

1. Introductory word

In 2007 the Homecoming association again moved a bit further. The austere and simple wording of the annual report cannot cover all interesting and important steps, we have done. It is unable to talk about the colourfulness and diversity of our lives, beauty and complication of our relationships as well as the power of meeting and fragility of departing. Thus, we only bring you a short looking back after the past year saying that we were happy travelling on these journeys home.

By the end of the year the Homecoming association almost had thirty employees, who provided several kinds of services. All of them have cooperated to help people, whose time is about to be fulfilled soon, live their lives as best as possible and so that their relatives are able to manage the home care and do not feel lonely.

Now – as every year - I just can't help thanking. I would like to thank the Association Committee for the considerate and wise management of the Homecoming. I would like to thank all employees of the Homecoming for their excellent work, patience and joy they are able to share in the most beautiful way. I would like to thank families of patients for their bravery and tender care. I thank all Homecoming associates for the wisdom and support and I thank foundations and donors for financial support, without which we could not perform our work this year.

*Looking forward to the next year
Martina Špinková*

2. Homecoming hospice civic association

Homecoming hospice civic association has established and operated the [Homecoming home hospice](#) in Prague, which offers the help to families, who have decided to look after their dying relatives at home.

The Homecoming also endeavours to do **structural social and legislative changes**, which would enable the extension of the high-quality care for dying in the whole Czech Republic. Homecoming hospice civic association was established in 2001. Its members are experts in the area of the palliative medicine, people from other professions and important persons of public life, who endeavour to extend and improve the quality of care for dying in the Czech Republic. In the end of 2007 the Association had 76 members. The mission of the Homecoming hospice civic association is the support of palliative care for dying.

The Homecoming is the member of European associations EAPC and IAHPD as well as the member of the Czech Association APHPP.

3. ASSOCIATION BODIES

Association Committee

In June 2007 the new association council was elected by the General Assembly, whose members are:

PhDr. Petr Goldmann - *Association Chairman*

MUDr. Štěpán Špinka, PhD.- *Association Vice-Chairman*

Prof. RNDr. Milan Kodíček, CSc. - *Vice-chairman*

Mgr. Václava Bratinková - *Vice-Chairman*

RNDr. Josef Basík; Mgr. Tomáš Holub; Ing. Richard Kaucký; Ing. Karel Sedláček and JUDr. Rostislav Silný – *members of the association council.*

Auditing Committee of the association:

In the 2007 General Assembly the new auditing committee in the following composition was elected:

RNDr. Jiří Černý, Chairman

Ing. Martin Bělohradský, CSc.

Doc. Filip Karfík, PhD.

Members of these association bodies are not remunerated for this work, they work voluntarily.

4. REGISTERED OFFICE AND CONTACT DATA

Homecoming hospice civic association

Bubenská 3, 170 00 Praha 7
Phone: 283 850 949
Fax: 220 876 638

cestadomu@cestadomu.cz
www.cestadomu.cz

Business ID: 265 28 843
Bank connection – account number: 116936353/0300
ČSOB Praha 7, Kamenická 26
Gathering account: 196750216/0300
Public gathering certificate: MHMP/266950/2005

5. Employees of Homecoming in 2007

Management:

Artist Martina Špinková	Director
Alžběta Mišoňová	Hospice Manager
Ing. Jindřiška Prokopová	Social Services Manager, Web Editor-In-Chief
MUDr. Marie Goldmannová	Chief Physician
DiS. Anna Krutská	Head Nurse
DiS. Tomáš Matocha	Finance Manager
Mgr. Štěpánka Ryšavá	Library Manager

Number of employees on December 31, 2007: 28
The average unit headcount 18.5 employments

6. Cooperation

Institutions

- Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic
- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic
- Capital City of Prague
- Metropolitan District of Prague 2
- Metropolitan District of Prague 7
- Metropolitan District of Prague 11
- Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
- National Library of the Czech Republic
- Municipal Library of Prague

