# 2020 HELP US HELP ANNUAL REPORT



#### **2020 Charity Information**

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### A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



As *Help Us Help* approaches nearly 30 years of working in Ukraine, my heart is full. Watching the organization grow and change throughout its many chapters, and getting to know many of the people we impacted personally, has been my great honour.

As you will read throughout this report, the last year has been challenging for many. However, *Help Us Help* has persevered, pivoted and continued to do important work supporting the vulnerable in Ukraine while also growing and expanding as an organization.

I am very grateful to Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, the new Chair of the *Help Us Help* Board of Directors, for joining the organization and leading it as we embark on new challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Bountrogianni to Help Us Help. Together we are stronger and will continue to grow our impact in Canada and Ukraine.

With love, Ruslana Wrzesnewskyj



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

The Help Us Help Board of Directors experienced many changes over the last year. I was honoured to vulnerable children and veterans in Ukraine be elected Chair by my fellow directors last September, building on the excellent foundation that Ruslana Wrzesnewskyj laid. I'm proud to work alongside twelve incredibly talented individuals who will guide Help Us Help as it continues to grow and adapt in the coming years.

Please allow me to introduce myself and the journey that has led me to Chair the Help Us Help Board of Directors. As the Chief Psychologist for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board I was driven by my desire to help children. As a former Ontario Cabinet Minister, I held a number of different portfolios that allowed me to further fulfill this passion. These included: Intergovernmental Affairs, Democratic Renewal, Children and Youth Services, and Citizenship and Immigration. While in office, I authored and oversaw the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act from conception to royal assent, which established Ontario as a world leader in accessibility. My experiences served me well in my collaboration with the Ombudsman for Children in Ukraine at the Office of the President, Ukraine's former President's office, various disability associations, and the media in Kyiv. Together, we brought attention to the desperate need for support for children with disabilities in Ukraine, and our work culminated in laws in Ukraine changing.

As the former Dean of The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University, I fundraised for and supported entrepreneurial Ukrainian youth in attending Ryerson's incubator to help enhance their businesses in Ukraine. I also previously served as a member of the Democracy Study Advisory Council in Kyiv that supports European students in learning, through fellowships, about Ukraine's history. But the most humbling experience I have ever had in Ukraine was attending the anniversary of Babyn Yar in Kyiv as a guest of the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter. Through these experiences, I continue to want to use my expertise to help children and veterans in Ukraine, and, in turn, Chair this dynamic organization.

Our Board of Directors continues to prioritize the health and safety of our community including our beneficiaries, volunteers, and staff. As such, since the announcement of the global pandemic in March 2020, Help Us Help has made the difficult decision to cancel all of our in-person marquee programs until it is safe, for everyone involved, to interact together once again.

Our efforts have been focused on helping navigate this difficult time of global uncertainty through the safest means possible. Alternative initiatives were designed to address both a shortage of basic life necessities and to address some of the mental health stressors that individuals are facing in isolation. These include Help Us Help's:

- Online Seminar Series for our past and present scholarship students;
- Online Buddy Program between our past and present scholarship students and Help Us Help volunteers in Canada and the USA;
- Online Support Groups and Mobile Support Services for veterans and their families;
- The COVID-19 Children's Relief Initiative in partnership with the Canada Ukraine Foundation and in cooperation with the *Ukrainian Canadian* Congress, Meest Corporation Inc. and Mykola Kuleba, the Ombudsman for Children with the President of Ukraine;
- The "Spirit of an Unusual Christmas" Winter Camp Replacement Program.

As the pandemic continues, we continue to adapt our programming to best serve the needs of vulnerable children and veterans in Ukraine. Details of all of these timely and important initiatives can be found throughout this report.

None of our work would be possible without the generosity of our Help Us Help community. I sincerely hope that once we are all vaccinated and this pandemic is behind us, I will have the opportunity to meet many of you in person. In the meantime, please accept my heartfelt thanks for all of your help over the years. Our work continues and we continue to ask for your support of our ongoing initiatives.

Stay safe and keep well.

