

YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS PROGRAM

Through the Young Philanthropists program, children and young people ages 6-26 organize benefit events to raise money for needy individuals and organizations. The teams of young people design their own events and choose the recipients themselves. Via Foundation provides the teams with advice, support in project planning, learning and networking opportunities and seed funding for the events. We also match the funds the teams raise up to CZK 20,000. Teams that raise over CZK 25,000 also receive a bonus.

The Young Philanthropists program gives participants the experience of collectively helping someone in need. It enables young people to spend free time in a positive way, work together as a team, be proud of a shared achievement, feel confident in their own actions and believe they can make a difference. Practical job skills such as communication, planning, presentation, and negotiation play an important role in the program, which also has the potential to reduce bullying and encourage new friendships.



WHAT IS OUR TARGET GROUP?

- Primary target group is children and young people ages 6-26.
- Secondary target group is adults with opportunities to lead young people toward active citizenship (teachers, leaders of extracurricular activities, parents, etc.).
- The program is open to teams from schools, community and after-school programs and groups of friends.

WHY DO WE WANT TO DEVELOP PHILANTHROPY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE?

- More than half of all young people in the CR are not active in civic or community affairs.
- Materialism and consumerism is growing among young people, while there is less emphasis on helping others, assuming responsibility for others, working for the good of the community and personal development.
- About 80% of Czech high school students believe that they cannot influence local, national or global problems.
- Young people lack sufficient positive role models or opinion makers, people who are active in their communities and could motivate or lead them to help address issues in society (e.g. teachers, parents).

Sources: One World school survey, 2009 and 2012, Concept of State Support for Children and Young People 2007 – 2013, poll by STEM and Via Foundation titled Philanthropy and Leaders in Czech Society, 2014

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES OF OUR SUPPORT?

- 14 teams of children and young people (over 200 individuals) implement benefit events for good causes
- 14 adult patrons gain experience in guiding youth towards philanthropy and engaged citizenry
- Almost 7,000 people attend youth benefit events, with 4,000 of them supporting the events with donations
- Hundreds of other young Czechs learn about peers' philanthropy work through our philanthropy campaign

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF OUR WORK?

- Involved youth are set on a lifelong path of civic engagement and philanthropy
- Involved youth uses the practical skills learned in their other activities
- Adult patrons continue guiding young people to engage in philanthropy in their own communities
- Approx. 50% of team members continue in philanthropic endeavors

Through this experience, children and young people learn, just by small acts of giving, how to become change makers and what it means to be a good citizen; they see the multiplier effect of small acts and the large impact their actions can have on their communities; and they receive the empowering first-hand experience that they have the capacity to be the givers and doers of kindness – not just the recipients.

“I liked that on D Day we all really tried to pour our best effort in the project. You could really see that during our visit to the cancer ward. It was a really powerful experience and I think everyone was glad they had a chance to make the kids’ day a bit brighter.” Gabriela Plchová, Student and Girl Scout



WHAT DO WE PROVIDE?

- Small grant to help cover costs of a benefit event
- Matching of funds raised up to CZK 20,000 per project
- Bonuses for teams raising over CZK 25,000
- Initial workshop for teams covering fundraising, PR, teamwork, legal issues, etc.
- Consultations on project ideas and planning and communication tools
- Final evaluation meeting of the teams
- Via staff site visits to teams and benefit events

2016-2017 YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS PROGRAM IN FIGURES

- Number of young people and volunteers in the program: **201**
- Average age of participants: **15**
- Number of benefit events: **39**
- Total proceeds raised: **CZK 799,911 (\$38,611)**
- Number of donors: **3,775**
- Most funds raised by a single project: **CZK 168,578 (\$8,137)**

HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

Grants and matching	CZK 445,000	\$21,480
Support: workshops, consultations, site visits, manual, web, events	CZK 170,100	\$8,211
Program coordination and PR	CZK 621,290	\$29,990
Operational and administrative support	CZK 137,280	\$6,627
TOTAL	CZK 1,391,768	\$67,181

