

## Good deeds of Ivanychiv "Nezabudka"

13.6.2023

Slovo Pravda - Volodymyr Newspaper



For almost two decades, the "Nezabudka" charitable foundation, known in Volyn, in Ivanych, has been taking care of children from families in crisis. Here they teach to love parents and friends, to respect their country and those who extend a helping hand. However, the full-scale invasion of Russia brought its own corrections - in "Nezabudka" they left the usual affairs and became a kind of humanitarian hub of the Ivanychiv region.

It all started in the mid-nineties with an invitation to a former boarding school of scouts from Germany. Together with them, German friends began to go to Ivanych with friendly help. Those were difficult 90s, the people of Ivanychiv, who got into a difficult situation, started coming to foreign guests and asking for help. It was then that the idea to create something like a social station was born. The head of the foundation Snizhana Gorbachuk was also in the whirlwind of events.



- There are two co-founders of the charity fund from the Ukrainian side - I and Lyudmila Kononenko. Our sponsors and donors are located in Germany - it is the non-governmental organization "Vergiss-Mein-Nicht", which in translation also means forget-me-not. The German partners decided that people should receive help on a permanent basis. They started with apartments, rented a hut, and 15 years ago they bought the dilapidated premises of the sanitation station. Repairs were made, the second floor was completed. Currently, there are six of us working here.

The main activity of Nezabudka is aimed at helping children from low-income families and those in crisis situations.



- Practically, every day after school, up to 70 children came to us for meals. We conducted various classes with them - group classes, with a mandatory Bible section, since we are a Christian organization. We try to instil love for God regardless of denomination. Humanity, decency, trust are the virtues that should characterize a person in life. We tell the children that when they sit down to eat here, they should first of all thank God, because he ordered that someone donate money to good causes. We do not tell anyone that you have to be Baptist or Pentecostal - different denominations cooperate here.

Children love drawing classes, especially colouring pictures by numbers. Many such paintings adorn the walls of the foundation. Mrs. Snizhana jokes and says that they paint here with tones. Older girls were sewing shopping bags, someone was preparing homework. But the main thing for children was communication.



The fund is also registered as a recipient of humanitarian aid. Twice a year, trucks with clothes and school furniture came to Ivanychi, and the local hospital was provided with beds and mattresses. And there is also the promotion "Christmas in packages". Every year before the New Year, German families collect Christmas presents in shoeboxes. It is decorated and filled with various goodies and gifts for Ukrainian children.

Mrs. Snizhana says that it is difficult, but when the war started, the question of leaving somewhere did not even arise. It was scary, but the fund understood that they had no right to give up, on the contrary, they had to work. Since the beginning of the war, the military has been fed here. Later, humanitarian shipments began to arrive, the first internally displaced persons arrived, and everything began to spin.



- Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, we have reformatted our activities. Last year we did not work with the children at all, and this school year we are only feeding them. I see that they lack the communication and support of the elders and we miss our clubs. But now we have to help the military, de-occupied territories and displaced people, - notes Ms. Snizhana.

German partners also became more active, another organization "GAIN" with an international status was added, which was actively involved in providing assistance to Ukraine. Only seven "tires" with mattresses arrived - they were all taken to military hospitals in Odessa, Zaporizhzhia, Novy Bug, and Dnipro.



- Sleeping bags, cots, medicines, bandages, generators, and food were brought to us. During this May, 12.5 tons of aid were shipped, and since the beginning of the full-scale invasion - more than a hundred tons.

And last year, the foundation opened its doors for internally displaced persons. People were accommodated in his rooms, and when there were more of them, folding beds were placed in the hall. A total of 25 people from Donetsk region, Bila Tserkva, Bucha, Irpen, Nikopol, Kherson were sheltered. Children slept in small "cubicles" on mattresses. The people of Kyiv have already returned home, the family from Donetsk, which included a person with special needs, left for Germany.



- Currently, the displaced people do not live here, but those who are in the territory of our community receive food packages twice a month. On average, up to 200 people come every month. We closely cooperate with the Pavlov community, which periodically organizes the delivery of goods to the east and takes a lot of products from us. We also share with volunteers Oksana Kutsenko, Oleksandr Vesel. I want to remember with a kind word the now deceased volunteer Petro Supruniuk - he was the one who delivered mattresses to the military hospital. He was passionate about volunteering, was a nice person and worked for the victory of our country.

Snizhana Gorbachuk assures that while the war is going on, the Nezabudka Foundation will accept humanitarian goods and help those in need. And it is on volunteers that our rear front is supported.

**Yaroslav KOLOSKOVA**