

2016



Annual Report

REMEMBERUS.ORG

501(c)(3) public charity

Message from the Chair of the Board

In 2016 RememberUs.org celebrated its third anniversary. With your help and support we have implemented many successful projects.

RememberUs.org, of course, is not the only organization that teaches about genocide and commemorates victims of the Holocaust. Our work, however, is unique in completing the “last mile”. The “last mile” is a term used in telecommunications and supply chain management to describe the last link to a destination. The last mile is often the most difficult and challenging part of a trip. At RememberUs.org we are equipped and well positioned to go the “last mile”. We travel directly to the places of atrocities in Ukraine and implement many of our projects directly on locations of massacre. It is not widely known that over one million Jews were murdered in Ukraine during the Holocaust.

These murders were followed by years of silence. Places of killings are often in remote locations, in the middle of the woods or in fields, and in many cases are unknown even to locals. We organize commemorative events and educational trips to these places, plant metasequoia trees on these sites, open museums nearby, and collect stories from eyewitnesses to connect our Holocaust knowledge directly to the source. Through our educational programs, we bring the knowledge from the “last mile” back to the US.

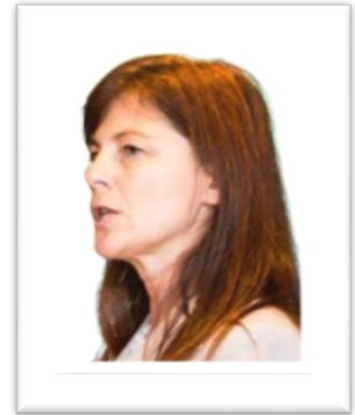
Most victims of these horrible crimes do not have children and grandchildren to put flowers on their gravesites and to tell us their stories. Volunteers from RememberUs.org speak on victims’ behalf, because “If not us, who? If not now, when?” We think it is our responsibility and moral obligation.

I would like to thank everyone who donated to, and volunteered for, RememberUs.org! We could not have achieved such a long list of accomplishments without your support and we are looking forward to continuing our work together this 2017!

Thank you!



Julia Korsunsky,
Chair of the Board, RememberUs.org



Our Mission and what we do

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 Generations, conducted in the US and Ukraine), and the **MARS Program** (Maintain, Aid, Restore and Support, conducted in Ukraine).

EDGE activities are geared towards educating about the untold stories of the Holocaust. Although we host various events, RememberUs.org has a specific focus on educating teens and young adults. Our events aim to teach history and spark discussions about mutual respect and tolerance. Our EDGE activities include live events, education via social media, the creation of school exhibitions and museums, and educational field trips.

MARS activities are aimed at raising awareness about little known places of mass killings, through research and commemorative events. Our activities include planting metasequoia trees, adding commemoration signs, and various small capital improvements, all of which are done directly on the sites of mass murder.

Why do we do what we do?

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

— George Santayana



Education and commemoration are essential tools in evaluating and understanding how societies evolve. The Holocaust is arguably the most evil and tragic chapter of modern history and learning its story is vital for all of mankind to ensure that “Never Again” will genocide occur.

At this juncture of history, as the last known survivors of the Holocaust pass away, it is our crucial responsibility to carry their stories and lessons to future generations.

EDGE Program Accomplishments



Awards

Two members of our team received the prestigious [Presidential Volunteer Award](#) ([Polina Brodskiy](#) and [Rachel Korsunsky](#)) for their philanthropic commitment.

Both recipients are members of our US Social Media Team, a team consisting of college and high school students, who manage our Facebook page and conduct educational presentations.



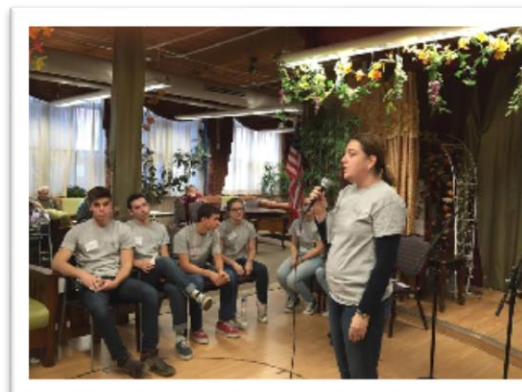
Peer-to Peer Events

[Serious Night](#) at Camp Sunapee by the Russian School of Mathematics was an outstanding success for the second year in a row. Run by our Social Media Team, our Peer-to-Peer educational outreach programs have expanded. High school and college-age volunteers host these events. This year, we have conducted events at Wellesley College, Newton South High School, and Needham High School.