With gratitude,

Dr. Marie Bountrogianni Chair, Help Us Help





### **OUR VISION**

Our organization aspires to be the trusted charity of choice for individuals in Canada and abroad who are passionate about delivering Ukraine humanitarian aid and education to ensure a prosperous future. We aim to deliver our donors consistent returns in the form of improvements in the state of Ukraine's humanitarian affairs and to build awareness in Canada. We envision a Ukraine free from institutionalized children, free from the wounds of war, and free to develop its own path to prosperity. In Canada, we envision a strong and prosperous multicultural federation that is committed to strengthening the future of a great country in need.\*

### **OUR MISSION**

We provide the tools and training that allow disadvantaged children to realize their dreams; that allow war-torn families to live their lives free of scars; that afford war-affected soldiers the opportunity to again become fully contributing members of society. Our camps for disadvantaged children and rehabilitation sessions for war-affected families and soldiers are run jointly by Canadians and Ukrainians to allow the bilateral transfer of skills, knowledge, and experience, and to strengthen the historical bonds between our nations.\*

### **OUR VALUES**

**Courage and Compassion**: The courage to shape a better future through compassion **Leadership and Learning:** Leading assertively and respectfully, with an everlasting thirst for development

**Adventure and Accountability**: Seeking growth through adventure and remaining ultimately accountable.\*

### ABOUT HELP US HELP

Founded in 1993, *Help Us Help* (formerly known as Dopomoha Ukraini – Aid Ukraine) is a federally registered Canadian charitable organization, focused on humanitarian aid and educational projects in Ukraine and in Canada. In the 25 years since being founded, the organization has delivered more than \$25 million dollars in charitable aid to projects and organizations engaged in the areas of humanitarian aid, education, literacy, arts and culture, social work, civil society, and more.

In response to the consequences of the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity, Euromaidan, Help Us Help expanded its charitable initiatives to include humanitarian support to the victims of the conflict. The organization is committed to raising awareness through education in Canada and in supporting Ukraine's democratic development as the country looks to rebuild a brighter future.

Our cornerstone projects include Help Us Help: Children, Scholars and Veterans

### **OUR PEOPLE**

Help Us Help continues to rely on donors and the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, from camp counsellors to members of the Board of Directors. As the organization is poised to scale up and to expand into more areas of help for the vulnerable in Ukraine, administrative staff have been employed in Canada and in Ukraine to facilitate charitable work.

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### **OUR CORNERSTONE PROJECTS**

### **CHILDREN**

Help Us Help is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children living in orphanages in Ukraine, as well as children disadvantaged and displaced as a result of the ongoing military conflict in Ukraine. This project provides orphaned children and those deprived of parental care with immediate aid and ongoing support. Our mission is to improve their quality of life and health and create opportunities that allow them to realize their potential. We provide tools that can be taught and learned, but have also created a strong network of support and guidance – a notion of belonging to our extended Help Us Help family.



### **SCHOLARS**

The Scholars Program helps orphaned children obtain post-secondary education in Ukraine. The program eases the financial burden for students and organizes leadership and life-skills workshops to assist in their development. Our selection committee nominates camp attendees based on leadership, scholastic merit, extracurricular activities, and their commitment to a positive lifestyle. During their time in the program, scholarship students annually attend Help Us Help's Summer and Winter camps and play a mentorship role to younger children on a similar life path



### **VETERANS**

The Return/Повернення is a project that provides reorientation, adaptation, and reintegration programs for Ukrainian combat veterans and their families. This project is aimed at mitigating the negative impact that a veteran's return from military conflict can have on the veteran and his/her family through psychological training, direct support, and post-combat humanitarian assistance. The focus of this project is not only on the returning veterans, but importantly involves the spouses and families of those veterans in Ukraine.



