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HOPE WORLDWIDE UKRAINE AND HOPE WORLDWIDE OF CANADA LAUNCH “HELPING HAND FOR UKRAINE” CHARITY PROJECT

Kyiv, May 12, 2015 – “HOPE worldwide Ukraine” Charity Foundation and “HOPE worldwide of Canada” will launch the “Helping Hand for Ukraine” project. The project aims to collect and deliver **humanitarian aid** to internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Eastern Ukraine and to provide **psychological assistance** to children, traumatized by the war in Eastern Ukraine and their families. A fundraising campaign has been launched in Canada.

The “Helping Hand for Ukraine” charity project will:

- train 300 psychologists, social workers and teachers to work with traumatized children using “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques”;
- provide psychological therapy sessions for 10,000 children and parents to acquire skills and capacities to deal with their traumatic experience;
- deliver humanitarian aid to over 17,500 IDPs who live in temporary camps (Cherkasy, Korostyshiv, Kurakhove, Komsomolsk, Kremenchuk).

Training of trainers as a pilot stage of the project will take place in Kyiv and in the temporary camp for displaced persons in Korostyshiv. It will be conducted and supervised by Ms. **Lyubov Loriashvili**, a professional trainer and practicing psychologist, leading specialist at Kyiv City Center of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth; and Ms. **Nataliya Podolyak**, trainer of “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program, practicing psychologist and psychotherapist at “Dobrobut” Medical Network.

Taras Kulish, International Relations Officer at “HOPE worldwide of Canada: *“The fundraising initiative for the “Helping Hand for Ukraine” project is an important way that HOPE worldwide of Canada can help Ukrainian children and their parents overcome the trauma they have witnessed in the conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine. We developed the project using the collective expertise of HOPE worldwide collaborators from Canada, the Philippines, the United States and Ukraine. HOPE worldwide is an international organization and we plan to partner with organizations and charities within the Ukrainian community in Canada, as well as to engage the general public and corporations in Canada to garner support for the project. I am confident that this project will lay the foundation for a successful and long-term cooperation with HOPE worldwide Ukraine”.*

Iryna Sukhova, psychologist coordinator of the “Helping Hand for Ukraine” project: *“We are working to prevent the development of PTSD (post-traumatic syndrome disorder) symptoms in children who witnessed and survived war and prevent the need for specialized treatment services in the future. Within the project, we use the “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program developed by the Center for Crisis Psychology (Bergen, Norway) and the Institute of Psychiatry (London, Great Britain). It has been used in many countries and proved to be beneficial for those who worked with children, their parents and guardians. In Ukraine, the manual has been translated and adapted by the experts from Ukrainian Institute of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Lviv, Ukraine).*

Oleksandra Ihnatyk-Eriksen, head of Danish charitable organization “Help Ukrainian Children”:
“We have worked together with “HOPE worldwide Ukraine” charity foundation since August 2014. Thanks to the mutual efforts and commitment of the volunteers of our organizations, over 25 tons of humanitarian aid (clothes, food, medicine) have been delivered to IDPs in Berdyansk, Korostyshiv, Komsomolsk, Kremenchuk, Kurakhove. I am happy that the “Helping Hand for Ukraine” project is developing and continues to receive support from caring people in different countries”.

About “HOPE worldwide Ukraine” Charity Foundation

“HOPE worldwide Ukraine” Charity Foundation is a non-governmental charitable organization, performing its activities in Ukraine, which aims at improving the quality of life for children and adults who live in difficult socio-economic conditions. The Foundation has been registered in 1998 (Certificate #0108-98 issued by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine).

The main activities of the Foundation include providing humanitarian aid to the IDPs (internally displaced persons) from the Eastern Ukraine 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 city of Kyiv and Kyiv oblast; assisting state elderly care institutions in sustaining physical and emotional needs of the elderly; promoting healthy lifestyles among adolescents and youth; promoting voluntary blood donation and recruiting blood donors.

<http://hopeww.org.ua/en>

Media relations: Oksana Oliynyk, activebookproject@gmail.com

About “HOPE worldwide of Canada” Charity Organization

HOPE worldwide of Canada – is a registered non-profit charity, headquartered in Toronto, Ontario and is affiliated with HOPE worldwide Ltd, a non-profit charity, headquartered in Philadelphia. We share HOPE worldwide's mission, which is as simple as its name: “to bring hope to a hurting world”. HOPE worldwide was founded in 1991 with just three simple programs. 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 non-governmental organization in 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.

<http://hopewwc.org>

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