

Final Narrative Report

Project Title: Enhancing Year-Round Activities at the Liubomyr Husar Integration and Recreation Center through the Installation of an Energy-Efficient Heating System

Project Location: 2 Shevchenka St., Dolsk village, Turivskiyi district, Volyn region, Ukraine.

Implementation period: September - December 2024.

I. General information

The Liubomyr Husar Integration and Recreation Center serves as a unique space for rehabilitation, education, integration, and spiritual development for children, youth, Caritas staff, and volunteers. The center's primary mission is to create high-quality conditions for the rehabilitation, education, and spiritual well-being of children and young people facing difficult life circumstances, particularly those affected by the war in Ukraine. Additionally, the center provides a space for preventing professional burnout and promoting emotional well-being among Caritas employees and volunteers.

The center is situated in an environmentally friendly recreational area spanning 0.75 hectares, surrounded by a picturesque 22-hectare lake. The two-story building, constructed of white brick with plastic windows, has a total area of 1,560 m². The facility includes:

- 16 guest rooms (accommodating 4, 6, or 8 people each) on the first and second floors.
- A 350 m² basement.
- A spacious ground floor, featuring: a large foyer, an administrative office, a 300 m² dining hall, two kitchens, utility rooms, a laundry room, and a drying room in the southern section.
- A second floor, with a large multifunctional space for active leisure, games, and study.

The building is bright and spacious, with high ceilings that enhance comfort. The center offers a variety of recreational spaces, including:

- A car park.
- A playground.
- A sports field.
- A designated area for outdoor events.
- Six gazebos.
- Volleyball and mini-football courts.
- Direct access to the lake and beach.

Available utilities and infrastructure: asphalt road access, electricity, waste disposal, septic tank sewer system, well water supply.

The Caritas Recreation Center officially began operations in May 2024. With the installation of an energy-efficient heating system, we are advancing toward full year-round operation, ensuring uninterrupted access to the center's essential services in every season.

II. Impact of the project activities on the target group

1) Children's recreation

From June to September 2024, the Liubomyr Husar Integration and Recreation Center welcomed nearly **500 children**, providing psycho-emotional and physical support to aid their recovery, adaptation, and integration. Qualified physical therapists from Caritas Volyn played a crucial role in helping children preserve and restore their mental health after trauma.

June – July 2024

The center hosted **215 children** from the **Volyn and Rivne regions** and **Caritas Odesa**. Activities included active leisure, educational excursions, hiking, creative workshops, spiritual development, sports competitions, contests, quests, concerts, developmental training, and individual and group psychological sessions.

July – August 2024

The center welcomed **133 children** from **Caritas Kharkiv, Caritas Zhytomyr, and Caritas Beryslav**, offering art therapy workshops, sports events, psychological training, quests, competitions, concerts, spiritual discussions, cultural and educational excursions, hiking, workshops on hiking skills, and active leisure programs.

September – October 2024

The center provided support for **135 children** from **Caritas Sumy, Caritas Chernihiv, and Caritas Fastiv**, focusing on quests, educational excursions, hikes, creative workshops, psychological training ("First Aid" and "Safe Space"), spiritual and physical development, catechesis, morning and evening prayers, participation in the Divine Liturgy, quizzes, entertainment, intellectual games, film screenings, dancing, and positive social interactions.

Psychologists conducted individual consultations upon request and group sessions featuring elements of *First Psychological Aid* and *Safe Space* programs. The educational quest "The Way of the Superhero" helped children understand stress, non-violent communication, problem-solving, and emotional regulation. The camp concluded with a gala concert, where children showcased their creative talents through self-prepared performances.

Outcomes

As a result of the project:

- 500 children affected by war experienced improved psycho-emotional well-being.
- Physical health improved through sports competitions, active leisure, and outdoor activities.
- Creativity and social skills were enhanced through workshops, contests, and interactive programs.
- Better integration and emotional resilience were fostered.

2) Employee Well-being and Volunteer Support

Spiritual Renewal for Caritas Volyn Employees (September – October 2024)

Caritas Volyn organized spiritual renewal days for **30 employees**, featuring participation in the Liturgy, group discussions on Holy Scripture, entertainment, active leisure, and psychological workshops. Three volunteers worked with employees children, organizing outdoor games and creative workshops. As a result, employees successfully prevented professional burnout and enhanced their spiritual and emotional well-being.

