Nevejean, Yvonne

(d. 1987), Belgian who rescued Jewish children during the Holocaust. Nevejean chaired the National Agency for Children (*Oeuvre Nationale de l'Enfance,* ONE): an organization, sponsored by the Belgian government-in-exile, that managed children's homes throughout Belgium. In 1965 she was designated as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.

The Nazis began to deport Belgian Jews in the summer of 1942. At that time Nevejean was contacted by Belgium's main Jewish underground organization, the Committee for the Protection of Jews in Belgium, and asked to rescue Jewish children separated from their parents. Nevejean did not consult her board of directors; she immediately agreed to place children, through ONE, with families and in institutions. Ultimately, she saved the lives of 4,000 Jewish children, nicknamed "Yvonne's children."

The Jewish underground financed Nevejean's extensive rescue operation, but when their funds were not sufficient, Nevejean found funding from banks and from the London-based Belgian government-in-exile. The Gestapo tried to undo Nevejean's good works, and arrested some rescuers and rescuees. However, it was generally unsuccessful due to the brave stand made by Nevejean and other Belgians, such as the Queen Mother Elizabeth and Leon Platteau of the Belgian Ministry of Justice, also designated "Righteous Among The Nations" by Yad Vashem.