

2018 Via Bona Philanthropy Awards Finalists

Young Philanthropist Category (up to age 26)

Alžběta Vachelová

Recruits students to the Czech National Bone Marrow Donor Registry to help save human lives

When Alžběta's friend died of leukemia, she realized little separates health and illness. She first signed up for the Czech National Bone Marrow Donor Registry herself, but she knew that the number of potential donors on the registry was too low. She decided to expand the pool. She and her friend Aneta Nyčová began by asking their friends to join, and then they came up with the idea of encouraging other university students to join the registry.

In December 2015, she organized the first event, called "Sign up for Someone's Life", at her alma mater – the engineering faculty at the Czech Technical University. This initial event was so successful that she followed with a second in spring 2016. The response was even higher and even more positive, which led Alžběta to begin reaching out to students at other Czech universities. They began gradually taking over some of the organizational work.

By sharing her expertise and meeting face-to-face with students and representatives of student organizations, Alžběta Vachelová has recruited 1,750 new potential donors to the Czech National Bone Marrow Donor Registry to date. Statistics show that every 110th registered potential donor actually becomes a suitable donor – which means that Alžběta has already saved 16 human lives.

Nominated by: Vladimíra Štěpánková, Czech National Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

Peter Chalupianský

Helping disabled people by designing and implementing unconventional projects

In 2014, Peter combined a Christmas floorball tournament with help for the disabled for the first time. The tournament became an annual tradition, which has raised almost \$12,000 (CZK 250,000) towards purchase of floorball wheelchairs for the Prague Wheelchair Sports Club.

As he prepared for a semester abroad in South Korea in 2016, he came up with the notion of incorporating charity into his study abroad. Under the patronage of the Barriers Account, he launched a project called "Where is Pete?" and began selling and sending handwritten postcards from Korea to recipients in the Czech Republic. He raised roughly \$9,100 (CZK 190,000) through the project for the Barriers Account. After his return, he held 52 slide shows about his travels and donated the voluntary admission fee to a good cause, raising over \$5,800 (CZK 120,000) to cover the annual costs of special physical therapy for a young boy.

But he didn't stop there. He decided to expand his project beyond the borders of the Czech Republic and began sending postcards around the world. This project, called "Czech Buddy", aims to raise funds for specific disabled individuals, mainly children. He has raised over \$9,600 (CZK 200,000) to date and has sent over 1,000 handwritten postcards.

Currently Peter is founding the Club of Heartfully Engaged – a community of people who want to do good deeds. His enthusiasm and projects have raised over \$36,200 (CZK 750,000) so far.

Nominated by: Eva Horucková, ČSOB; Bohuslav Hůlka, Prague Wheelchair Sports Club; Božena Jirků, Barriers Account

Petra Soukupová

Founded a youth orchestra that helps in the Broumov region

In 2010, then 15-year-old Petra and her brother Jakub decided to found a big orchestra with their friends that would be completely different than any other orchestra. Even then, Petra was able to persuade adults in the community that if they helped in the beginning, young people would help in the future. Today, the POLICE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA counts 65 members and has held 60 large concerts in the CR and abroad.

In 2014, in collaboration with the local municipal government, Petra held her first benefit concert for the region. In her efforts, she wove together revitalization of unusual places, youth, a charitable goal and a crisp musical performance.

The young musicians' support targets the Broumov Hospital Endowment Fund. It provides health equipment for older or chronically ill patients. Petra, however, also motivated a young blind trumpet player named Mark. The orchestra raised money to buy him notes in Braille – and Mark played with the orchestra. Together, they have raised and donated almost \$24,100 (CZK 500,000).

Petra puts her heart into all of her activities. "Her" orchestra has become a springboard for many of her peers. Some go on to study music, others actively engage in atypical charity events. They are becoming quite a phenomenon and the orchestra's reputation has long since grown beyond its home region.

Nominated by: Lucie Peterková