

Ihona Mirchuk, Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National University,
Postgraduate of Department of Political Science and Public Administration

THE ROLE OF THE CHARITABLE FUNDS INITIATED BY PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES OF UKRAINE FROM VOLYN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION

Abstract: The article considers the main forms and aspects of charity fundraising activity. In the focus of attention is the implementation of charity funds projects. The article lays emphasis on the importance and benefits of the charity fundraising models initiated by the People's deputies of Ukraine from Volyn region.

Key words: People's deputy of Ukraine, charity fund, civil society, development of the region, social initiatives, development projects.

Introduction

Charity fundraising activities provide and guarantee the health and development of a civil society as it determines the functioning of the society as a whole.

Analysis of the latest research into the problem shows that the content of the notion "charity activity" has been the subject of the scientific investigation for such scientists as O. Alieksieva, B. Bromlei, M. Kolisnyk and others. However the problem of the role of charitable organizations in the regional development has not been investigated properly and requires thorough consideration.

The aim of this research is to figure out the influence and the importance of the charity funds activity, initiated by the People's deputies of Ukraine from Volyn, for the development of the Volynian region. To achieve this aim we are to solve the following tasks:

- to analyze the core charitable activity, the main trends and forms of charity fundraising initiated by deputies;
- to study the ways of projects implementation and social initiatives in accordance with the tasks defined for this research.

How charitable organizations founded by People's deputies operate in the Volyn region

The development and functioning of the institution of charity is rather important factor of establishing a civil society. According to a famous scholar A.Kolodii "Social sphere in the context of various forms of social interrelations is by its nature an integrated part of the social system and is commonly regarded as a civil society" [1]

Modern state of the development of civil society in Ukraine proves to be accelerating and this process influences the growth of the number of charitable organizations and funds all over the country.

According to the statistic data of the Single State Register of the Institutions and Organizations of Ukraine, published by the State Statistics Service in May 2014 there have been registered 14477 charitable organizations in this country [2].

Civil society organizations ensure proliferation of the charity activities, granting address help and operative charitable aid [3]. The founders of charitable organizations and funds are predominantly businessmen, politicians, statesmen, including the representatives of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada deputies corpus from Volyn region.

Volynian regional charity fund “European Vector” was founded by Serheii Martyniak, a People’s deputy of Ukraine, on December, 2 2009.

The fund activity centers on philanthropic goals. Its main goal is to implement all the initiated projects, to provide real help to all unprotected layers of the population, religious communities, municipal, medical, educational institutions and to all those who need this help on the territory of both Volyn region and Ukraine. The fund also seeks to promote rising of the citizens’ social well-being as well as to contribute to integration of the region into the European cultural-economic space. Thus the main aims of the “European Vector” charity fund are:

- promotion of the Volyn region projects aimed at integration into European economic and cultural space;
- concentration on the charity activities serving the public interests and common good, donations to causes that benefit the unfortunate directly and multi charity activity for the sake of the whole community of the region [2].

The basic areas of charitable funds work:

- implementing a set of measures aimed at increasing the economic and cultural attractiveness of villages, towns and cities in Volyn region and all over Ukraine;
- organizing wide range of activities aimed at spiritual, intellectual and physical development of the people;
- organizing and conducting various forums, seminars, trainings to increase the investment potential of the community;
- financial and material aid to medical, social-cultural institutions and in the field of education;
- assuming the costs of maintenance of the objects of charity;
- funding for special programs

A great number of social initiatives have been realized since the foundation of the fund. During the period from 2010- till 2012 the core charity activity centered on the realization of the program “Care”. The goal of the program was to provide village medical centers with medicines granting free medical aid for pensioners in five districts of the Volyn region (Horohivskii, Lokachynskii, Lutskii, Rozhyshchenskii, Turiiskii).

March of 2012 – realization of the project “ Clean Village”. As a result a number of the containers for garbage have been installed in the villages of Rozhyshchenskii, Turiiskii and Lutskii districts, the garbage has been regularly taken out to the dump. Collective gathering of the garbage gave the possibility to eliminate spontaneous rubbish dumps.

Since April 2012 till now – realization of the program “Increasing Common Well-being of the Community”. The goal of the program is conducting mobilizing companies and competitions for micro grants (up to 5000 hryvnas).

September – December 2012 – realization of the project “ Prevention of alcoholism among children in rural areas of Volyn” and participation in the competition to win the grant of 40 000 grv. The aim of the project is restriction of alcohol addiction among children and in the

families in villages, and initiating prophylactic measures system and social servicing for alcohol-free entertainments.

