

Thanksgiving Charity Drive 2010

Every year as the part of the Thanksgiving Day festivities, the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia organizes the Charity Fundraising Drive in which all member companies have an opportunity to support various projects and associations with aims ranging from helping homeless people to improving the conditions of disabled people nationwide. The selection procedure for the charity recipients is based on our long-established procedures and criteria. Therefore, all companies contributing to the Charity Drive can be sure that their support is resulting in a positive change in the whole society.

In 2010, together with the generous contributions from our member companies, AmCham fundraised 3000 euro from the raffle at the Thanksgiving Gala Charity Dinner. This year, we were able to distribute a total of 15 250 EUR to those in need! The amount of contributions

increased from last year despite the recession and other economic difficulties. The informal meeting with representatives of the selected charity organizations (listed below) had a pleasant atmosphere and took place at AmCham on December 14, 2010.

We would like to thank all members for their support and contributions to the AmCham Thanksgiving Charity Drive 2010. It proved to be strong evidence that businesses do not only aim to make profits but also want to improve the wellbeing of society as a whole.

2010 AmCham Charity Drive Recipients

After a thoughtful and careful screening, AmCham selected the following charities as recipients of the 2010 AmCham Charity Drive:

"Among Us" Sheltered Café in Bratislava. This café, which provides employment for mentally challenged people, is overseen

by the House of Social Services – MOST, a nonprofit organization providing help and support for people with mental disorders and their families. The donation will be used to support external marketing such as advertisement (brochures printing) and provide catering accessories (dishes, plates, bowls,).

Assistance Forum for Elderly People in Prievidza. This civil association assists elderly people with protecting their rights and promoting their needs. The donation will be used to purchase computers, software, phones, SIM cards, stations and other necessities to establish an emergency assistance telephone line where seniors can call for advice in crisis situations.

"Crossroads" Asylum Center Betania in Malacky. This institution oversees two shelters: one for homeless men and boys from orphanages; the other for mothers with children in material and social

need and victims of domestic violence. The financial aid will be used to buy windows, vacuum cleaners and kettles.

Hospice of Mother Theresa in Bardejovská Nová Ves. This organization provides care for approximately 20 terminally ill senior citizens. The donation will assist with purchasing a used automobile to deliver food and to transport patients for special purposes.

Mother Theresa Missionaries of Charity in Bratislava. This "soup kitchen" provides assistance for homeless people, single mothers and other people in need. They provide shelter and prepare meals six times a week.

"Refugium" Non-profit Organization in Trenčín. The organization oversees the Mercy Nurses Hospice which secures complex nursing facilities and medical care to ensure professional soothing care for terminally ill people. The financial aid will be used for special cleanable wall paint and for insect nets.

Slovak Association for People with Hearing Disabilities in Ilava. This association organizes social courses and advisory services for deaf people. The donation will be used for accommodation and expenses for deaf people from the wider regions of Slovakia to attend the courses.

"Ulita" Community Center Kopčany in Bratislava. The Ulita Community Center of Kopčany provides a wide range of counseling, leisure-time, and preventive activities to diminish the risks and impacts of socio-pathological aspects related to social exclusion. The financial aid will be used for new windows and doors for the facility.

CONTRIBUTORS: (in alphabetical order)

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From left: Jana Gajdošová of Slovak Association for People with Hearing Disabilities in Ilava; Dominika Biziková of AmCham Slovakia; Petra Hrašňová of "Ulita" Community Center Kopčany in Bratislava; Ľubica Gálisová of Assistance Forum for Elderly People in Prievidza; Jake Siegers of AmCham Slovakia; Vladimír Chlebana of "Refugium" Non-profit Organization in Trenčín; Anna Beňková of "Crossroads" Asylum Center Betania in Malacky; Andrea Beňušková of "Among Us" Sheltered Café in Bratislava; Cyril Korpesio of Hospice of Mother Theresa in Bardejovská Nová Ves

Photo: Andrej Klížan

