



RememberUs Annual Report | 2015



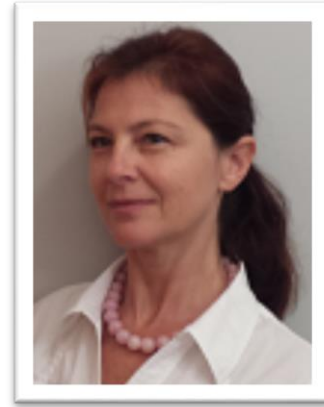
REMEMBERUS.ORG

<http://RememberUs.org>

Message from the Chair of the Board

Dear RememberUs Supporters,

From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank you all for supporting RememberUs. Your financial contributions, your volunteer work, and your words of encouragement have helped us complete a number of gratifying projects and achieve significant tangible results. In just a few years, we have been able to accomplish a lot, and we have set up a solid framework for much-needed future projects.



As some of you may know, we did not begin with a plan to start a non-profit organization. Initially, I wanted to run a “Friends and Family” campaign in order to help the [Drobytsky Yar Holocaust Memorial](#). This memorial was built at a little known Holocaust killing site in Kharkov, Ukraine. I have a personal connection to this place – several members of my family were murdered there among thousands of other people. We started helping the memorial and almost immediately we learned that there are hundreds of other mass murder sites all over Ukraine – some are neglected, others unknown, and victims are forgotten. As a result, my husband and I decided to create an organization dedicated to research, education, and commemoration of victims of the Holocaust. We now work with communities in the Kharkov and Poltava regions in Eastern Ukraine, and will be expanding our activities to Central and Western Ukraine.

We have chosen a unique way to commemorate the victims of these unthinkable crimes. We plant metasequoia trees directly on sites of mass murder. These long-living, strong, and beautiful trees are a symbol of strength and triumph of life over death. RememberUs have conducted presentations in schools and other venues in US and abroad, and work in collaboration with other Holocaust organizations. Recently researchers in Ukraine discovered new victims’ names, and RememberUs facilitated passing this information and these documents to the [Yad Vashem Museum](#). I am especially proud of our Social Media team, which consists of high school and college students. These young volunteers use social media to educate our supporters on several topics such as past and current events, Righteous of Nations and other. The team has expanded its activities beyond social media and conducts presentations in front of their peers at schools and summer camps.

In the next years, we will continue all these activities and more - we will be organizing re-occurring educational school trips to the killing sites, creating websites and school museums with Holocaust exhibitions, and finding new ways to commemorate victims.

As you know, all of us at RememberUs are volunteers. Our organization needs the community and your individual support. We cannot do it without you. We are grateful for your help and hope that you will continue to support us in the future.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julia Korsunsky'.

Julia Korsunsky,
Chair of the Board, RememberUs.org

Our Mission

“To honor and commemorate those who perished in the Shoah and to educate about the devastating and everlasting consequence of genocide”.

RememberUs.org manages projects under two programs: the **EDGE Program** (Educate FuturE Generations), which is conducted in the US and Ukraine; and the **MARS Program** (Maintain, Aid, Restore and Support), conducted in Ukraine only.

Why do we do it?

“To forget a Holocaust is to kill twice”

– Elie Wiesel



Volunteers – US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC



Volunteers – Boston-area Social Media Team, RememberUs.org

It is very important to pass the knowledge from one generation to another. Maintaining awareness about the tragic events of Holocaust is important not only for Jews, but for all the people.

The time has come, and we are taking the baton of knowledge from our parents and grandparents and handing it over to our children.

EDGE Program Accomplishments



Our US Social Media Team had grown to include eight very active and enthusiastic college and high school students – all of whom are volunteering in addition to their schoolwork.

Social Media postings now include current events, history events, and The Righteous of Nations series.



We expanded the format of our educational outreach events.

[Serious Night](#) at the RSM Summer Camp at Sunapee, NH, conducted by our Social Media team, was greatly received.



In Ukraine, we supported educational events at public schools in Kharkov, Kremenchug and Lubny.

A notable event took place in a technical college in Kremenchug in September of 2015 – our Chair of the Board was the [keynote speaker](#) at a Holocaust Awareness event.



RememberUs supported guided school trips to the Drobytsky Yar Holocaust Memorial and created brochures for distribution to all the visitors of the memorial.



RememberUs activities included document translation and support to research the names of the victims. Dozens of new names were found in Kharkov and in Kremenchug.

RememberUs also organized and sponsored a trip to a Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum [conference](#) for a group of people from the Drobitsky Yar Holocaust Memorial to present newly researched discoveries.

MARS Program Accomplishments



[For the first time ever](#), with help from RememberUs, International Holocaust Remembrance Day was commemorated on January 27, 2015 at the Drobitsky Yar killing site.

Our commemoration activities expanded from one single memorial to two more locations – Kremenchug and Lubny.