Inspirational Speaker Series

This year, we started our "Inspirational Speaker Series", with four great events taking place. We hosted two well-known speakers: author [Liesel Appel](#), and [Nobel Prize Winner](#), Cornell University [Professor Roald Hoffmann](#). Both speakers delivered valuable firsthand knowledge, and our events garnered hundreds of guests.



Specialty Events

On Veterans Day we introduced a new event, [Holocaust through the Eyes of Teenagers](#), at a senior center. Our youngest teens met the Silent Generation and shared how they see the importance of learning and disseminating Holocaust lessons. This event was a big success and we look forward to holding it again in 2017.



School Field Trips

In collaboration with Kharkov's Hillel, we organized multiple guided [educational trips](#) to the Drobytsky Yar Holocaust Memorial. This on-going initiative will continue in 2017 and beyond. These field trips are free for all schools and colleges in the Kharkov oblast.

In 2017 we will expand our program to include the Lubny Holocaust Memorial - site in the Poltava oblast of Ukraine.



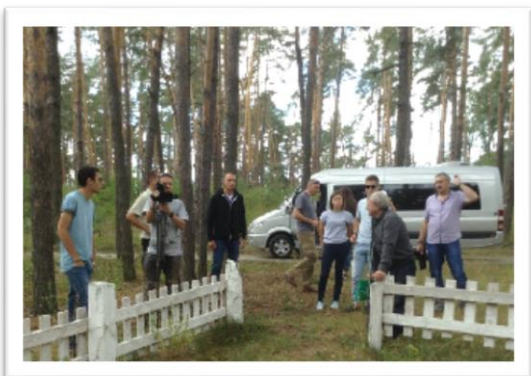
School Museums Openings

In 2016 RememberUs.org created two Holocaust museums: [one museum in a school near Lubny](#), Ukraine, where we were a sole sponsor, and another [museum inside a vocational school in Kremenchug](#), where we partnered with several other organizations. Both museums are located a short distance away from the killing sites.



Internet Museums

In order to reach a broader, global audience, and to showcase all materials, we created an [Internet museum](#) for Kremenchug's school museum. This concept will be replicated, and used to create similar websites for multiple other museums.



International Trips

In 2016, we initiated "*Last Mile*" a 10-day, 2,000+ kilometer trip through the five regions of Ukraine. With a team of volunteers from Ukraine and the US, we traveled off the beaten path to explore Jewish and Ukrainian [historic sites](#), to speak with those who remember the massacres, and to learn how Jewish communities have changed since WWII.

MARS Program Accomplishments



International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On January 27th, for the third year in a row, we organized and sponsored International Holocaust Remembrance Day [at the Drobytsky Yar](#). We hosted a meaningful day of commemorative activities directly on the killing site. This year, in spite of snowy winter weather, the memorial grounds were filled with students and teachers for a full day of ceremonies.



Commemorative Events

For the second consecutive year, we helped host a [commemorative event in Lubny](#), Ukraine. The event was held on October 16th, 2016, at the site where 1,865 Jews were killed on this day, seventy-five years ago. There are almost 1000 mass killing sites like Lubny all over Ukraine. In 2017, we will be expanding our support to sites in Kremenchug, Mirgorod, Piryatin and other locations.



