

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **"HELPING HAND FOR UKRAINE" LAUNCHED 2<sup>nd</sup> "CHILDREN AND WAR" TRAINING IN ODESA**

**Kyiv, April 20, 2016** – "HOPE worldwide Ukraine" charity foundation implemented a second "[Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques](#)" training in Odesa from April 08 to 10, 2016. A total of 20 volunteers from partnering NGOs "Assembly" and "Commonwealth" as well as other non-governmental and charity organisations, practicing psychologists and psychotherapists, social workers participated in the training.

After the training its participants will hold therapy sessions using the "Children and War" program with IDPs – children, traumatized by war in Eastern Ukraine and occupation of Crimea, and their parents who now live in Odesa region.

The training was conducted by professional trainers of the "Helping Hand for Ukraine" project – Ms. **Iryna Sukhova** (coordinator-psychologist), Ms. **Nataliya Podolyak** (psychologist and family psychotherapist) and Ms. **Snizhana Volokh** (psychologist). The local partners of the Foundation – Odesa regional NGO "Association of Intellectuals "Assembly" and NGO "Human Rights Association "Commonwealth" – provided organizational support for the event.

**Nadiya Hurman, expert from Illichivsk City Centre for Social Services for Family, Children and Youth, volunteer at Odesa Volunteer Psychological Service:** *"The "Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques" for psychologists brought only positive results and emotions. All offered techniques and tools are incredibly powerful. We plan to train those in Illichivsk who work with children traumatized by war. After all, there are quite a few children and adults in our city who need this kind of psychological assistance. We want to form groups of children and parents who survived war and hold therapy sessions with them. We also discuss a possibility of holding a therapy course for soldiers who came back from ATO zone".*

**Anzhelika Zhukova, representative of Odesa regional NGO "Association of Intellectuals "Assembly", coordinator at IDPs Assistance Headquarters of NGO "Human Rights Association "Commonwealth" in Odesa:** *"I waited for the "Children and War. Teaching Recovery Techniques" for quite a long time, since we learned about it in June 2015. I wanted to equip myself with professional techniques, receive advice and tips from the experts. Already next week I plan to meet together with training participants, volunteers, psychologists and educators in order to develop a joint action plan of working with children. There are near 4 thousand IDPs in our IDPs Assistance Headquarters and 2 thousand children among them. This training turned out to become the missing puzzle to start structured and planned activities and receive positive results providing assistance to children and their parents respectively. Our plans for the nearest future include establishment of Kindness School where all techniques and acquired practical experience will be implemented".*

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### 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 launched in March 2016 and consists of 2 trainings in Odesa and 3 therapy course in Odesa and Odesa region. The partners of the project are: "HOPE worldwide of Canada", HOPE worldwide, Ukrainian Institute of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (Lviv, Ukraine), Ukrainian Credit Union Limited (UCU).

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

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### "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.

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### 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.

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