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### 2019-2020



Ruslana Wrzesnewskyj - Founder and Honorary Chair



Mr. John Moskalyk



Ms. Petra Wrzesnewskij-Cottrell



Potichnyj



Mr. Mark Keller



Mr. Danylo Spolsky

### 2020-2021



Dr. Marie Bountrogianni Gregory Ciupka - Chair



- Treasurer



Dr. Paul Slavchenko - Secretary



Ms. Petra Wrzesnewskij-Cottrell



Ms. Kadie Ward



Mr. John Moskalyk



Ms. Tamara **Bolotenko** 



Mr. Marco Jacuta



Mr. Andrew Potichnyj



Mr. Eugene Honcharuk



Ms. Leah Temetry-Lord



Mr. Mark Keller



Ms. Oksana Smerechuk

### **OUR STAFF**

### **HUH STAFF - CANADIAN OFFICE**



Krystina Waler Interim Executive Director. Help Us Help



Tanya Bednarczyk Country Director in Ukraine, Senior Program Coordinator, Help Us Help



Anka Wrzesnewskyj Help Us Help



Kira Antonyshyn Communications & Development Officer, Help Us Help krystina@helpushelp.charity tanya@helpushelp.charity anka@helpushelp.charity kira@helpushelp.charity

### **HUH UA STAFF - AGENCY IN UKRAINE\***



Viacheslav Povsha - Executive Director



**Ihor Paterus** - Program Assistant



### SUMMER INTERN YOUTH

In the Summer of 2020, Help Us Help received a grant to hire two qualified summer youth, Taisa Mysakowec and Dana Salvador, through the Canada Summer Jobs program.



C.S.J. Help Us Help



Dana Salvador Public Relations Officer, C.S.J. Help Us Help





### **2020 VOLUNTEERS**

Adrian Sochaniwsky Adriana Erdman Alexa Chartchenko Alexa Pavliyuk Alina Bobovka Alina Hiba Alla Daschko Alyssa Martschenko Anastasia Kovalyova Anastasiya Hevko Anatoli Martchenko Andrew Blysniuk Andrew Paranczuk Andrew Potichnyi Anka Wrzesnewskyj-Cottrell Anna Kobylansky Anton Ruzycky Anya Demyanko Anya Kobe Anya Kobylansky Ari Silecky Arika Gula Artem Rudyj Asya Shevtsova Ben Dunn Borys Brodziuk Cassian Soltykewych Dana Salvador Daniel Dmytriv-Stelmach Danusia Wysochanskyj Danylo Centore Danylo Dutka Danylo Grod Danylo Spolsky Daria Pavlovska Diana Derhak Diana Lysenko Dmitro Kolos Dmytro Dutka Emmy Lebed Eugene Honcharuk Greg Homick Gregory Ciupka Ian Ihnatowycz Igor Paterus Igor Shafran Iryna Hluschenko Jack Evans Jared Zamzow Jillian Higgins John Chepesiuk

John W. Moskalyk

Kadie Ward

Kaitlyn Dryden Karina Silyutina Kieran Quinlan Kira Antonyshyn Konstantine Zhadan Kristina Headington Kristina Horton Krystina Waler Kyla Pyndiura Lana Slezic Larisa Hayduk Larysa Campbell Lera Shmeliova Leah Temerty-Lord Lesia Potichna Liam Schalomon Lilijana Potoczny Liliya Ozyuma Lisa Komorowsky Luba Maslej Lubov Skoreska Luka Dacshko Maksym Levytsky Marianne Szczuryk Marie Bountrogianni Marc Marzotto Marco Jacuta Mariya Haponenko Mariya Stasyuk Mark Keller Markian Waler Marnie Howlett Marta Czurylowicz Marta Masnyj Marta Proctor Martin Lebed Mattay Dubczak Max Rabtsun Maxym Dubczak Maxym Kobylansky Misha Samofalov Misha Skrum Myroslava Lutski Myroslava Romaniyuk Nadia Obuhivska Natalia Aleksyeyenko Natalia Hawrylak Natalia Kasiuk Nathan Pyndiura Naya Koby Nika Ruzycky

Oksana Tomaszewsky Oleh Gula Oleh Lutski Oleh Pawlyshyn Oleh Shapoval Oleksa Mojsiak Oleksandr Hnatenko Oresta Masnyi Paul Slavchenko Petra Wrzesnewskyj-Cottrell Raissa Dzulynsky Robert Beniak Roma Dubczak Roman Dubczak Roman Grod Roman Kalyniuk Ruslana Wrzysnewskyj Snizhana Gavryliuk Sofia Marushak-Love Sofia Semyon Sophia Holowaty Stepan Pekar Stepan Vovk Steph Turenko Tahir Stoyko Taisa Mysakowec Tamara Bolotenko Tanya Bednarczyk Tanya Pudlyk Tatianna McHardy-Metanczuk Tatiana Tonkovich Taras Mintenko Tereniya Kuzma