June – September 2012 – realization of the advocacy-project “Reanimobile for the Hospital” aimed at granting a reanimobile to Lutsk District Hospital.

February 2013 – start of the co-financing campaign “From Self-organization to Welfare”. The aim of the program is to facilitate solution of the urgent basic needs of the citizens in Volyn region with the financial grant support in amount of 12 000 hryvnas [2]. The program is still functioning in 2014.

All the projects are being realized with the financial support of the agrarian-industrial company “Pan Kurchak”. Some of the projects are supported by the Volynian regional charitable organization “Foundation for Community Development”.

Thus the charitable activity of the fund has begun quite recently and we hope all the core goals will be realized step by step. The “European Vector” charity fund team provides real help to medical institutions, contributes to the improvement of the attractiveness of the villages and towns in Volyn region, financing the programs supporting the welfare of the community.

“Stepan Ivakhiv Fund” was founded on February 14, 2012. Later it was renamed into “Patriots of Volyn”. Stepan Petrovych Ivakhiv, the People’s deputy of Ukraine, is the founder of this charity fund.

The basic areas of charitable fund “Patriots of Volyn” work are the following:

- implementation of energy conservation projects in the institutions of education, healthcare and culture;
- providing institutions of education, healthcare and culture with software appliances, modern school boards, new textbooks;
- all-round development of youth sports;
- giving assistance to village and town councils in solving the municipal problems;
- restoration and repair of the monuments and obelisks;
- facilitate the development of spirituality and orthodoxy [3].

“Patriots of Volyn”, Stepan Ivakhiv’s charitable fund, gives real help to those who need it badly. With the financial support of S.Ivakhiv St. Kyrylo and Methodii Church has been built in the village of Adamivka. The Deputy takes care of the artistic-cultural heritage. In 2012 the exclusive literary-musical performance of Lesia Ukrainka writings was held in Lutsk.

On March 21-23, 2013 the U21 Judo Championship of Ukraine was held in Lutsk with S. Ivakhiv and Volyn Judo Federation financial support, the Deputy is the President of this Federation. Last year Stepan Ivakhiv presented dental Chair and a refrigerator to store medicines to Zabolottia district hospital. The hospital in Ratno was also granted medical equipment.

In 2014 Stepan Ivakhiv Charitable Fund organized charity event “Ukrainian Flag to Every Patriot”, where all the comers could get free a state flag.

In hard times for Ukraine Volyn deputies Stepan Ivakhiv and Ihor Yeremeiev initiated the social movement “Save the life of a soldier”. The main goal of the campaign is to provide Ukrainian soldiers with modernized means of personal protection to save their lives in the hostilities. The donations have been made to the causes that benefit the needs of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense in amount of 16 million hryvnas. There have been purchased 500 body armours, binoculars, night vision goggles and thermal imagers for the military of the Volynska mechanized brigade, who are fighting for independence of Ukraine in Donbas now [3].

All the activities of the Fund show that “Patriots of Volyn” charitable fund does a lot to realize its programs of the development of the Volyn region in different aspects of social life, such as material support to local communities, development of spirituality and orthodoxy, development of children’s and professional sport, takes an active part in modernization of the Ukrainian army.

The Verhovna Rada of Ukraine deputy Ihor Myronovych Yeremeiev, the head of the Charity Foundation has become well-known in the region, when he founded the fund – “Old-timer of Volyn “Volynska Rodyna” on November,25 1998.

The basic areas of this charitable fund work are:

- financial aid to medical, social-cultural and educational establishments;
- material support of sick children and measures of their recovery;
- programs promoting development of youth sport and tourism;
- social initiatives of modernization of the Ukrainian army.

In 2011 the charitable fund “ Volynska Rodyna” gave financial aid to the hospital of village Trostianets in Kivertsi district. The money were donated to the treatment of patients, purchasing medicines, equipment of the hospital buildings. On St.Nicolas Day Ihor Yeremeiev brought presents to the children of the orphanage “Sonechko” located in Kivertsi.

