

## **Cultural Heritage Fund 2016**

### **Descriptions of Supported Projects**

#### **Pod Studencem Civic Association**

##### **Česká Kamenice: Restoration and illumination of a dilapidated cross in Kunratice**

Since its founding in 2007, Pod Studencem Civic Association has restored some 21 small monuments. In early 2015, the association was asked to help restore a badly damaged cross in Kunratice. The association members researched historical data in the local archives and were able to decipher the writing on the cross plaque and its history. The cross had stood in the center of the town by the school since 1834 but had gradually fallen into disrepair, lost its decorative fencing, INRI plaque and a lighting fixture. Then, in spring 2015, a truck ran into the cross and it fell apart. The strewn sandstone blocks were taken into storage to prevent theft. Currently the association is working with a restoration specialist to determine the best techniques for repair and re-installation. Residents have shown considerable interest and will be involved in restoration of the monument, which has the potential to a focal point in the center of the town once again. The project will culminate in a community consecration led by the local deacon.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,250 (CZK 30,000).

#### **Municipality of Radnice**

##### **Radnice: "ke Skomelnu" Cross**

This cross stands between the towns of Skomelno and Radnice, a town of 1,800, along a trail that is popular with locals. However, the cross is currently in a bad state of repair and is broken. All that remains on the site is a stone pedestal with the remains of the broken cross, and the area is overgrown with bushes and grass. The project goal is to repair the cross and improve the surroundings with the help of town residents and culminating in a grand unveiling.

The project was supported with a grant of \$560 (CZK 13,456).

#### **Association for Restoration of the Faded Beauty of Struhaře**

##### **Lubenec: Let's pause and establish roots!**

Struhaře, slated to host a nuclear waste storage site, is also home to a special 19<sup>th</sup> century monument. The prospect of a nuclear waste storage site in the neighbourhood has resulted in widespread apathy and a sense of hopelessness among residents. This project seeks to engage them, mainly young people, in a positive effort to spark their interest in their community and surrounding landscape.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).

### **For Preservation of the St. Giles Church Civic Association**

#### **Lubenec: Two cemetery gates**

This association has been working to preserve the St. Giles church since 2008. Its efforts have attracted volunteers and enthusiasts, encouraged people in the community to revitalize their own homes and brought new life to the community. This project continues that trend. It focuses on restoring pillars around the cemetery and installing gates. The material for the gates has been donated by the local vocational school.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,627 (CZK 39,041).

### **Roman Catholic Parish - Nepomuk Archdiocese**

#### **Nepomuk: Hope for the Šlápěje Chapel**

The baroque chapel of Šlápěje was built in 1682 under the auspices of nobleman František Táborský of Hirschenfeld. It purportedly stands on the site where a stone was extracted from the creek that was later touched by St. Vojtech. Today, this stone lies in the floor of the chapel, which is in a state of disrepair. The project goal is to restore the chapel and involve the community through events like a summer photo competition, a collection of historical photos, an art contest and a parade for the grand unveiling.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).

### **A Place for Life civic association**

#### **Nečín: Travels around Sedlčany with stories: Story no. 1: A cross in Lipiny**

This cross was found by chance by a farm owner during path expansion work. The association seeks to restore it and research and share its history with the broader community. News stories about the renovation and accompanying events will be published in the local newsletter and regional websites. The final project documentation will be part of a larger story also featuring another 9 restored monuments in the Sedlčany.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,250 (CZK 30,000).

### **Small Monuments of North Bohemia**

#### **Ždár u Doks: Restoration of a cross in Ždár u Doks**

On the initiative of residents, this small town aims to restore and preserve this cross with a stone pedestal. This is one of only three monuments in the town's jurisdiction and it was badly damaged after WWII. Community members will be involved in the restoration project and subsequent care of the monument.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,521 (CZK 36,507).

### **Green Hearts Civic Association**

### **Humpolec: Angels in hell will win**

This chapel supposedly stands on a site where several monks overpowered and fought back demons from hell. However, the forces of evil continue to try to make a comeback in the form of apathy, which is at the root of the chapel's poor condition. This association seeks to restore the chapel and consecrate it to the holy guardian angels and to engage community members in the project through an art contest. The winning artwork will be displayed in the chapel.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).

### **Písek Gate Local Action Group**

#### **Čížová: Wayside crosses in Krašovice renewed**

Historically, wayside crosses in this village were an important landmark facilitating navigation across the landscape. This is the only monument of its kind in the area. It was built around 1837 and is currently in very poor condition. During the project, the organization will try to gather as much historical data as possible about the cross and will present the data to the public during the grand re-opening. The organization hopes that the restoration project will spark a renewal of community gatherings at wayside crosses.

