the Jewish cemetery in Toszek, "re-discovered" by our students, teachers and volunteers (more information <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/toszek.html>).

After having read the biography of Irena Sendler, a silent heroine of WWII, we decided that she would be a perfect model to our teenagers, as her attitude is a proof of values considered by our school priority.

It was followed by creating in our school a group of teachers to prepare and introduce activities in order to name our school after the proposed patron.

According to the agreed plan we have been informing our students about our patron. M.A. Karina Ociepka has given a multimedia lecture to all years. The biography of Irena Sendler has also been published in a parish newspaper and in "Kurier Toszecki". Moreover, we have got a positive opinion of the school community - Parents' Council and Students' Authority. Teachers' Council have also agreed with that candidate in a referendum.

A beautiful accent considering our plans was the teachers' and students' visit at Irena Sendler's in Warsaw in May 2007. During the meeting the students gave Mrs Sendler a giant card with all the students' and teachers' signatures. Mrs Sendler was very moved with the meeting as well as our plans of. She expressed her regret that she will not be able to come to Toszek because of her age.

*"...After having visited the school from the cellar to the attic and parish priest Rother lecture, in which he welcomed evangelic students in the new catholic school and he expressed hope, that even in the new building there will be religious peace..."*

The above mentioned excerpt from the school chronicle from 1911, perfectly shows the values kept in our school since its beginning which are still valid. In the document sent to the chairman of the Town Council Mr Marcin Kwaśniok (November 2007) we have written:

*Dear Sir,*

*We would like to ask you for enacting a resolution giving our school a patron - a great Pole, great patriot and a great human. Achievements of Mrs Irena Sendler prove that even in the darkest times one can guard humanistic values. That belief is in our opinion one of the most important elements a school should equip a student with by means of education.*

*Giving our school the name of Irena Sendler will for ever commemorate her achievements, and will give a proper point of reference in the moral matters.*

*In three years time our school will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence. Giving the Secondary School in Toszek the name of Irena Sendler we will make the history come round, especially in moral and ethical matters. Very few people know that since the beginning of the activity, our school have been educating children of various nationalities and creeds. It was only stopped for a short period of time, during WWII and the communism.*

*We could say that school in Toszek 100 years ago was practicing so strongly emphasized in the UE attachment to tolerance and respect to other people beliefs. Today – via our actions – we would like to come back to the origins of our school in Toszek.*

Mariusz Podbrożny, Izabela Kusz– luty 2008

*(Tłumaczenie: Ewa Zajac)*