Foundations

- Open Society Fund Praha foundation
- Foundation for the Development of the Civic Society – NROS
- Committee of Good Will - The Olga Havel Foundation
- Adra Foundation
- Donors Forum – DMS
- Anti-Cancer League Foundation
- Dagmar and Václav Havel's Foundation Vision 97
- Siemens s.r.o.
- Diplomatic Ladies Association

Cooperating firms and companies

- ABC MAGNET s.r.o.
- Agentura Sarah
- Arcibiskupství pražské
- AUDIT SERVIS, spol. s r.o.
- AUTO STYL a.s.
- AVEKO Servomotory, s.r.o.
- Belmond Group s.r.o.
- ComAp spol. s r.o.
- Českobratrská církev
- DMA Praha s.r.o.
- Farnost sv. Antonína
- GlobCon s.r.o.
- Hestia, o.s.
- HVT interiéry kuchyně s.r.o.
- JUDr. Martin Korbař
- J2 Chomutov s.r.o.
- Kanzelsberger, a.s.
- K.I.K. s.r.o.
- KP Troja, s.r.o.
- KSK Consulting a.s.
- Maříž – autorská originální keramika, s.r.o.
- MEDESA s.r.o.
- MEYRA ČR s.r.o.
- MILCOM a.s.
- MORAVIATEX pletárna s.r.o.
- Občan, o.s.
- ONYX CZ, s.r.o.
- PP – servis
- Pro-situation s.r.o.
- Radio Proglas
- Schola od Nejsv. Salvátora
- SMJ s.r.o.
- SOFIM s.r.o.
- Software602
- Stavební geologie - Geotechnika
- TNS AISA s.r.o.
- T.T.V. s.r. o.
- TEST, spol. s r.o.
- The Prague Concert Co., s.r.o.
- Tiskárna Flora s.r.o.
- TV Noe
- Účetnictví bytových družstev, s.r.o.
- UGS PLM Solutions s.r.o.
- UNIPAP Praha s.r.o.
- VIZUS.CZ s.r.o.
- Nakladatelství Grada Publishing
- Nakladatelství Galén
- Knihkupectví Kosmas
- Karmelitánské nakladatelství
- Nakladatelství Vyšehrad
- Nakladatelství DharmaGaia

8. Activities of Homecoming in 2007

Home hospice

The aspiration of employees of the Homecoming home hospice is that a seriously ill person, who will soon die, may live a dignified life even in the end of his/her life without an unnecessary pain and deprivation and stay among his/her relatives in his/her home environment if possible. This quite simple idea has been practically implemented by the multidiscipline team of the home hospice for several years. The Homecoming home hospice provides its services to terminally ill patients of all age categories in the territory of the Capital City of Prague.

In 2007 the home hospice provided the intensive palliative care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to 98 patients and it provided its expert consultancy home service to 22 patients. Also patients with relatively complicated diagnosis and difficult symptoms were taken in the home palliative specialized care in this year thanks to the further improvement of the quality of services and the enhanced offer of aids; in spite of that number of those, who stayed at home till the very end increased. Thanks to the specialized consulting visits the targeted accepting of indicated patients for the specialized care improved.

Rental agency

Rental agency for specialized tools forms an integral part of a home hospice and thanks to the wide offer it enables providing the high quality care even in the home environment, which makes the work easier for the family. It rents devices home, such as electric positioning beds, various types of wheelchairs, active and passive anti-decubital mattresses, oxygen concentrators, pulse oxymeters, linear medicine dozers, suction bottle, inflatable bath tube, electrical bath tube hoist, toilet chair, specialized anti-decubite aids and other small aids. Also a mobile EKG and infusion pumps are available.

The rental agency has over 200 pieces of aids on file.

In 2007 altogether 206 lendings of individual aids were made.