Spiritual Retreats for Volunteers (September 2024)

As part of the Spiritual Formation of Volunteers project, **22 volunteers** participated in a two-day retreat, which included Liturgy, group discussions with a priest, Scripture readings and reflections, psychological training on

stress management, active leisure, and informal communication. Volunteers gained emotional and spiritual renewal while developing self-regulation and stress-management techniques, contributing to burnout prevention.

III. **Activities carried out during the reporting period and follow-up actions**

A key step toward ensuring the **year-round operation** of the center was the **installation of an autonomous heating system**. As part of the project, a **modern heating system** was installed, including essential equipment and the **laying of a heating network** throughout the facility.

Completed Work

In line with **inspections, technical assessments, and recommendations from Caritas Ukraine's engineers**, the following work has been successfully completed:

- Foundation preparation for an electric boiler and a diesel generator.
- Connection to the sewerage system.
- Installation and activation of an electric heating system for the building.
- Wiring and distribution of the heating network throughout the rooms.
- Auxiliary repair work, including wall preparation and partial renovation of the premises.

Key Benefits of the Heating System

- Maintains a comfortable indoor temperature during the off-season (early spring, late autumn).
- Enables year-round programming, allowing for trainings, short-term camps, and other events during colder months without compromising participants' health.
- Optimizes energy costs through energy-efficient solutions, including modern regulators and insulation of specific zones.

This heating system marks a significant step toward expanding the center's capacity, ensuring continuous access to vital services regardless of the season.

IV. **Current Status and Measures Taken During the Cold Season**

The installation of the heating system has allowed the center to organize short-term events even in winter. During the autumn-winter season of 2024, after the system was launched, the center hosted two staff and volunteer training sessions (two days each), one-day spiritual gatherings and development sessions for small groups in warm, well-heated rooms, and children's camps on a limited scale.

However, full-scale winter operations for large groups of children remain challenging due to several **unresolved technical issues**, including *building insulation work to enhance energy efficiency, installation of a ventilation system to ensure proper air circulation, upgrading utilities to improve overall infrastructure, and implementing inclusive solutions to accommodate children with special needs.*

These measures are critical for ensuring proper living conditions during winter, protecting the building from adverse weather conditions, and guaranteeing uninterrupted operations even in emergency situations. Further development and refurbishment will enhance living conditions, expand capacity for children's recreation and rehabilitation, and strengthen social cohesion within the community.

Completing these improvements will enable the Liubomyr Husar Integration and Recreation Center to operate fully year-round, ensuring continuous support for children, youth, staff, and volunteers

V. Overall FINANCIAL Expenses

Budget Position	Expenditure AUD	Expenditure UAH
Installation of the heating system according to the general estimate	14874	414677
Construction and installation works and services	13358	372422
Canal drilling and boring works	1516	42255
Materials of the heating system according to the general estimate	109581	3055112
Multi-zone system	36585	1020000
Ducted indoor unit	15165	422800
Wall-mounted indoor unit	15718	438220
Insulation kit	646	18000
Refnet	4950	138000
Communication module and central control panel	2869	80000
Freon pipeline	11933	332700
Electrical materials, fasteners and defrosting kit	4591	128000
Ventilation grilles and condensate drainage	7317	203998
Uninterruptible power supply system ATS (Automatic Transfer Switch)	2206	61496
Ecosoft industrial water purification system	7600	211899
<i>Direct expenses</i>	<i>124454</i>	<i>3469789</i>
<i>Administrative costs</i>	<i>5186</i>	<i>144575</i>
Total	129640	3614363

The implementation of the heating system was funded through a combination of **grant support and own resources**. Own resources covered **specialist labor costs, material purchases, and preparatory work** conducted before the installation of heat pumps.

VI. Appendixes:

- Financial report
- Appendix 1. Photos of repair works
- Appendix 2. Photos of events held in the autumn period in the Center.
- Appendix 3 Children's reviews about their stay in the camp.
- Social networks:
 - Website of Caritas Volyn <https://caritas-volyn.com/>
 - Facebook page Caritas Volyn <https://www.facebook.com/volyncaritas/>
 - Instagram Caritas Volyn <https://www.instagram.com/caritas.volyn/>

We express our sincere gratitude to the **Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations (AFUO)** and the **Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund** for their generous financial support, which made this project possible. Your assistance has transformed the lives of many children, providing them with a safe and nurturing environment for their development and recovery.

President, "Caritas Ukraine"



Tetiana Stawnychy