

## 2018 Via Bona Philanthropy Awards Finalists

### Legacy Category

#### **Ivanka Kellnerová (*In memoriam*)**

#### ***She spent her life helping others and wanted to leave her assets to help the needy***

Ivanka Kellnerová graduated with several university degrees. She loved the theater. She shared this passion with her mother; both were regulars at various Prague theaters. She later cared devotedly for her mother, even when the elderly lady's health took a turn for the worse. Although it was difficult to care for her, Ivanka wanted to do everything she could to enable her mother to live out her life at home, in her own apartment. After her mother's death, her family became the Vinohrady Divadlo, where she worked as a lighting assistant and porter.

When writing her will, she decided to divide most of her assets among non-profit organizations that help the needy and lonely people. She bequeathed part of her property to Life90 (Život90), which helps senior citizens live in their homes as long as possible and helps their families combine care with work and other activities. She also bequeathed assets to People in Need Foundation and Doctors without Borders. These were not random choices. She left her assets to organizations that strive to enable all people to live full lives and also support solidarity and connect individuals, families and the broader community in a multi-generational way.

Life90, which nominated Ivanka Kellnerová, admired her strong will, endurance and the indefatigable support she gave to those around her. Although illness placed considerable constraints on her in the final stages of life, she remained active and helped others.

Nominated by: Hana Končelová, Život90

#### **Michal Wagner**

#### ***Living life with the conviction that people should give back to nature***

As a natural scientist, Michal Wagner has felt a strong tie to nature his entire life. He has volunteered to care for the environment for many years. He lived abroad and upon his return to his native country after the Velvet Revolution, he began volunteering in the Šárka Valley in Prague. In 2010, he spend time at a curative spa in the south Bohemian town of Třebon, where he was captivated by the extensive spa park. Since then he has spent time at the curative spa in Třebon each year. His fondness of the park has led him to volunteer there during his spa visits to improve the park with a focus on increasing the biodiversity of the herb layer of alluvial and forest ecosystems. In 2013, he bought seeds for sowing with a value of \$1,900 (CZK 40,000) and donated them to the park. He also took part in the development of the Aurora Spa Park Maintenance Plan and gives free lectures in Třebon about the spa park and other parks around the world.

The park now boasts new flowering meadows, largely thanks to his work. This landscape element is markedly scarce in Europe. Michal Wagner continues to play an active role in meadow development. Recognizing that individual donors in environmental stewardship are still few and far between in the Czech Republic, he wants to serve as a positive example. To ensure that the park can continue to develop after his death, he has bequeathed \$24,100 (CZK 500,000) to this end.

Nominated by: Jaroslav Fliegel, Town of Třeboň

### **Marcela Mejstříková**

#### ***She bequeathed her assets to cancer treatment***

This active octogenarian experienced breast cancer years ago. She survived and began a new period in her life. In 1999, she, Jana Drexlerová and their doctor, Dr. Václav Pecha, founded a civic association called Mamma HELP, which continues to help women with breast cancer today.

Since Marcela has already lost her family, she considers Mamma HELP as her family. She worked as a therapist, offering strength and support to help women overcome the illness and also helped establish centers in other cities. She was also very active in art and handicrafts over the course of her life, even in retirement. She still sews and makes products for benefit events; her sewn cats, for example, are regular bestsellers. The proceeds go to help fund operational costs at Mamma HELP centers.

At 83, Marcela lives life optimistically and to the fullest. She doesn't dwell on the past, she lives in the present as well as the future. She knows that she can help women with breast cancer even after she passes away. In 2014, she decided to bequeath her entire estate to Mamma HELP. The assets will help bridge potential difficult periods in the existing centers or help fund establishment of new centers.

Nominated by: Simona Kolářová, Mamma HELP