

We are five



We are celebrating  
our fifth anniversary

2018 Annual Report

REMEMBERUS.ORG

501(c)(3) public charity

## Message from the Chair of the Board

My dear friends,

A little over five years ago my husband and I decided to plant a few metasequoia trees at the Drobytsky Yar Holocaust memorial in Kharkiv, Ukraine, to commemorate the memory of my family and the other 16,000 Jews murdered there. One thing led to another, and here we are five years later leading a volunteer-run non-profit organization with a mission of commemorating Shoah victims and educating people about the everlasting effects of genocide. In the short five years the total number of participants in our programs has exceeded 6,000. We have hosted many commemoration and educational events, drawing an attendance of the general public, school and university students, educators, veterans, Holocaust survivors, historians, public figures, as well as city and foreign government officials. Our teams have planted more than sixty metasequoia trees at the sites of atrocities. We have opened three Holocaust museums/exhibitions in schools in Ukraine, created and maintain two virtual Holocaust museums/websites, conducted research providing new materials to Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, and much more. We are raising awareness about local Shoah history in cities in Ukraine, working with communities and officials to establish on-going educational programs as well as raising awareness in the U.S. about the Shoah in the countries of the former Soviet Union.



Speaking on behalf of all RememberUs.org volunteers, I can say that we feel privileged to do this work – the work that our parents and grandparents for many reasons could not (financial, risks of persecutions and such. As volunteers, we dedicate long hours after work and during vacations to work that has become an obligation and a way of life.

The small budget of our organization is being used for project implementations, such as creation of museums, planting trees, organizing guided trips to the sites of atrocities buses and more. With the exception of a few small grants, our projects are funded by you, our supporters. We are extremely grateful for your generosity and your trust. We are devoted to the work we do and are very hopeful that you will continue to support it.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Korsunsky'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Julia Korsunsky,  
Chair of the Board, RememberUs.org

## **WHO – *A volunteer-led public charity***

We are a group of volunteers bound by a common goal: to prevent future genocides by honoring and commemorating those who perished in the Shoah.

In 2013, a single project in Kharkov, Ukraine sparked the genesis of our work. Since then we have expanded swiftly, both in size and in our mission. Today we are dually based in the U.S. and Ukraine and have rolled out a series of ground-breaking projects. Our team is entirely volunteer-run and we are passionately proud of our work and constantly evolving.

## **WHERE – *Operating in the USA, in Ukraine and Israel***

Our work is managed across the globe. The bulk of activity is conducted in Ukraine, where we work directly on Holocaust sites and with both Jewish and non-Jewish communities. We meet with survivors, visit mass graves, and host educational activities directly at sites of massacre.

We bring all the knowledge we have retained back to the United States, where we host educational seminars at schools, senior centers, and summer camps.

## **WHAT – *Commemorating victims of the Holocaust and educating people about the everlasting effects of genocide.***

Our unique approach distinguishes us from other organizations because we conduct work directly at the sites where the Holocaust took place. There is a deep distinction between education in a distant classroom and learning directly on location.

We work with communities to learn their stories, speak with witnesses and families of Holocaust victims, host commemorative ceremonies on the land where killings occurred, and connect stories that we have discovered to their roots to create a profoundly stronger impact.

## **WHY – *“If not us, who? If not now, when?” – Hillel the Elder***

The Holocaust was one of the most evil, tragic, and deadly chapters of modern human history. At a juncture where anti-Semitism is on the rise, the last survivors of the Holocaust are fading, and knowledge remains limited, it is our moral responsibility to remember, learn, and pass on stories to future generations.

Education and commemoration are two powerful tools, essential in ensuring that never again will such genocide occur. It is our obligation to uncover these stories, commemorate the innocent victims, and teach all generations across the globe to cement the notion that this history must not repeat itself.

## The Year at a Glance

We continued supporting all initiatives started in previous years and following our Last Mile framework we expanded our support to more locations.

Most memorable moments of 2018 include:

### Planting Metasequoias

The very first action of RememberUs.org was planting metasequoia trees at the killing sites in DrobitskyYar in Kharkiv, Ukraine. We planted these trees as an ever-living memorial to Shoah victims and as a symbol of the triumph of life. The story of survival and rebirth of metasequoias is incredible, paralleling the resilience of Jewish people and the rebirth of the Jewish life all over the world.

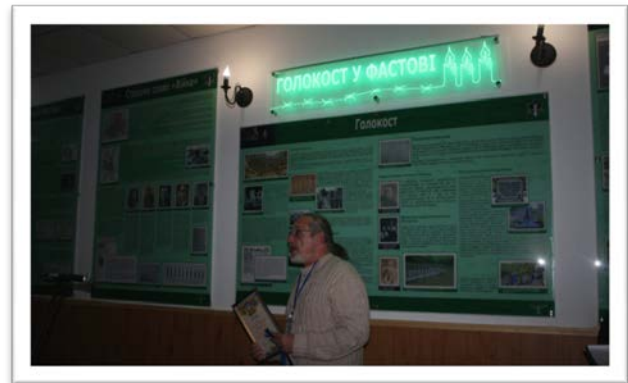
Planting metasequoia trees became our signature program. This year, to commemorate victims of the Shoah in Vinnitsa, Bila Tserkva and Izyaslav, Ukraine we planted trees at the three new locations. We also planted more trees in Drobytsky Yar, in a Star of David formation, and we replaced one damaged tree at Babyn Yar, Kyiv.



