

February 3, 2019

## **CHARITY TRUST FUND – MARY CHUDIK, DIRECTOR**

The Charity Trust Fund was started at St. Stephen's Parish in 1994 with a mandate to invest all donations that parishioners designated to Charity into safe investments. The income from these investments would be used to help the underprivileged in Third World countries. This original concept was expanded and we now have two Designated Trust Funds managed by an Investment Committee and overseen by the Finance Committee and Parish Council.

### DESIGNATED TRUST FUNDS:

1. International Charity Trust Fund – funds contributed by individual parishioners which benefit recipients in less developed countries, usually going to charitable organizations, care groups or Catholic Church agencies with low operating overheads.
2. St Stephen's Family Support Trust Fund – funds contributed by individual parishioners, the main purpose of which is to support Parish families facing difficult situations, assisting with food, shelter, clothing, utilities, medical needs, special educational or home care needs.

Over the course of this year I would like to share some of the amazing stories on how the distributed charity funds are used. Watch for future articles on other trust funds the parish has set up.

The following is a translated letter from a family that received assistance via CHALICE, an organization that services the needs of poor families in Ukraine. Your donations are changing one life at a time; one family at a time; one village at a time.

*Continued ...*

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church,

My name is Oksana. I am 40. We live in the distant and poor village in Western Ukraine. My husband and I raise seven children - three of them are grownup and four are of the school age. Our family is a Christian family, hardworking and close-knit. But we have limited income. This happened because there is no job in our village and the closest city is located too far to travel every day. Our village even has no water. It is delivered to us once a month.

Our land is the only means to survive. Our entire family works it. I am the one who has to work more than others because my husband has been disabled since childhood. He had birth injury to his right arm and leg. They are shorter than his other arm and leg. Physical work is hard for him. We cultivate our garden manually, with a simple small hoe.

And what happened now? Now, Pochaiv Site has purchased a walk-behind tractor for us! Also, we've received components for it: a trailer, sower, miller to mill ground, a plough, potato-planter, spraying device and mold up devices to furrow. This is an incredible present! We have it only thanks to you, St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church, and to your incredible generosity, because you were able to send funds to the Site which made it possible to help buy all these things for us! Now on we'll be able to cultivate our garden easily, to have a good harvest and to sell it.

Also, we'll be able to provide land cultivating services to our fellow villagers and to have a small payment for this. Thanks to this technology, life for our family will improve. We'll have family funds! We'll be able to give our children a better education! We'll be able to buy warm winter clothes for them.

Thank you for everything!

May God double your health and wellbeing! We pray for you!



I want to share your **“views”** as they are important to our parish family.

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