Teresa McHardy

Teresa Zenkovich

Uliana Bilash

Vika Redkina

Ustyna Hrytsiv

Valeri Chobotar

Viacheslav Povsha

Viktoria Kabynets

Volodymyr Baraluk

Volodymyr Chobotar

Volodymyr Stepanov

Yara Wrzesnewskyj- Cottrell

Vittorio Masellis

Wasyl Mudryk

Yulia Chek

Yura Melko

Yura Rafaliuk

Yura Vasilkevych

Zoriana Pentsak

Tetiana Fedchyshyn





### **THANK YOU!**

Oksana Hrycyna

Oksana Smerechuk

### **CHILDREN**

### WINTER CAMP 2020

**JANUARY 2 - 11** 

Help Us Help's 16th Annual Winter Camp "Christmas Spirit in the Carpathians" took place from January 2nd to 11th, 2020 in Vorokhta, Ivano-Frankivsk region, in Western Ukraine.

Help Us Help welcomed 92 orphaned and underprivileged children from four corners of Ukraine. 81 children came from 16 orphanages and 11 were children of ATO soldiers and veterans. Amongst our volunteers were 8 current and 5 past scholarship students! These students, who had once participated as children at our camps, learned the value of giving back by volunteering as camp counsellors and workshop leaders. They, along with our other staff and volunteers, provided a safe learning environment and a magical atmosphere for all the children.



Thanks to our generous sponsors, the *Bukovel Ski Resort*, the children at our Winter Camp 2020 learned to ski and snowboard in the largest state-of-the-art ski resort in Ukraine! Many of our campers experienced the following activities and traditions for the very first time: Ukrainian Christmas, carolling, skiing and snowboarding, Malanka, and a variety of traditional workshops!







# CHILDREN VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP

32 residential institutions across Ukraine participated in HUH Online Summer Camp 2020!

The Help Us Help Team worked day and night to develop a fun, action-packed ten-day Online Summer Camp schedule; the theme was "**The** 

**Carpathian Dream"**. Throughout the week campers of all ages indulged in a wide variety of online activities which included morning movements, themed crafts, campfire sing-a-longs and much more.



### SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLANGE



To keep our community engaged and share priceless memories with each other, *Help Us Help* held social media challenges over the course of several months. Present and past volunteers and program participants shared many of their favourite memories of *Help Us Help* with each other, making each of us feel a little less alone during quarantine.

### **BABY CARE INITIATIVE**

Help Us Help conducted a pilot project over the last couple of years which was officially accepted as a part of Help Us Help's "Children" cornerstone project in 2020! "The Baby Care Initiative" provides Help Us Help past and present program participants, who are now new parents, with basic and essential items for newborns and infants. Our team in Canada prepares parcels full of lightly used and new donated items that are sent to deserving families in Ukraine. The Baby Boxes are full of resources for the new arrivals and their parents, who have experienced hardship themselves. Throughout 2020, Help Us Help prepared and shipped **38 baby boxes**. Help Us Help's primary goal is to help these new families remain together by giving them basic necessities and one fewer things to worry about!

### **SCHOLARS**

### In the 2019 - 2020 school year we had the pleasure of supporting 27 students in their studies

Eugene Babenko
Vladyslava Babych
Kateryna Bakumenko
Alina Bobkova
Vlad Derelo
Anastasia Hevko
Olekandr Hlibka
Vladyslav Hryshko
Alina Hiba

Oleksandr Korchevsky Solomiya Kravets Stanislav Lavoshnyk Natalia Liutak Dariia Lozheshnikova Mykola Matsuta Marta-Beata Papa Stepan Pekar Yevhen Petryk Dmytro Ratushnyak Ruslana Roy Mykhailo Samofalov Volodymyr Shevchuk Volodymyr Stepanov Oleh Turkov Ivanna Vytvytska Yevhen Yaremych Oleksandr Zhyltsov