## School Museum in Fastov

The largest project of 2018 was a new Holocaust museum at school #4, in Fastiv, Ukraine. This school museum will be a focal point in Fastiv's Shoah education, much as the museums in Kremenchyk and Lubny/Zasulye we created in prior years.

School #4 is situated about 200 yards from a large killing site. Following our Last Mile framework, we plan to organize on-going field trips to the museum and to the killing site.



## Trips to killing sites

This year we continued on-going guided bus trips in Kharkiv, Lubny, Kremenchyk that we started in prior years and plan to expand the program to Fastiv, Bila Tserkva and Mirgorod.

Through our programs thousands of teens and young adults have learned about the Holocaust, many of them – for the first time in their lives. Most program participants did not realize the magnitude of Holocaust tragedies in their own back yard, and the visit to the places of atrocities was an eye opener not only to the children but often to their teachers as well.



## Memorial and Museum in Bila Tserkva

In partnership with the local school, Mitzvah 613, we are spearheading efforts to create a monument commemorating thousands of Jews killed in Bila Tserkva, and specifically the killings of Jewish children. In August of 1941, almost ninety Jewish orphans were murdered there. The memorial is planned to be opened in August of 2019. We also created and maintain a website - Bila Tserkva Virtual Holocaust Museum. The materials from the website will be used for creating a physical Holocaust museum.



## Forgotten Shtetls trip

This year the Forgotten Shtetls trip took us from Kyiv's Babyn Yar to the location of Lviv's Yanovsky Camp. We traveled through Kiev's Zhytomir, Vinnitsa, Khmel'nitsky, Ternopil'sky, and Lviv'sky regions and many other old Jewish towns as well as historical places, churches, synagogues, and Holocaust museums. During the vists we also planted metasequoias in several locations.





## Events in the USA

Our most memorable events in the U.S. were **HaShoah** viewing and discussion of the documentary “Shot Childhood in Bila Tserkva”, **Babin Yar commemoration event** and personal stories and our presentation “Unknown Shoah Stories” at the Needham Senior Center on **Veteran’s Day**.



## Fundraising

Fundraising occupies an important place among our activities since we are all volunteers, not a part of larger organization, and are mostly supported by individual donations. This year we were humbled by the fact that several local musicians offered to perform for the benefit of the RememberUs.org. Special thanks to Irina Vulikh, Irina Fainkichen and Gaufberg Slava.

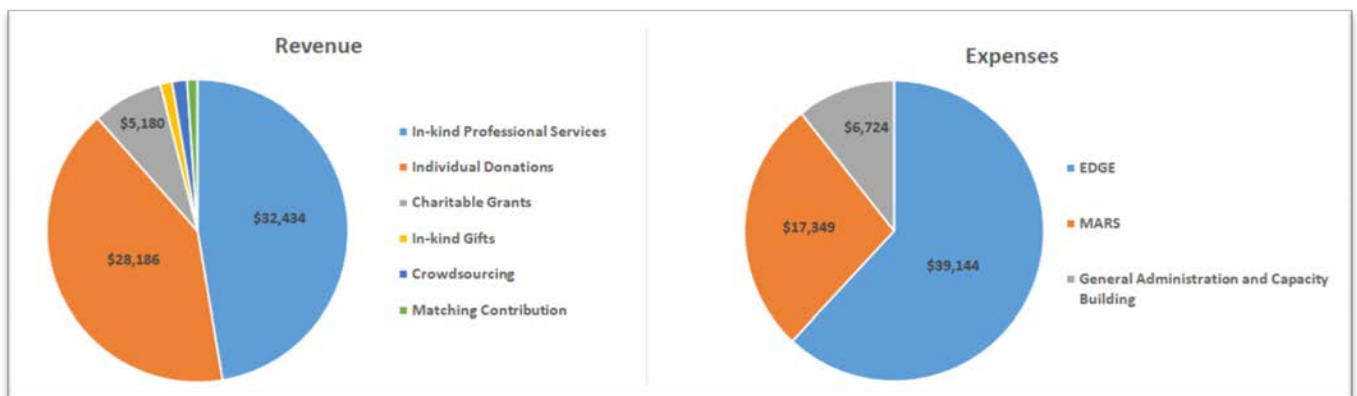


## Financial Summary

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, particularly from our local Boston-area community, RememberUs.org was able to fulfill all of its 2018 commitments. We are lucky to have so many committed and recurring donors, and our pool of volunteers has continued to grow. We continue to be supported by donations from individuals and several small grants from local businesses and small foundations.

We greatly appreciate every donation, but would like to give special thanks to our top 2018 supporters, in alphabetical order:

- Brodskiy Yana and Brodskiy Slava
- Froim Doriana
- Gauferg Slava
- Gurevich Tanya and Shamritsky Yuri
- Korsunsky Julia and Korsunsky Igor
- Korsunsky Rachel
- Levitin Lev
- Polnar Alla and Polnar Alex
- Raiz Sasha and Raiz Leonid
- Rifkin Inessa and Rifkin Victor
- Werner Alla and Werner David



## Forward-looking

RememberUs.org had a productive year, and we look forward to continuing all of our projects in the U.S. and in Ukraine in 2019.

We are planning to maintain our support for our existing partners in Ukraine and will expand our outreach to other regions, replicating our Last Mile framework. As our volunteer team grows globally and our programs expand on multiple fronts, we are well positioned to continue our momentum and make a real difference.



## We need your support

Without the financial support from donors like you we will not be able to drive the future of Holocaust education in Eastern Europe. No donation is too small to support our shared mission of commemorating the Shoah and preventing future atrocities.

Please donate on line at [www.RememberUs.org](http://www.RememberUs.org) or send checks to:

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