Since the middle of the year in compliance with the Law no. 108/2006 Coll. on social services the rental agency has been a part of registered social services and thus aids are rented to clients and patients, who are looked after by the Homecoming home hospice, free of charge.

Expert consulting room

The Homecoming consulting room provides complex personal, phone and Internet consulting to dying, those, who look after terminally ill, surviving relatives and other interested persons. Employees of the consulting room help them orientate themselves in a new situation, select appropriate service or equipment and deliver required contacts, they will consult basic nursery procedures in the care for seriously ill patients. They explain principles of the home hospice services and intermediate the first contact for initiating the care of the hospice. They also perform the one-time consulting visits in cases when such a visit may help the family at a given situation.

Personal and phone consulting room offers an immediate support and assistance at looking after a seriously ill family member. In the consulting room 6 consultants were working, who made 1,810 contacts, to which they put in over 1,300 hours.

Internet consulting room provides medical, social and psychological consulting and help to patients, surviving relatives, family tenders as well as other interested persons including doctors and other medical and social employees throughout the whole Czech Republic. The Internet consulting room employed 7 experts, who answered 620 questions, which is almost twice as much than in 2006. In 2007 the consulting room was the most visited site of the www.umirani.cz web portal. On the whole, consulting web sites were visited 190,954 times in 2007.

We believe that through our consulting services we have contributed to better awareness of the citizens of the Czech Republic on possibilities of taking care for dying and surviving relatives for their better ability to manage a particular care. For in many cases a consulting employee may improve the quality of care significantly by listening to the family in crisis, calming them down, supporting them in what they are good at as well as delivering required information and contacts. The increasing visit rate of the consulting room web site and the client feedback indicate that using of consulting services has been growing each month. They have also been used by people in small towns and villages, where a distance to a sick-bed hospice is too long and neither a field hospice nor good information of experts are easily available. In this way a family will be also able to manage a very difficult situation in the natural environment of a client.

Information and consulting portal Umírání.cz

The portal enables acquiring the necessary information, making contacts and intermediating the consulting assistance in the issue related to the end of life, dying, death, caring after terminally sick, dying and surviving relatives. At our work we repeatedly face lack of awareness and loneliness both of sick people and caring and surviving relatives. We attempted to assess these experiences and offer the possibility to acquire and exchange required information both to the expert and lay public.

The objective of the portal is to make searching for specific information from the area of the palliative care easier via Internet. The information is qualified and well arranged. The portal also includes the Internet consulting room and the discussion. For the third consecutive year we have been sending a regular monthly Internet bulletin to more than 600 addresses. The portal visit rate has been continuously growing.

The portal has been served by 3 editors, who sent 12 issues of the bulletin together with hundreds of papers. The average daily visit rate amounted to 700 unique visits in the end of the year.

Relieving services

Relieving services of the Homecoming are closely related both to the services of the expert social consulting and to health care services.

Upon providing relieving services the Homecoming had to face number of small difficulties, which were related to the conditions of providing services under the new Act no. 108/2006 Call. on social services. The hospice services are specific, that is why we have been looking for optimum ways not only regarding particular ways of providing services but we have been also trying to work on conceptual things and we have added constructive comments to the law where necessary. Depending on the necessity and wishes of clients and their families we have been providing relieving services both to patients and family members.

In all families relieving services met their basic objective: they relieved families with respect to the care and helped a dying person live in a dignified way and in the home environment with his/her relatives till the end his or her life.

Late afternoon club

The Late afternoon club is directly linked to the home hospice services and provides both time and space for surviving relatives, who face up to the loss of a close person. The program of the club reflects the need for providing complex palliative care to clients and attempts to respond to these needs flexibly. Surviving relatives will have the opportunity to meet people with similar problems in a self-help group and during discussions with interesting persons.