#### In 2020, we welcomed 10 new students to join the 23 continuing:

#### There were a total of 33 students in the 2020 - 2021 school year

Eugene Babenko
Vladyslava Babych
Kateryna Bakumenko
Alina Bobkova
Vitaliy Brahanets
Vlad Derelo
Anastasia Hevko
Oleksandr Hlibka
Vladyslav Hryshko
Alina Hiba
Tetyana Korol

Daryna Kovalyova
Maryna Kovalyuk
Solomiya Kravets
Lazar Kuznetsov
Gregory Kuznetzov
Stanislav Lavoshnyk
Daria Lozheshnikova
Mykola Matsuta
Kyrylo Nevdoha
Marta-Beata Papa
Piotr Papa

Stepan Pekar
Tetyana Pereveznetsva
Dmytro Ratushnyak
Ruslana Roy
Misha Samofalov
Volodymyr Shevchuk
Volodymyr Stepanov
Oleh Turkov
Ivanna Vytvytska
Tetiana Zhyvchuk
Anna-Maria Kosaryeva



### SCHOLARS ONLINE SEMINARS

In total, *Help Us Help* hosted **11 online seminars** over three weeks with participants that were enthused and engaged with the speakers. As part of leadership training, current scholarship students were given an opportunity to act as the "moderator" during the online seminar series. They introduced the topic of the seminar and speaker, as well as fielded questions from participants. Several of the online seminars were interactive and focused on **team-work** and **communication**. During these seminars, break-out rooms were created and smaller teams would discuss the question that was posed to them. The participants enjoyed the team-building and the opportunity to interact on a more personal level with each other at a time where they were feeling very isolated from the world.

### **SEMINAR TOPICS**

- **HEALTH & WELLNESS -** staying positive in a pandemic
- JOB SEARCHING & CAREER GUIDANCE "how to"
- **PSYCHOTHERAPY** how to navigate a pandemic
- **VOLUNTEERISM** community engagement
- BUSINESS online sales, creating your own business
- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE -** importance of languages
- **CRITICAL THINKING** in a pandemic
- **POSITIVE THINKING** the key to being successful
- MENTAL HEALTH emotional intelligence
- WORK & TRAVEL experiences of a HUH alumni
- **SPEAKING** self-expression and public speaking

Other online seminar examples include: "What you need to know about COVID-19" with Dr. Fedir Lapiy and "Stress management and psychological support during a pandemic" with Tetiana Sirenko



### THE BUDDY PROGRAM

Launched May 2020, in response to the restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, *Help Us Help's*Buddy Program was developed in an effort to provide a **reliable point of social connection** during "social isolation". In 2020, the Buddy Program involved **42** of the charity's **past and present scholarship students** from Ukraine and **32 Help Us Help volunteers** from across North America.



# VETERANS MOBILE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Mobile Support Services for veterans is a professional support team composed of a psychologist, a lawyer, and a case manager who travel to remote areas in the Kyiv Oblast to provide the veterans with psychological, legal, case management and employment support. This development allows support services for veterans and their families who cannot physically travel or who live in remote areas in the Kyiv Oblast.



In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, *Help Us Help*, in partnership with **IREX in Ukraine** and **Veteran Hub** Kyiv, started the Mobile Veteran Support Office project

**Stage one:** Assessing the needs and living conditions of the veterans as well as providing them with information about opportunities available through this program



**Stage three:** 8 months of consistent delivery of personalized support and community building activities.

To date, through incredible support of our donors, *Help Us Help* has been able to help fund two mobile support units.





Each program is run jointly by *Help Us Help*, the Ukrainian Public Union of Veterans, Pobratymy, and the Veteran Hub in Ukraine.







### **COVID-19 CHILDREN'S RELIEF**

**JUNE 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021** 

ZHYTOMYR, UKRAINE ЖИТОМИР, УКРАЇНА

At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus, thousands of children across Ukraine were sent from residential institutions and orphanages to their biological families. In the Zhytomyr region - a pilot region for DeInstitutionalization Reforms - 1,916 children returned home to their families for quarantine. Monitoring revealed that hundreds of families were living in difficult circumstances and did not have enough food nor proper hygiene supplies for all members of their households.



