

2018 Via Bona Philanthropy Awards Finalists

Patron Category

Libor Malý

Helping Czechs in debt and promoting a new “giving economy”

After Libor Malý sold his successful business, which operated the job search websites Jobs.cz and Práce.cz, he devoted some time to his own spiritual development. When he was ready to reengage in society, he began implementing and supporting non-profit projects and organizations that are striving for global, society-wide positive change.

Libor Malý was nominated for his years of support of People in Need Foundation. In 2010 he supported the SOS Tibet fundraising drive and later funded help for victims of the Myanmar conflict. After meeting a girl who had racked up debts to pay for cancer treatment that put her on the brink of property seizure, he began fighting against the debt industry. Since 2014, his funding has enabled People in Need to fight a number of unethical laws and save Czech households over \$483 million (CZK 10 billion) per year. He is currently advocating for an amendment to the law on child debtors and is helping found a helpline.

The organization Adato Paradigma nominated Libor Malý for his support of the Hearth.net social network, which is based on the concept that a giving economy is one of the pillars of sustainable development. Libor Malý firmly believes that a generous and kind approach to life and to other people will improve our shared quality of life, making him a huge inspiration to those around him. Nearly 38,000 gifts have been exchanged by 17,300 people through Hearth.net. He also gives over \$966,600 (CZK 20 million) annually to other charitable causes.

Nominated by: Tomáš Vyhnálek, Lenka Melicharová

Tomáš Drnek

Helps people with disabilities, their families, senior citizens and foster families financially and as a volunteer

Tomáš Drnka's philanthropic approach to life has evolved since his youth. As a volunteer with the YMCA in Jindřichov Hradec, he and other young people renewed the organization's work in the region. He led children's summer camps and sports groups before turning his energy to university and his own family and family firm. Now as a lawyer and economist, he uses these sectors in his work with the non-profit organization Open WINDOWS (Otevřená OKNA), which supports disabled people and senior citizens. His work with Open WINDOWS grew out of his family's long-term friendship with the family which founded the organization and the foundation of trust they share.

Tomáš Drnek supports Open WINDOWS financially, through provision of pro bono services and through personal assistance. He also provides legal and accounting advice free of charge and helps with tenders for the sheltered workshops the organization runs.

Tomáš' help has enabled Open WINDOWS to buy a large amount of equipment for sheltered and socially therapeutic workshops and housing and make needed repairs on the building that the organization received as a gift. In late 2014-early 2015 he guided the organization in safely transitioning from civic association legal status to a different legal status as required by the civil code. In the 14 years since Open WINDOWS' founding, he has provided a total of \$39,600 (CZK 820,000) in funding and his personal help has been – and continues to be – priceless.

Nominated by: Drahomíra Blažková, Otevřená OKNA

Karel Janeček

He reinvests some of his profits back into society to fuel progress

Karel Janeček is a mathematician, social reformer and a successful businessman who reinvests part of his profits back to society. He has been a philanthropist since 2010 with a broad scope of support across various societal issues.

He began supporting talented scientists in different fields through the Neuron Endowment Fund. His Help Endowment Fund focuses on supporting people who find themselves in crisis through no fault of their own, e.g. due to a fraud or excessive bureaucracy. Through this fund, Karel Janeček has helped hundreds of individuals and families move beyond crisis. The fund also uses crowdsourcing to snowball public support as well. Through the Anti-corruption Endowment Fund, Karel Janeček plays a long-term role in supporting investigation into and disclosure of cases of corruption in public administration. Many of the corruption cases have faced court proceedings and gained visibility in the media and with the public. He has also been instrumental in promoting democratic presidential elections and raise public interest in current events through his Institute for Democracy 21 and the President 21 project. The Karel Janeček Foundation has also supported numerous young



social innovators and their projects. He also provides funding to many other organizations and projects.

Karel Janeček considers helping others to be completely natural and motivates those around him to do the same. His goal is to move society forward as a whole – towards maturity, tolerance and greater self-confidence.

Nominated by: Dominik Jandl