Aid to the sick children is the priority activity of the “Volynska Rodyna”. In 2012 regional charity fund, on the initiative of Ihor Yeremeiev, purchased hearing aids for little Volynians who suffer from deafness. The Deputy supervises the sanatorium “Dachnyi” for children with parents. The Fund financed installation of energy saving windows, modernization of heating system, repairing of the manipulation room. In 2013 thirteen Volynian children went to Truskavets for treatment with the help of intensive neuro- physiological rehabilitation. This year with the support of the charitable fund “Volynska Rodyna” a Festival of experimental Water Tourism “ Polisian Regatta” has been held in the National Nature Park “Prypiat – Stohid”.

In 2014 within the mentioned above project “ Save the Life for Soldier” Ihor Yeremeiev and Stepan Ivakhov purchased specially equipped medical vehicle YAS AC U-396295 and granted it to the needs of the National Gvardia of Ukraine.

Thus development priorities of Ihor Yeremeiev’s charitable fund “Volynska Rodyna” is providing financial aid to medical institutions in Volyn region. The deputy also supports Ukrainian army, in particular, through the social initiative “Save the Life to a Soldier”,which he initiated together with Stepan Iakhiv.

In the context of charitable activities the name of Ihor Palytsia, a People’s deputy to Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine from Volyn, is widely known in the region. His “Ihor Palytsa Charitable Fund “New Lutsk” was founded on June,10 2011.

The core goals of this fund are:

- support to social sphere development, participation in social-economic programs;
- realization of scientific-educational programs and programs of national-cultural development;
- promotion, designing and implementation of projects aimed at reforming the legal system and justice, healthcare, ecology, development of the local self-governing;
- establishing reforming in the system of education of Ukraine aimed at its improvement;
- promotion of the development of sport and tourism [5].

Despite the fact that the Fund is quite “young”, a lot of beneficial social initiatives have been already realized. Among them the following are worth mentioning:

- program “ Let’s make Lutsk European City” (equipment of the yard sites and recreational places);
- program “With the Good in the Heart” (financing the catering of students from low-income families);
- program “Lutsk – Center of Science and Education” (financial aid in conducting the scientific conference “ Perspectives of innovative investment urban development of Lutsk” (February, October);
- program “ Health of People – Key to the Future”(purchasing of medical equipment and medicines, repair works);

- program “ Support to the Gifted and Talented Youth – Investment into the Future”(awarding scholarships to the best students of the state universities and pupils of the schools);
- program “Culture and Spirituality – the Main Wealth of Lutsk” (support of festivals and various musical-artistic events such as “Stravinskii and Ukraine”, “Music Dialogues – 2013”, “ On the Waves of Svytias”);
- program “ High sport Achievements to Lutsk” (granting financial support for the preparation of young sportsmen for the prestigious international tournaments and competitions) [5].

As it becomes clear from the information provided, “Ihor Palytsia Fund “New Lutsk” centers its attention on the all-round development of young people. Nevertheless, charitable activities of the Fund are also aimed at financing the landscaping and greening of the city, giving help to people with low incomes, supporting scientific-educational activities, healthcare, culture and spirituality, development of sport and social protection of population.

Conclusions and Perspectives of Further Research

Having analyzed the core charity activities of the Funds initiated by the People’s deputies from Volyn region, we may state that the charity work aimed at realization of social initiatives concerns different spheres of life in the region. The People’s deputies concentrate their attention on the youth, financing, thereby, the future of the country. Charity fundraising models and forms of activity are multifaceted. We may conclude that integrated development of Volyn region, in the context of establishing a civil society, depends both on the state support and financing of the charity funds and organizations.

References:

1. Kolodiy A.: On the way to civil society. The theoretical foundations and sociocultural preconditions of democratic transformation in Ukraine / Kolodiy A. – Lviv: Chervona kalyna , 2002. – 276 p.
2. The number of subjects of Unified State Register of Enterprises and Organizations of Ukraine according to the legal forms of menage on the 1-st of May, 2014. – [Electronic resource]. Access mode: <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>
3. The state of development of civil society in Ukraine: analytical report / A. Yermolaev, D. Gorelov [and other]. – K.: National Institute for Strategic Studies, 2012. – 48 p.
4. Volyn Regional Charitable Foundation of Sergey Martynyak “The European Vector” – [Electronic resource]. Access mode: <http://www.eurovektor.volyn.ua>
5. The official website of Stepan Petrovych Ivahiv – National Deputy of Ukraine – [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <http://ivakhiv.com.ua/>
6. The official website of Ihor Yermeev. – [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <http://eremeev.com.ua/>
7. The website of Charitable Foundation – “The fund of Ihor Palytsia – The New Lutsk”. – [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <http://www.novy.lutsk.ua/>