To address the needs revealed by the monitoring, *Help Us Help*, the Canada-Ukraine Foundation, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Meest Inc., together with the Ombudsman for Children's Rights with the President of Ukraine, launched the COVID-19 Children's Relief Initiative to support the most vulnerable families in the Zhytomyr region. The purpose of this initiative was to provide the necessary support to ensure the safe transition of the children back into their biological families during the pandemic. It was our ultimate hope that these children would remain safely with their families forever.







### **COVID-19 CHILDREN'S RELIEF**

**JUNE 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021** 

ZHYTOMYR, UKRAINE ЖИТОМИР, УКРАЇНА

From June 2020 to February 2021, *Meest Corporation Inc.* procured the contents of the kits through Ukrainian suppliers, assembled the kits, and completed **10 large deliveries** to the Zhytomyr Regional State Administration. We worked with the Zhytomyr Regional center of social services for families with children and youth to coordinate the distribution of the food and hygiene kits and to help oversee the social workers in their home visits. **500 food kits** and **500 hygiene kits** weighing a total of **21,500 kg** were then delivered by social workers to families in-need. The social workers provided invaluable insights into what kind of social and material support was necessary to make certain the children were properly cared for during this time. **265 families with 703 children** (including 135 with disabilities) received assistance through the COVID-19 Children's Relief Initiative. Notably, as of March 1st 2021, after the termination of the initiative, **147 children** assisted by the COVID-19 Children's Relief initiative remain at home with their biological families and out of institutional care.





### A HUGE THANK YOU TO MEEST CORPORATION INC.

Throughout the years *Help Us Help* has been so fortunate to constantly be able to rely on *Meest Corporation Inc.* as a trusted partner.

The success of many of our programs would not have been possible without the reliable and steadfast support of *Meest*. Thank you!



### **HUMANITARIAN AID DELIVERIES**

Throughout the pandemic, Help Us Help received many requests for aid. As we had a collection of items that had been donated before the onset of the pandemic, we were able to provide much-needed supplies to many families across Ukraine.

With the help of Meest Corporation Inc., in both Canada and Ukraine, a trusted and reliable partner for many years, volunteers, as well as staff, Help Us Help and Help Us Help - UA (previously known as Nove Pokolinnya) provided humanitarian aid for vulnerable populations in Ukraine.

In total, 1,851 kilograms of boxes were provided for 33 families from the Sviatohirsk, Zhytomyr, Odessa, and Vorokhta regions. Help Us Help UA volunteers prepared parcels of new maternity clothing for expecting mothers living in women and children's shelters in Ivano-Frankivsk, Western Ukraine. 479 kilograms were transferred to the Cáritas-Spes, who look after parents and families in the Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia regions. In addition, Help Us Help prepared and sent parcels to **15 residential institutions** and children's homes across Ukraine. Help Us Help was also able to prepare individualized packages that were sent to families of Ukrainian veterans.













### **FUNDRAISERS**

### **MOVE-A-THON 2020**

**AUGUST 7TH - SEPTEMBER 7TH 2020** 



In the Summer of 2020, *Help Us Help* hosted its first ever Independent Move-A-Thon! Twenty-two community members raised funds for various *Help Us Help* projects by participating in activities such as swimming, cycling, hiking and running. Together, the participants raised **\$40,799** in support of various Help Us Help Projects









Andrew Potichnyj Jack Evans Roman Grod Maxym Dubczak Mattay Dubczak Oleksa Mojsiak Dmytro Dutka Anton Ruzycky Luka Dacshko Adriana Erdman Raissa Dzulynsky Kira Antonyshyn Kyla Pyndiura Ruslana Wrzesnewskyj Krystina Waler Danylo Spolsky Daniel Dmytriv-Stelmach Lisa Komorowsky Natalia Hawrylak Jillian Higgins









### **FUNDRAISERS**

### **MOVE-A-THON 2020**











#### THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!

#### TRIODA CONCERT

In February, Ukrainian X-Factor winners **Trioda,** generously offered to donate the proceeds of their Toronto concert to Повернення / The Return: A Psychological Re-Integration / Adaptation Program for Ukrainian Veterans and their Families Thank you to our event organizers, partners, and sponsors: Ania Jacyniak, Zvuk Sound/Lighting, Moloko, Golden Lion Restaurant and Bar, Loud Mouse Studios, and Meest Corporation Inc..