“The money that we raised stayed in our region and the help we gave was direct, targeted and truly delivered it to the people who needed it. Everyone who took part in the project learned something: how to organize events, deal with people, overcome shyness, assume responsibility for oneself and for others and develop intergenerational relationships. And we also learned that although we are working to raise money, sometimes we can work for our own and others’ enjoyment, too.” Maria Dufková, Teacher

“School should be about more than just learning your grammar. In school children learn to be human – and that’s the best type of school for life.” Irena Bílá, Teacher

2017-18 YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS PROGRAM PROJECTS

Help comes in many forms

Students of the butchery trade in Valašské Meziříčí love their craft and love to help others. By selling their own homemade goulash and sausages at the local Advent market, they give market-goers a chance to enjoy honest cooking and support a good cause: proceeds help fund physical therapy for coma-bound Šimonek.

...DAK. Give whatever you can.

Klára, a future pediatrician who works with mucopolysaccharidosis patients, and two friends will hold a charitable auction to help seven-year-old Vojta, who suffers from this disease and whose family has a hard time paying for the costs of daily care.

Preservation of a Chapel in Hlubany

This team of 15 already has a strong track record: they have organized clean up days, helped in a senior citizens' home and assisted at community events. Now they plan on renovating the local chapel.

We love dogs and we help them

This group of fourth-graders from Klánovice near Prague will sell their own handmade products at Christmas and Easter markets to support canine residents at the local animal shelter.

A run with Boženka

Some people run to stay healthy. This class of high schoolers from Hradec Králové runs to give hope. In 2016, the students held a charity run to help a girl with cerebral palsy. This year's run will support the Anetka Fund for Children with Cancer, founded in memory of their friend Anetka, who died of cancer.

Textbooks for everyone

Czech schools are found all around the world – but they sometimes need help. These fourth and fifth graders from Lubina u Kopřivnice will hold benefit events to buy textbooks for Czech schools in Serbia and Ukraine.

Music

Music is the shared love of this group of 16- and 17-year-olds from Chomutov, who believe that music can unite the public to help people in need. They will hold a benefit concert featuring their own rap, hip hop, folk and rock performances. The concert proceeds will be given to Charity Chomutov to help pay for food for the homeless and other people in need.

Charity research for everyone

A team of young researchers from Libochovice holds educational events to promote science and raise money for people in need. This year they will help three children with severe illnesses. The proceeds will fund for physical therapy to improve the boys' quality of life.

Happy 7 helping others

The Happy 7 were all born in the same year, are in the same grade – and all volunteer. This year they will help an elderly teacher who is remembered fondly by their parents and grandparents. The Happy 7 will hold a charitable auction to buy her a wheelchair.

Smajlík – Reaching our goal

Nine girls from Bílovec will hold benefit events to pay for ski training for Kristýnka, a little girl born with a spinal bifida and bound to a wheelchair. Despite her disability, she is a passionate athlete and won a gold medal in alpine skiing in her category.

For more smiles

Students from Strážnice share a drive to do something meaningful. This year they want to help their classmate Dominik, who lost his father and now helps his mother care for four siblings. By holding workshops, a flea market and a concert the group wants to raise money to help Domink pay his way through university.

Christmas charity concert

The Kroměříž Secondary School will celebrate its 135th anniversary founding a new tradition – a Christmas charity concert by the school choir. Proceeds will go to the “Lost Happiness” organization, which helps lost cats, to fund vet care and buy cat food.

A drop of light

Several years ago this team from Ondřej raised awareness about light pollution and renovated a bus station in town. Now they would like to sell gingerbread cookies to buy a sports wheelchair for their disabled friend Kristýnka, who is a member of the Jaguar floorball team in Prague.

Benefit concert for Bedříšek

Six-year-old Bedříšek has cerebral palsy but is always a cheerful presence at the scout camp where his mother cooks. Four scouts will hold a benefit concert for him.