Also the ergotherapeutic workshops called "ropings" have proved well. Products created by surviving relatives have been sold successfully in the Homecoming shop. At these meetings surviving relatives also had the opportunity to meet voluntaries and employees of the Homecoming, with who they had often been in touch during caring after their relatives. Thus even with the in the course of some time they had been able to provide employees with the valuable feedback regarding the previous care. This possibility of meeting each other was greatly appreciated both by surviving relatives and employees. During the year we also organized two social commemorative meetings of surviving relatives from previous years with Homecoming employees. For the second meeting in November we used the premises of the Sue Ryder Home restaurant, where we were offered enough space and suitable conditions for meeting of several dozens of people.

Library

The Homecoming library is the only specialized public palliative library in the Czech Republic. It has a unique book stock focused on the care for dying as well as other related issues and it also contains number of foreign specialized publications, which are otherwise unavailable in the Czech Republic. The library has been helping both the professional and general public as well as students of various fields of study to orient in the matter of palliative care and provides the summaries of individual books in the form of annotations. The library offers and uses the intra-library borrowing service of MVS, thus providing services to readers from all over the country in this way. In 2007 it was the case of 59 books within the MVS service.

After three years from its foundation the library already had almost 1,900 books and 610 registered readers. In 2007 it realized over 2000 absence borrowings and its Internet on-line catalogue was visited by 82,900 visitors. The average number of individual displays in the on-line catalogue was

1,500 a day. The library includes the study room equipped with a reader notebook and the Internet connection.

The library also organized educational events and the successful countrywide artistic contest for children called Drawing your grandma and grandpa.

The library has started the cooperation with the Comprehensive catalogue of the Czech Republic, to which it has contributed with records of its monographies and series.

The library has cooperated with the Municipal Library of Prague, which has provided regular borrowings of exchangeable book files to the Homecoming. In 2007 it was 150 books.

Editor activity

We have published other important information materials based on our and foreign experiences as well as on particular needs of clients, surviving relatives as well of those, who have been looking after them. Materials are also used by some other hospice initiatives in the Czech Republic. Publications are of great help in increasing the public awareness of the palliative care in the Czech Republic.

In addition to smaller prints and new editions of already out of stock posters Homecoming has published following publications:

Last moments. The leaflet on treating a deceased, his/her body, advices for moments after the death of a close person, when we often do not know what we can and shall do and how should we do that.

May we advise you? The original leaflet has been changed, significantly extended and updated according to new laws and newly it also includes information on last will and legacy. It is a guide through numerous official and legislative difficulties for surviving relatives.

On the road 2008. The wall calendar for our supporters and the general public and a bit contemplative pictures.

Educational activity

The Homecoming employees have presented over 50 expert and educational talks on workshops, conferences and trainings at high schools, universities and other institutions.

In 2007 there were numerous interesting talks and discussions in the Homecoming premises this time focused on employees and voluntaries rather than on the general public.

Do not close your eyes campaign!

Throughout the world a major improvement of the care for dying has never been the matter of a small group of experts. It requires the support and understanding of the general public. The more people care for the way they die the earlier current sad situation may be improved. Within the campaign the Homecoming organizes various events for the support of the palliative care. In October 2007 the celebration of the World's day of hospices took place, during which Homecoming in the cooperation with the Municipal Authority of the Capital City of Prague and the Municipal Library of Prague under the sponsorship of the Prague Mayor, MUDr. Pavel Bém, organized the beneficial concert of Hradišťan chorus, which was accepted positively and pleased many. During the concert winners of the children competitions called Drawing grandma and grandpa were declared and awarded. Children came from all over the country together with their parents. The work of the jury was not easy - they had to assess over 300 good pictures within the competition. On the Hospice day a historical tram was going on Prague streets, which was available for free ride and it also provided information on the palliative care and people had the opportunity to discuss with the Homecoming employees there. The Homecoming also addressed public by means of dozens of articles in newspapers and magazines as well as in radio and TV programs.