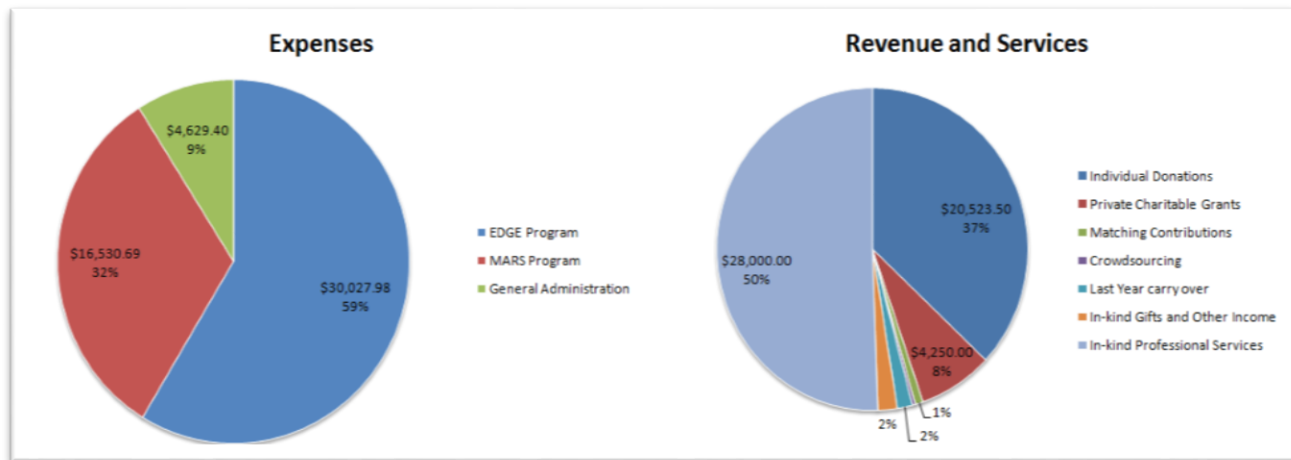


To mark killing sites and to commemorate victims, we plant metasequoia trees (one of the oldest living species on Earth). Planting these trees in “blood lands” is as close as we can get to commemorating for eternity - these trees grow for over a thousand years, can withstand fires, their story of rebirth has many symbolic parallels to events in Jewish history.

Financial Summary

We would like to thank the Greater Boston community, and particularly the Russian-speaking community, friends, family and colleagues for their strong support.

Our sponsors remain steady and almost everybody who donated to RememberUs in 2014, repeated in 2015. To see a list of donors, please see the following: [2014](#), [2015](#)



In 2014 RememberUs relied exclusively on individual donations and founders' contributions. In 2015, after being classified by the IRS as a 501(c)3 public charity, we were able to receive five small grants from private charitable foundations.

Some of our supporters increased their charitable impact by applying for matching contributions through their employers. Matching donations and crowd sourcing through GoodSearch and AmazonSmiles were our new sources of revenue in 2015. Our in-kind donations remained steady, and slightly surpassed the help we received in 2014.

Looking Forward

This 2016 we will mark the 75th anniversary of the Holocaust in Ukraine and we are dedicated to raising awareness and commemorating victims of Ukraine's unknown killing sites. Our activities will follow the tragic chain of events that unfolded during the World War II. By the end of 1941 most of Eastern Ukraine's Jews were killed. In 1942 and 1943 the tide of mass killings of Jews in Ukraine turned westward affecting Central and Western Ukraine.

In 2016 RememberUs.org will conduct commemoration and educational activities in five of Ukraine's oblasts – Kharkivs'ka, Poltavs'ka, Sums'ka, Kyivs'ka and Zhytomirs'ka, and in the following two years will expand these activities to Central and Western Ukraine.

In addition to planting metasequoia trees, running commemoration events, organizing educational trips to killing sites, and conducting educational presentations and research activities, we will be creating Holocaust museums in public schools in Ukraine. Some schools in Ukraine are located in close proximity to killing sites, and a few have already asked RememberUs to help host permanent (in-house) museums dedicated to the Holocaust and to local Jewish history. In the next 12 to 18 months, we plan to complete two school museums and two mobile exhibitions. To reach a wider audience, each museum will have an interactive website.

It is important to note that all our projects are actively managed by RememberUs – we do not pass the money for implementation to anybody else. We own and personally oversee each project, and we remain actively involved in every one to follow them through successful completion.

We need your support

As a young organization, we are proud to achieve such impressive results. In a short period of time RememberUs completed a number of important projects and developed name recognition both in the US and in Ukraine. We have a very ambitious plan for 2016. We plan to assist many communities in Ukraine to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holocaust and to raise the US and International awareness about killing sites in Ukraine.

Support from private foundations will be essential to the growth and success of our projects. We will also need strong and continuous backing from all our individual donors. The best way to donate is by check, mailed to:

RememberUs.org
P.O. Box 920542
Needham, MA 02492, USA

No Donation is too small!

We are fortunate to be a part of a strong and talented community. If you think that you would like to volunteer, please contact us at info@rememberus.org.

Volunteer and Make a Difference!

We look forward to an exciting and productive 2016!