## FUNDRAISERS CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

In November, *Help Us Help* held a Christmas card design competition

"Christmas Through the Eyes of a

**Child"** for children who usually attend our camps. After receiving over **150** entries from children in residential institutions and our scholars, eight winning designs, displayed below, were selected and printed in North America. Winners were rewarded with Canadian apparel and a pizza party for them and their classmates.



### **RUNNING ROOM - ALBERTA**



In February, a team of volunteers from Edmonton, Alberta organized by Jillian Higgins, set out to run a Hypothermic Half Marathon in support of *Help Us Help*. In partnership with Running Room in Edmonton, two Hypothermic Half Marathons were held on February 2 and 16th with over 800 runners participating. Door prizes were graciously provided by Century Hospitality and High Horse Coffee Company! All proceeds raised from both runs went towards *Help us Help*!

### **TOQUE SALES**

Profits from the "Slava Ukraini" toque sales supported our Veterans' Program in Ukraine!



### **ACHIEVEMENTS 2020**

#### TEMERTY ENDOWMENT FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

Help Us Help (HUH) announced that the Temerty Foundation, established by James and Louise Temerty, donated and pledged a total of \$10 million, of which \$9 million will be used for permanent investments in the Temerty Endowment Fund and \$1 million being available to provide medium-term funding to develop the organization's infrastructure. Income earned on the Endowment will be used for administering anti-human trafficking initiatives, humanitarian aid, mental health supports and life-skills development and educational workshops delivered primarily to children in Ukraine.

Children who grow up in residential institutions or orphanages in Ukraine are more likely to end up being human-trafficked or incarcerated than those raised in a traditional family setting. *Help Us Help* provides these vulnerable children with a sense of community and family within the organization.



"We have long supported *Help Us Help* and the meaningful work that they do," said Leah Temerty-Lord, Temerty Foundation Managing Director. "It is our hope that this gift will allow the organization to continue helping vulnerable populations in Ukraine for years to come."

HUH has helped over **12,000 children** from dozens of cities across Ukraine at their Summer and Winter Camps, over **400 children** have benefitted from the Scholarship Program and over **500 veterans** and their families have received support from the organization. This generous endowment will allow the organization to increase its impact and the number of individuals helped. "The generosity of the Temerty Family is aweinspiring," said Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, HUH Chair. "On behalf of the Help Us Help Board of Directors, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Temerty Foundation for this incredible gift that will help so many at-risk families and individuals who have nowhere else to turn for support and assistance."

"This gift is an exciting milestone for *Help Us Help* and is the start of a new era", said Ruslana Wrzesnewskyj, HUH Founder and Honorary Chair. "It will afford the organization the opportunity to have an even further reach and help more vulnerable people".

As *Help Us Help* continues to expand its programming, the organization will continue annual fundraising efforts.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS 2020**

### **WINTER CAMP 2021 GRANT**

Help Us Help's Winter Camp 2021 Replacement Program was partially funded by a \$10,000 grant from an organization that prefers to remain anonymous. The grant supported humanitarian aid delivery to residential institutions and orphanages that Help Us Help typically partners with for its Summer and Winter Camps. The grant additionally supported the printing and distribution of a workbook-storybook for the children living in these institutions, that was created by our Help Us Help Scholars. Learn more about Winter Camp 2021 Replacement Program through our website: https://helpushelp.charity/children



### **CANADA SUMMER JOBS GRANT**

As mentioned previously, *Help Us Help* was thrilled to receive a Canada Summer Jobs grant in order to hire two youth for the Summer of 2020. Grants such as this allow for youth to gain real world work experience and for organizations like ours to help more vulnerable people. Thank you to the Canadian Government for this opportunity.



### **CELEBRATING OUR DONORS**

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