The campaign included the public collection with the gross revenues of CKZ 1,668,000. The revenue has been used to cover costs of the home hospice operation.

9. Projects

The above-described activities are implemented thanks to following implemented projects (just to mention some of them):

- Homecoming home hospice (healthcare part),
- Regional expert consulting (personal consulting room, lending office, club and library),
- Above regional personal consulting (Internet consulting room and portal),

Relieving services

- Global grant (focused on the improvement of the financial and organizational company management),
- Equal (focused on the distribution and the legislative anchoring of the mobile specialized palliative care).

10. Homecoming volunteers

The work of volunteers is extremely important for all activities of the Homecoming. Volunteers help in client families or accompanying surviving relatives, as well as in the Late Afternoon Club, upon organizing cultural, educational and beneficial events, with the administration and editorial works, they transport aids to client families and perform other useful works. Volunteers have participated in supervision on regular basis, where they reflect their activity under the professional guidance. Number of cooperating volunteers has increased again in 2007. In the course of the year 14 experts of the fourth cycle have been certified and the fifth cycle of expert training has started, where thirty people interested in the volunteer work have been enlisted. Every day in 2007, more than one volunteer worked there in the average, they participated in 259 events and dedicated almost 2,000 hours from their leisure time.

In February 2007, Eva and Otto Adamec, the parents of three children were awarded the prize called Firelock - a volunteer of the year from Pavel Bém. We highly appreciate that this award of the prestigious status of the volunteer work was awarded to a Homecoming expert for the second consecutive year. We consider this being the expression of the esteem to the work of all our volunteers.

11. Events

February	<i>Firelock – awarding the Adamec couple from the Homecoming as the Volunteer of the Year Party with thanks to sponsors</i>
March	<i>Month of the book and Internet – the competition Drawing your grandma and grandpa for kids took place</i>
April	<i>Commemoration party for surviving relatives from past years</i>
June	<i>Opening of the photography exhibition of S. Špinka on Homecoming in the premises of the waiting room and office of General Practitioners MUDr. Seifert and MUDr. Youngova Certification of volunteers of the fourth cycle General assembly and the election of the new Association council Palliative congress in Budapest</i>
October	<i>Day of hospices – concert of Hradišťan, announcement of winners of the competition for kids and the historical tram trip</i>
November	<i>Meeting of surviving relatives at the Sue Ryder home A beneficial concert of the Cantoria Praha chorus in the Břevnov monastery</i>
December	<i>The beneficial concert donated by the School at Nejsv. Salvátor</i>

12. Financial data

Economic results in 2007

Revenues

Sales from services	CZK 83,000
Sold goods	CZK 220,000
Bank interests	CZK 75,000
Gifts	CZK 3,957,000
Subsidies	CZK 6,235,000
Other revenues	CZK 17,000
Total	CZK 10,587,000

Costs

Material	CZK 1,170,000
Energy	CZK 32,000
Repairs and maintenance	CZK 63,000
Travel costs	CZK 83,000
Other services	CZK 1,848,000
Labor costs	CZK 7,299,000
Other expenses	CZK 111,000
Total	CZK 10,606,000

Detailed closing of books for 2007 and the auditor statement are available on www.cestadomu.cz
Also in 2007 project audits for Homecoming have been processed by Auditservis, Ms. Ing. Květoslava Vyleťalová.

Published by Homecoming hospice civic association in 2008.

Picture: Homecoming archive / Design: Designing (www.designiq.cz) / Print: Printing plant Flóra (www.tiskarnaflora.cz) / © Cesta domů 2008

Web site operated by Cestou domů:

www.cestadomu.cz – presentation of the association

www.umirani.cz – information, discussion and consulting portal

<http://knihovna.cestadomu.cz/> - on-line catalogue of the Homecoming library

www.nezavirejteoci.cz – campaign supporting the palliative care

www.worldday.cz – occasional portal for the World's day of hospices