Metasequoia Trees

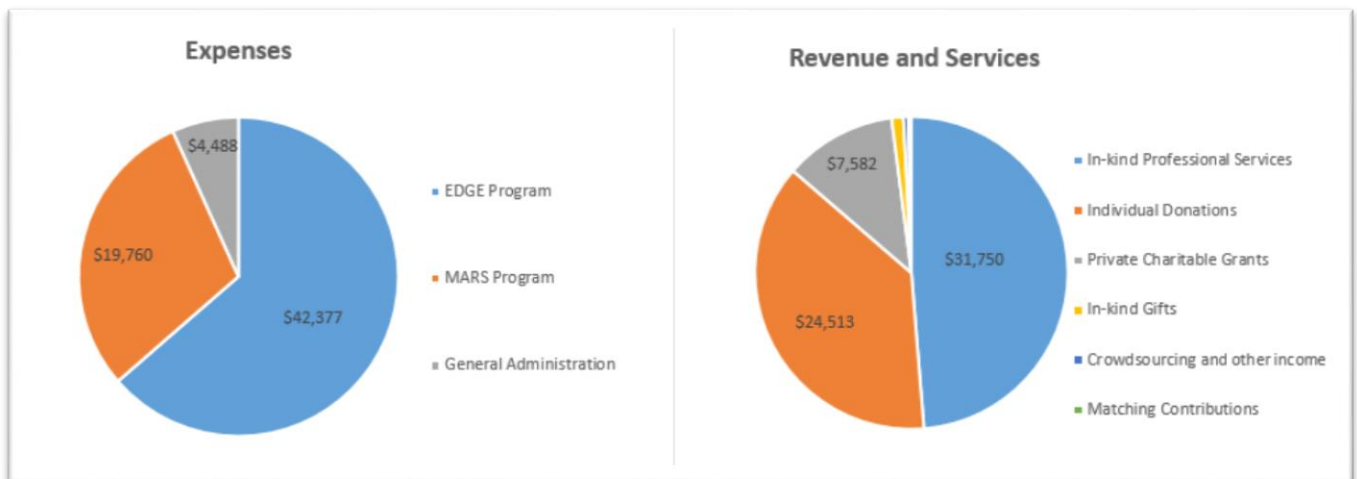
Our steadfast commitment to planting metasequoia trees remains unchanged. We plant metasequoia trees directly on sites of mass murder. These long-living, strong, and beautiful trees are a symbol of strength and triumph of life over death. This year we were caught off guard by a scarce supply of trees, coupled with skyrocketing prices. In 2017, we will place an even greater emphasis on securing trees well in advance, to plant as many as possible.

Financial Summary

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, particularly the local Russian-speaking community, RememberUs.org was able to fulfill its commitment. Our funding chiefly consists of donations from expatriates and their families, and a few small local grants. Our in-kind support continues steady and surpassing 2015 figures. Our pool of supporters remains steady - nearly all who donated in past years have donated again in 2016.

We greatly appreciate every donation. However, due to limited space we would like to alphabetically list only our key, 2016, supporters:

- Baskin, Emma and Gena
- Brodskiy, Yana and Slava
- Khavinson, Irina
- Konnikov, Anna and Michael
- Korsunsky, Julia and Igor
- Rifkin, Inessa and Victor
- Werner, Alla and David



To see our full list of donors, please click on the following links: [2016](#) [2015](#) [2014](#)

Looking Forward

RememberUs.org had a productive year, and we look forward to continue our work in 2017. As our volunteer team grows globally, and our programs expand on multiple fronts, we are well positioned to continue our momentum and to make a difference.

All projects under the **EDGE Program** will continue. Our focus with our high-school and university-age volunteers will shift away from Social Media programs and move towards live events, specifically peer-to-peer events. We will also continue our Inspiring Speaker series. Our education field trips to the Drobytsky Yar Holocaust Memorial will go on, and we will expand this format to conduct similar trips in Lubny, where we currently organizing volunteer-run tours and designing informational brochures.

Furthermore, we will continue filling Lubny's and Kremenchug's museums with content, and we are in the process of selecting another location for a third school museum. Due to the limited physical space in the one-room museums that we develop, a greater emphasis will be placed on digitizing material to make documents and photos available on the Internet. Expanding "Internet museums" will allow us to reach a global audience.

In 2016, **MARS Program** efforts were centered on the Poltav'ska and Kharkiv'ska oblasts, with additional limited activities in Kiev, Zhitomir and Cherkassy regions of Ukraine. We will continue our support to existing locations and will expand our outreach westward.

We need your support

As a young organization, we are immensely proud to achieve such impressive results. In a short time, RememberUs.org has completed numerous important projects and developed name recognition, both in the US and in Ukraine. In 2017, we have very ambitious plans for our educational activities, we will continue supporting efforts to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holocaust in Ukraine, and we will continue raising awareness about killing sites in Ukraine.

Ultimately, without financial backing, we will not be able to fuel our mission. Support from private foundations will be essential to the growth and success of our projects. We also need strong and continuous backing from all our individual donors. No donation is too small and the best way to donate is by check, mailed to:

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

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.

Thank you again and we look forward to an exciting and productive 2017!