

## Millions raised by diplomats will help Czech charities

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Help for victims of crime or domestic violence, rehabilitation equipment, school transport for disabled children, material support for home hospices, musical instruments for disadvantaged children and equipment for the visually impaired are only a few examples of 29 Czech philanthropic projects that will be supported by money raised by diplomats from more than 50 countries.

**The International Christmas Festival**, organized under the auspices of the First Lady by the **Diplomatic Spouses Association** on the first Advent Sunday last Christmas, took thousands of visitors on a tour around the world. This annual festival and market raised almost **2.1 million CZK** for Czech charities by selling entry tickets, goods from all over the world, internet auctions and through funds collected from private and corporate donations.

Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of 29 charities will be present at the **Grand Award Ceremony** hosted by the Romanian Embassy on May 10th.

“Our proceeds support so many worthy causes, ranging from helping children in institutional care to have successful careers, supporting a youth orchestra where Czech children play alongside children from 6 different nations, efforts to get youngsters off the streets and a bistro that gives a jobs to homeless women,” said **Mrs. Barbara Marc from Slovenia, DSA President**. “These are only a few of the many achievements of our partnering NGOs. It is greatly satisfying to cooperate with them and our thanks go to all our members, volunteers, partners and sponsors, whose work and support makes this possible.”

“Our work demonstrates the gratitude of our respective nations for the hospitality of our host country and the Czech people. These NGO grantees are doing excellent work and we hope that our financial donation will help them to continue and stay motivated,” noted **Mrs. Tamar Agiashvili from Georgia, DSA Charity Coordinator**.

“Each year we receive more grant applications than we can satisfy. We are therefore very grateful for the help from an increasing number of socially responsible private and corporate donors who entrust their contributions to our care, knowing that **100 percent of their donation goes to charities** and none to DSA operational costs,” explained **Mrs. Adriene Petone from Hungary, DSA Treasurer**. “Among our most generous financial donors are Škoda Auto and Hilton Hotel. Other leading companies supported us by donating products to our tables and auctions including Granát Turnov, Preciosa, Moser and many others. For the first time we also had many young Czech artists and designers donating their products for our auction”.

The Diplomatic Spouses Association was established in 1997 as a nonprofit organization to enable its members to strengthen relations with the cultural heritage of the host country, to share their own cultural heritage, information, interests and ideas. The Association runs on a voluntary basis and puts a strong emphasis on charity work. **Since 2000 the DSA raised close to 66 million CZK**, which makes it one of the country’s leading benefactors.

List of supported charities on page 2.

**Charities awarded in 2017 from proceeds of the International Christmas Festival 2016**

Nr.	Name	Project	Amount awarded
1	ACORUS Civic Association	Help to the victims of domestic violence	50 000,00 Kč
2	Anima terapie	Summer camp for children of drug addicts	50 000,00 Kč
3	Association for Early invention	Support to prematurely born children	50 000,00 Kč
4	Beauty Helps - Krása pomáhá	Support to the elderly	40 000,00 Kč
5	Caritas of the Family Nový Hrozenkov	Ceiling lift system for home of Peaceful ageing	50 000,00 Kč
6	Centre for children with hearing impairment Tamtam	Tablets for teaching sign language	80 000,00 Kč
7	Cesta domů hospice	Material Support for the Home Hospice	100 000,00 Kč
8	Center of Integration of Children and youth	Mothers and Children of Karlin – More Care and Love	50 000,00 Kč
9	Detský domov Sedloňov	For the better world with DSA and motto: "There is no gain without hard work II"	100 000,00 Kč
10	Domaci hospic Vysočina	Support for the hospice care	100 000,00 Kč
11	Domaci hospic Jordan	Support for the home hospice care	80 000,00 Kč
12	Down syndrom CZ	Lifelong Learning for children and persons with Down Syndrome	80 000,00 Kč
13	EDA	Toys for sensory stimulation and motor skill development	80 000,00 Kč
14	Foundation for premature children and their families.	Vein viewer Flex device	100 000,00 Kč
15	Hestia	Summer camp for all kids	90 000,00 Kč
16	Hospic sv. Štěpána /St. Stephen Hospice	The material support for the hospice and palliative care for St. Stephen Hospice patients	72 000,00 Kč
17	Integrační centrum Zahrada	Ceiling lift system in therapy room	100 000,00 Kč
18	Maltéžská pomoc (Maltese Aid)	Transport of children with disabilities to schools	100 000,00 Kč
19	Nadační fond Slunce pro všechny	Garden Gym	80 000,00 Kč
20	NGO SLEPÍŠI	Touchpoint training kitchen	45 000,00 Kč
21	Pestrá společnost, o.p.s.	Complex aftercare for assistance dog's owners	50 000,00 Kč
22	Projekt Šance, o. s.	Prevention of social exclusion of Czech "children of the streets"	120 000,00 Kč
23	Společnost DUHA, z.ú.	Special senior chairs will help to elderly clients from the Day Service Centres	30 105,00 Kč
24	Spolek Konipaska	Medical equipment for terminaly ill patients	80 000,00 Kč
25	Služby Dobrého Pastýře	Dum sv. Eufrasie	60 000,00 Kč
26	The Harmonie Foundation / Nadační fond Harmonie	Instruments for children from disadvantaged background	35 000,00 Kč
27	Tyflo servis	Reading/writing equipment for visually impaired people	100 000,00 Kč
28	Velvet Smile	Domestic and rehabilitation care for sick children	30 000,00 Kč
29	Jako Doma	Help to homeless women trained and hired as cooks	50 000,00 Kč
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2 052 105,00 Kč</b>

Detailed information about the charity work and individual donations is available on the DSA website:

<http://www.dsaprague.org/> and newly on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dsaprague](http://www.facebook.com/dsaprague) .

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