The project was supported with a grant of \$625 (CZK 15,000).

### **Live in Háje Civic Association**

#### **Oldřichov v Hájích: Roofing and preservation of the Neuhäuser and Berger family tombs**

The Neuhäuser and Berger family tomb, founded in 1892, is the oldest in this cemetery and is a landmark. After WWII the tomb suffered considerable damage and eight years ago the copper roofing tiles were stolen. It is now in a hazardous state and may collapse. The association seeks to prevent further deterioration by fixing the roof and completing other necessary repairs. Most of the work will be done by association members, local volunteer firemen and other community members on a voluntary basis. The town will lend machinery and secure waste removal and materials such as wood.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).

### **Žlutice 2000 Association**

#### **Žlutice: Reconstruction of the Neumann cross**

The Žlutice 2000 Association's mission is to gradually restore small sacral monuments in the town. This cross stands alongside the road to the cemetery between Žlutice and Verušice. Many people pass it on their way to the cemetery and to the village and it is also a popular hiking trail. Association members have already researched the cross' history in the local archives. With the help of other residents, they will improve the area around the cross in the spring and subsequently repair the cross. The project will culminate in a community unveiling

and, if the association's plans come to fruition, with the instigation of a new tradition: a new year's parade.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,115 (CZK 26,760).

### **Friends of the Green Mulda Valley**

#### **Moldava: Reconstruction of wayside crosses in the extinct village of Oldříš**

Relocation of residents out of this border region in the post-war period to towns further inland spelt the extinction of numerous villages and also decreased awareness of local history and significance of local landmarks. Around the village of Moldava, small sacral monuments, or their ruins, are often the only remaining marker of a former village. By renovating wayside crosses in the extinct village of Oldříš, association members aim to remember this lost village and its inhabitants and highlight the historical significance of this site and its landscape and cultural heritage. The project is also intended to show support for growing business activity in the region, which include plans for a wind park, and to help unite the residents of Moldava.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,665 (CZK 39,970).

### **Starokolín Beautification Society**

#### **Starý Kolín: Revitalization of baroque chapels at the Church of St. Ondřej as part of rejuvenation of community history**

This project focuses on two baroque alcove chapels in the wall of the Church of St. Ondřej, which is located in the center of the town and is a dominant landmark visible far and wide. The society plans to renovate the chapels as the first step in a restoration effort encompassing the entire church complex, which is the town's oldest and most important monument. The project seeks to engage residents, strengthen their sense of connection to their community and encourage interest in local history.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).

### **Ctiboř Village Green Civic Association**

#### **Častrov: Restoration of a stone milk storage facility in Ctiboř**

Ctiboř's history dates back to 1233 but its development was rudely interrupted by collectivization in the 1950s. By the 1990s, the Ctiboř community found itself in a bleak position, with an aging population, exodus of young people and almost no hope for revitalization. However, in the new millennium the trend turned as families with young children began moving in, which has been both a source of friction between long-standing residents and newcomers and a source of new energy for the community.

In the past, Ctiboř had several milk storage facilities that were used to chill freshly drawn milk and other food. Today, only two remain. Older residents still remember how they were used and the buildings comprise an aesthetically and historically

sight of interest in the town. Renovation of the old milk storage facility is an important project not just for the local community, but for the broad public as well as it will help raise awareness of local history and show respect to ancestors.

The project was supported with a grant of \$917 (CZK 22,000).

### **Český Les Beautification and Sports Society**

#### **Česká Kubice: Renovation of a cross at Jindřichov Mountain**

Jindřichova Hora lies in the Český Les protected landscape area near the border of the Czech Republic and Germany. Located far from the district town, it was marked by the compulsory relocation of residents after WWII. This event had enduring consequences for the area but new residents, mostly Czech nationals who had lived in Volyn, Ukraine and came to the region after WWII, were able to establish roots and strong ties to the area that they have passed down to later generations. The symbolic desolation of the area is pervasive but it also has its positive aspects: the intense genius loci has been preserved and can be communicated to people outside of the immediate community.

The damaged cross that is the focus of this project symbolizes the unfortunate events that affected the former inhabitants and the eeriness of the era that preceded the influx of the Volyn Czechs. It is part of the local folklore. The project will include consecration of the cross and interpretative walks for residents and visitors.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,324 (CZK 31,766).

### **Omnium, z. s.**

#### **Broumov: Restoration of a sandstone cross in Božanov**

The Broumov region is part of the former Sudetenland and was administered by the Benedictine monks for centuries. After WWII, the deportation of German inhabitants, settling of the area with Czech nationals from Romania, Silesia and Poland and the rise of Communism, ties between residents and the region's history were completely disrupted.

