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“HELPING HAND FOR UKRAINE” LAUNCHED TRAINING FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK

Kyiv, December 23, 2015 – “HOPE *worldwide* Ukraine” charity foundation implemented a 3-day “[Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques](#)” training in Ivano-Frankivsk from December 14 to 16, 2015. A total of 16 social workers, psychologists from regional social service centers, practicing psychologists, representatives of the state emergency services, and volunteers from non-governmental and charitable organizations working with internally displaced persons (IDPs) participated in the training.

The training program included several workshops and practice sessions. The psychologists learned how to use “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program to work with children, acquired tools of preventing development of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and depression in children traumatized by the war and the loss of their close ones. Professional trainers – Ms. **Iryna Sukhova** (coordinator-psychologist), Ms. **Olena Bozhor** (art-therapist) and Ms. **Nataliya Podolyak** (psychologist and family psychotherapist) – trained and guided the participants.

The training was implemented as part of Phase II of the “Helping Hand for Ukraine” International Relief Project and was made possible through a grant from “HOPE *worldwide*” (USA). Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Emergency Service and Youth Social Center “Etalon” provided organizational support for the event.

Olena Bozhor, trainer of “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program:

“Ivano-Frankivsk impressed us with qualified professionals open to learning new techniques and acquiring skills. The atmosphere of mutual understanding and support led to great results. We provide simple and easy-to-use techniques that can be used to help children, who survived war. We hope that all training participants will implement acquired knowledge in practice.”

Oleksiy Mnogolet, Advisor to Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine on Issues of IDPs in Ivano-Frankivsk Region, IDP, training participant:

«I got a useful experience at the training, learned about techniques and methods that help to solve psychosocial problems of children of war. In my opinion, the program should be expanded, since the traumatic experience caused by war actions is a burning issue in Ukraine nowadays. Children are our future; therefore it is of utmost importance to take care of them right now».

About the “Helping Hand for Ukraine” Project

The Project is aimed to provide psychological assistance to internally displaced children and parents from Eastern Ukraine, to train psychologists, social workers, and volunteers to work with children, traumatized by war. The “Helping Hand for Ukraine” project will train over 300 psychologists, social workers, volunteers, and representatives of the state emergency services to work with traumatized children using the “Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques” program and manual. 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 IDPs from Eastern Ukraine.

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 Behavioral 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 started in September 2015 and will last till January 10, 2016.

The partners of the project are: “HOPE *worldwide* of Canada”, HOPE *worldwide*, and Ukrainian Institute of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Lviv, Ukraine).

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

About “HOPE *worldwide* Ukraine”

“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.

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

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About HOPE *worldwide*, Ltd and “HOPE *worldwide* of Canada”

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.

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