



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement Regarding the Passing of Miep Gies from the
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center**

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is deeply saddened by the passing of Miep Gies, an inspirational icon of humanity and decency during one of the darkest chapters in history.

Without hesitation, and at great personal risk, Gies helped to shelter Anne Frank, her father, mother, older sister, and four other Dutch Jews for 25 months in the now famous secret annex in Amsterdam. Her legacy serves as an essential reminder of a righteous minority that defied Nazi tyranny amid unimaginably difficult circumstances.

Gies' selfless courage and boundless compassion reaffirm the indelible truth that each person, through his or her actions, has the power to change our world for the better. May her memory serve as a blessing.

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Likely the last international institution of its kind built with the active participation of Holocaust survivors, the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is the largest facility in the Midwest dedicated to preserving the memories of those lost in the Holocaust and to teaching current generations to fight hatred, indifference and genocide in today's world.

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