



ACORUS

Help for victims of domestic violence

Newsletter 02 / 2016

Dear friends and supporters, we would like to share some information with you about events significant not only for ACORUS but also for the whole of Czech society. In May, the Czech Republic signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. We wish all the readers a great summer and are looking forward to seeing you in September on our 3rd Annual Charity Walk.

DAVID KOLLER CONCERT

The second spring Charity Concert for ACORUS took place on 19 April. This time a Czech rock legend David Koller performed with his band for ACORUS. As a support band we welcomed Acapella group Vselijak. The proceeds from the concert ticket sales reached 100,000 CZK in total. We will use them for funding our services in the ACORUS safe house for victims of domestic violence. A big thank you goes to all who were involved in this great evening.



SUCCESSFUL INSPECTION

In March, we received an unannounced inspection from the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs at our Counseling Centre in Prague 7. The inspection examined the quality of social services. The result was successful, we passed by getting 56 points out of 60!

O2 HELPED BY RUNNING

Thanks to the O2 staff and The O2 Foundation ACORUS received 100 thousand crowns for services offered in the Safe House and Counseling Centre to people affected by domestic violence. "Helping by Running"



initiative is held in O2 every year for the whole month of April. However, already in the first seventeen days of April the O2 employees had run 5000 km in total and thus reached the target. Thank you all once again.

THANKING THE DSA

The Diplomatic Spouses Association, an international society of partners of diplomats accredited in the Czech Republic, supported us again this year. Fifty thousand Czech crowns will go towards the cost of free services provided in the ACORUS Counseling Centre. These are social and legal counseling and psychotherapeutic help for victims of domestic violence. The DSA has supported our counseling centre since 2011, and their continuous help is greatly appreciated.

PREVENTION FOR STUDENTS

For the 2016 educational project, ACORUS received a grant of 70,000 CZK from the Prague Municipality again. The aim of this project - "Increasing safety in partner relationships" - is prevention and raising awareness of high school students in the area of partner and domestic violence. In total, there are thirty lectures in Prague schools scheduled during this year. Based on the students' feedback from the past we know that they consider such lectures useful, practical and applicable to their relationships.

ACORUS CHARITY WALK 2016



Save the date and join us again on our Charity Walk Against Domestic Violence. The third annual walk will take place on **Saturday, 24 September 2016** in Prague. This time, there will be two circular routes throughout Divoká Šárka Park - 6 km traditional "family" one with tasks on the way and a new 12km long "touristic" route. As usual, we are preparing a fun afternoon full of music and activities for the whole family in the Džbán camp site. You can register now at www.acorus.cz. See you in September.

A NEW HEAD OF ACORUS CENTRE

After 19 years of working in ACORUS, I decided to pass my duties and position as director to my colleague Mrs Jaroslava Chaloupková, effective from July, the 1st. Thank you to everyone who joined me on my ACORUS journey for a shorter or longer period. Thank you for all your support, cooperation, patronage and goodwill. I will still be working in ACORUS as a psychotherapist, therefore I believe that we will continue to meet. Sincerely yours, Zdena Zuzana Bednářová.