

Introduction of the Community Center and Humanitarian Warehouse Project 2024



Cum Spe, z.s.
(from the latin "Cum Spe" - "With hope")



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Project purpose

Building on our two-year experience of operating in temporary spaces where we have successfully received, distributed and delivered targeted assistance, we would like to realize our next goal - establishing a **community center** focused on children, disadvantaged individuals, families and those in need.

The center's purpose would be to provide education, host discussions, offer recreational activities, clubs, and workshops.

It would also include a **humanitarian aid warehouse and a furniture bank**.

Statistics on Aid Provided (May 2022 – May 2023):

Material Assistance

(sourced from our supporters)

- 20 strollers
- 24 highchairs and cribs
- 10 bicycles
- 40 sets of bedding
- 20 blankets
- 300 pairs of shoes
- 100 winter coats
- 200 towels
- 25 computers, tablets, mobile phones
- 420 Easter packages as part of the "Bunny the forgetful" campaign
- 60 children receiving toys as gifts
- 300 clothing packages for shelters and children's homes
- 3 sets of complete equipment for expectant mothers
- CZK 40 000 for food assistance and hygiene supplies

Non-Material Assistance

(finances from our donors and proceeds from the sale of donated items, including contributions from notable figures)

- 2 financial fundraisers that raised CZK 1.5 million
- 2 family relocations
- 500 sorted bags of clothing
- 60 sorted boxes of glass and ceramics

Our contribution includes the time dedicated to these activities **without expecting compensation**, as well as hundreds of hours spent on phone calls, almost 10,000 kilometers driven in private vehicles for material transportation, and more.

Planned Activities at the Community Center

- Information center and counseling in social areas (at what government office to seek assistance, available support from government and non-governmental institutions, **planning personal, financial and family goals to improve one's situation**)
- Seminars - collaboration with other nonprofit organizations and government authorities, **sharing practical experiences and functional models**
- **Free children's clubs and workshops with the help of experienced volunteers**
- Discussions with individuals from various fields, **sharing experiences in finding professional opportunities**
- Interactions among **different age groups**
- Creative afternoons
- If suitable outdoor space is available, organizing outdoor activities such as campfires, outdoor camping, **learning outdoor skills, and rules for outdoor activities**
- Receiving and distributing from the charity warehouse. **Providing assistance to those in need for free** and for other interested individuals, selling items at **minimal prices**, which will be used for workshop supplies or direct assistance, such as purchasing essential food for those in need or facing sudden difficult life situation
- **Furniture bank** - apart from the clothing, household items, toys, and children's needs stored, we would like (to a limited extent) to operate a furniture bank with basic furniture, for example, for mothers with children successfully moving out of a shelter and needing furniture for a fresh start. At this moment, we don't have suitable premises for this purpose



Project benefits

Changing the patterns

- Preventing risky behavior and juvenile delinquency, including drug and alcohol abuse, violence, and other detrimental behaviors
- Community cohesion
- Natural learning of proper societal behaviors through examples
- Collaboration with other organizations from both the government and private sectors
- Our goal is to create a place where people feel welcome and can confide in their problematic family and community behaviors.
- Many people get inspiration from their childhood and may repeat the same mistakes in the future without realizing that such behavior is socially and personally unsustainable.
- **It is necessary to change these patterns and demonstrate the possibility of changing their future life.**



Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

- The majority of items donated to our organization are further distributed to those in need - children's homes, shelters, or specific individuals in need
- Toys, coloring books, and other items for children are also provided to healthcare facilities
- Items that can no longer fulfill their original purpose are donated to creative groups as material for further production
- Books and magazines become part of our public library
- Glass, porcelain, kitchenware, and other items find new owners at our flea markets
- In the spirit of "reduce - reuse - recycle," anyone can get involved and choose their way of helping



Next steps

The key next step is **securing appropriate premises**.

The temporary storage spaces are no longer sustainable, and the connection with the planned community center is a logical culmination of our efforts to support the community with which we are in daily contact.

At this moment, we have the opportunity to **rent space directly in the village of Dubňany**.

(From a family house in the village of Dubňany and provided garages, we currently manage the majority of our activities, including our flea markets).

The intended property is located at the site of the former "U Pichlera" café. The facility has sanitary facilities, a small kitchen, and adequate space for both the warehouse's operation and planned community activities.

Our finances primarily come from flea markets and the sale of donated items, but this **income is irregular and not stable**.

To ensure our commitment to the property owner, our goal is to raise a sufficient amount for **at least a year's rent** and utilities or find permanent partners who can help with **regular contributions** to cover the expenses for the premises.

Of course, we will continue with our key community activities - distributing clothing, supplies, and food packages to those in need.

However, a new community center would be a tremendous help; we could centralize our storage and become a safe haven and information source for the entire local community in South Moravia.

We hereby kindly request your consideration of supporting our project. We will publicly acknowledge each and every assistance on all our channels, provide donation agreements for contributions, and supporting partners will have an honorable place in our community center.