The stone pillar featuring an 18th century cross made of Božanov sandstone stand in the upper part of the town and, along with the panoramic views of Koruna Mountain, it is a significant element of the local landscape character and cultural history. In the 1980s, the upper part of the cross with the statue of Christ was broken off during demolition work on an adjacent farm. The statue was taken to a local stone mason, where it has rested for some 30 years. This project to renovate the cross is part of an effort to preserve small sacral monuments that connect the region and its current residents with the rich, albeit gradually disappearing past.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).

### **Nezevli Just So Association**

#### **Beroun: Illumination Tower**

The history of the tower is directly connected to the Petzold quarry, which it illuminated. Limestone quarrying expanded in the Český kras region after 1850 with industrial operations. Around 1925, the demand for limestone gravel was so great that night mining was initiated, which was the impetus for construction of this illumination tower. Mass electrification of quarries also took place during this area and thus a clock was added to the tower shortly thereafter. Mining continued until 1965.

Today, the former illumination tower is a unique industrial monument that has become a symbol of the region. Its unparalleled silhouette is a landmark in the landscape visible on the drive from Prague which signals to locals that they are getting close to home.

The project was supported with a grant of \$208 (CZK 5,000).

### **Mlátek Association**

#### **Boskovice: Restoration of the "u Mazalů" stone cross in Mladkov**

At present, Mladkov has a number of residents who take a very individualistic approach to their lives, but fortunately, it is still home to a large group of people with strong ties to each other similarly to village communities. The Mlátek Association strives to strengthen residents' awareness of their shared life in the village community and support healthy neighbourly relations. The Association cares for local monuments, which, although seemingly insignificant structures, comprise an important symbol of active historical development and are thus fundamental elements of modern society.

This holds true for this project, which focuses on restoration of a stone cross that was purportedly built after a young man's skeleton was found. During the war, a tank damaged part of the cross during manoeuvres. The Mlátek Association hopes that the restoration effort will etch new chapters into the town's history for the next 100 years.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).

### **Podhorák Beautification Society**

#### **Dolní Novosedly: Commemorative crosses reawakened**

There are a total of eight commemorative crosses in the small town of Dolní Novosedly. The first part of the project consisted of mapping the history of the crosses through the eyes of local residents. The second part focuses on restoration of five of the crosses, which are owned by the municipality. Most were constructed in the 19th century. Some were originally markers along Stations of the Crosses, while others were commissioned by wealthy farmers. Through the project, the society members hope to offer residents an opportunity to learn about the town's history, work together and develop new ties to the community.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,656 (CZK 39,750).

### Urban Space Association

#### **Prachatice: Preservation of the Dvor u Lípy chapel**

The town of Prachatice was part of the former Sudetenland and most of the current inhabitants lack long-standing roots to the area. There are still many sites in the area that were German before WWII and to which current residents have yet to develop distinct ties – such as Dvůr u Lípy. In a few years it could fade to just a name on a map. By preserving this chapel, the association hopes to protect a shard of local history and a trace of the past. The project is also intended as a way for the Prachatice community to develop a relationship to this forgotten place.

The project was supported with a grant of \$865 (CZK 20,750).

### Merboltice Neighbors' Civic Association

#### **Děčín: Restoration of wayside cross at house no. 141**

This wayside cross was built in the 19th century and was most likely commissioned by the then major of Merboltice, who was the catalyst in awakening local culture. He founded a theatre company, organized various events and was well respected by the community. He helped the community grow and also initiated restoration of small sacral monuments.

Today, House no. 141 is registered as an organic goat farm, where workshops, exhibitions, cultural festivals, excursions for school children and other events are held. Restoration of this monument will give all visitors an opportunity to see how small sacral monuments fit into the landscape. A subsequent step will be to revitalize the pilgrimage trails along which wayside crosses were constructed.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).

### Little Alarm Clock Civic Association

#### **Vroutek: Restoration of a cross: initiating a dialogue in Skytaly and Mlýnice**

Founded in 2011, the Little Alarm Clock Civic Association is comprised of young people who care about the community in which they grew up. Their main activities are restoring a baroque church and the adjacent vandalized cemetery and holding community events at the church. The members also map small sacral monuments in the area and advocate for their revitalization.

Through this project, the Association is responding to the need to develop neighbourly relationships in the community. This cross is the only monument in this part of the town, aside from an inaccessible and dilapidated castle. Several Roma families live in the area and the project is intended as a bridge through which new and long-standing residents can meet and talk about what changes they would like to see in their community. The project is also intended as a jumping off point for other events that will spark residents' interest in their community.

The project was supported with a grant of \$1,667 (CZK 40,000).