

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“HELPING HAND FOR UKRAINE” INTERNATIONAL RELIEF PROJECT WILL
BE AT THE 20TH TORONTO UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL**

Toronto, September 07, 2016 – The “Helping Hand for Ukraine” International Relief Project of “HOPE worldwide of Canada” and “HOPE worldwide Ukraine” charitable organizations will march in the 20th Annual Toronto Ukrainian Festival Parade at 11:00 a.m. on September 17, 2016.

Last year our volunteers also participated in the parade spreading information about the project among the participants and guests of the Festival. This year volunteers will distribute information about the results of the successfully implemented stages of the project during 2015-2016 realized with financial support of Ukrainian Credit Union (Canada).

The project continues to develop and spread onto other regions of Ukraine. In particular, in 2016-2017 the team plans to hold “Children and War” trainings for psychologists, teachers, social workers and volunteers in Dnipro, Kharkiv, Zaporizhya, Vinnytsia, and Lviv.

Come meet with Taras Kulish (taras.kulich@hopewwcanada.org), International Relations Officer and Project Director as well as other HOPE volunteers between 11 a.m. and 12:00 noon and get to know more about our activities in Ukraine aimed at overcoming war trauma and PTSD amongst Ukrainian children.

Taras Kulish, International Relations Officer at “HOPE worldwide of Canada: “HOPE worldwide of Canada is pleased to continue our support of the “Helping Hand for Ukraine” Project and to appear once again at the Toronto Ukrainian Festival Parade.”.



Toronto Ukrainian Festival was established in 1995 to celebrate the twinning of Toronto and Kyiv. This year the Festival will be held for the nineteenth time. It is an annual event that presents the aspects of Ukrainian culture most developed in Canada: music, dancing, gastronomy, arts. Nowadays it is a premier Ukrainian festival in North America visited annually by 500 000 people from Canada, USA and other countries. Toronto Ukrainian Festival was established under the umbrella of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Festival Location: Bloor St. West, Toronto, between Jane St. and Runnymede Rd. Take the TTC – we’re right at both Jane station and Runnymede station on the Bloor-Danforth subway line.

About the “Helping Hand for Ukraine” Project

The “Helping Hand for Ukraine” project will train over 300 psychologists, social workers, volunteers to work with traumatized children using the “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program. Therapy sessions will help children and parents (IDPs, families of ATO soldiers) acquire skills, techniques and ability to deal with their traumatic experience. The project will also deliver humanitarian aid to internally displaced from Eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

The “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program was developed by the Center for Crisis Psychology (Bergen, Norway) and the Institute of Psychiatry (London, Great Britain). In Ukraine, the manual was translated and adapted by the experts from the Ukrainian Institute of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (Lviv, Ukraine).

Phase I of the project included training the Recovery Team in Kyiv and a therapy course for children and parents at the IDP camp in Korostyshiv in May-June 2015. Phase II lasted from September 2015 till March 2016 and included 2 “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” trainings in Cherkasy and Ivano-Frankivsk, and also 2 therapy courses for children and parents in Kyiv and Irpin. Phase III of the project implemented in March-June 2016 and consisted of 2 trainings in Odesa and 3 therapy course in Odesa and Odesa region (Kuyalnyk and Chornomorsk).

Project Achievements in 2015-2016

Over **20 tons of humanitarian aid** has been delivered to over **7,000 IDPs** in different regions of Ukraine in cooperation with partner-organisations.

Over **900 volunteers** are engaged in project activities.

82 practicing psychologists, social workers, emergency service employees, volunteers went through a 3-day “Children and War” training in Kyiv, Cherkasy, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odesa.

Over **100 children** and over **45 parents** went through 7 sessions of the “Children and War” rehabilitation therapy course in Kyiv region, Zhytomyr region and Odesa region.

The donors and partners of the project are: “HOPE worldwide of Canada”, HOPE worldwide, Kyiv Church of Christ, and Ukrainian Credit Union Limited (UCU). Methodological support has been provided by Ukrainian Institute of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Lviv, Ukraine).

Canadian donors can donate for the project on Tilt – <http://tilt.tc/xqWa>

“HOPE worldwide Ukraine” (<http://hopeww.org.ua/en>)

“HOPE worldwide Ukraine” is a non-governmental charitable organization, performing its activities in Ukraine since 1998, which aims to improve the quality of life for children and adults who live in difficult socio-economic conditions. The main activities of the Foundation include providing humanitarian aid to the IDPs and psychological assistance to children traumatized by war in the Eastern Ukraine; fostering social adaptation of orphans with disabilities who live in orphanages and boarding schools in the city of Kyiv and within the Kyiv oblast; assisting state elderly care institutions in sustaining physical and emotional needs of the elderly; promoting healthy lifestyles among adolescents and youth; and promoting voluntary blood donation and recruiting blood donors.

Media relations: Oksana Oliynyk, info.hopewwukraine@gmail.com, 050-326-33-47

HOPE worldwide, Ltd (<http://hopeww.org>), “HOPE worldwide of Canada” (<http://hopewwc.org>)

HOPE worldwide, Ltd is a registered non-profit 501 (3) c) charity, headquartered in Philadelphia (USA). HOPE worldwide of Canada is a registered charity, headquartered in Toronto, Ontario (Canada). The mission of both organizations is as simple as its name: “to bring hope to a hurting world”. HOPE worldwide was founded in 1991 with three programs of humanitarian service. Now it serves the poor in 75 nations on all six inhabited continents. With over 100,000 committed volunteers, HOPE worldwide annually serves more than 2 million needy people worldwide. HOPE worldwide is a recognized NGO with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. HOPE worldwide of Canada has been recognized by municipal, provincial and federal governments for its programs and committed volunteer base.

Media relations North America: Taras Kulish, taras.kulish@hopewwcanada.org