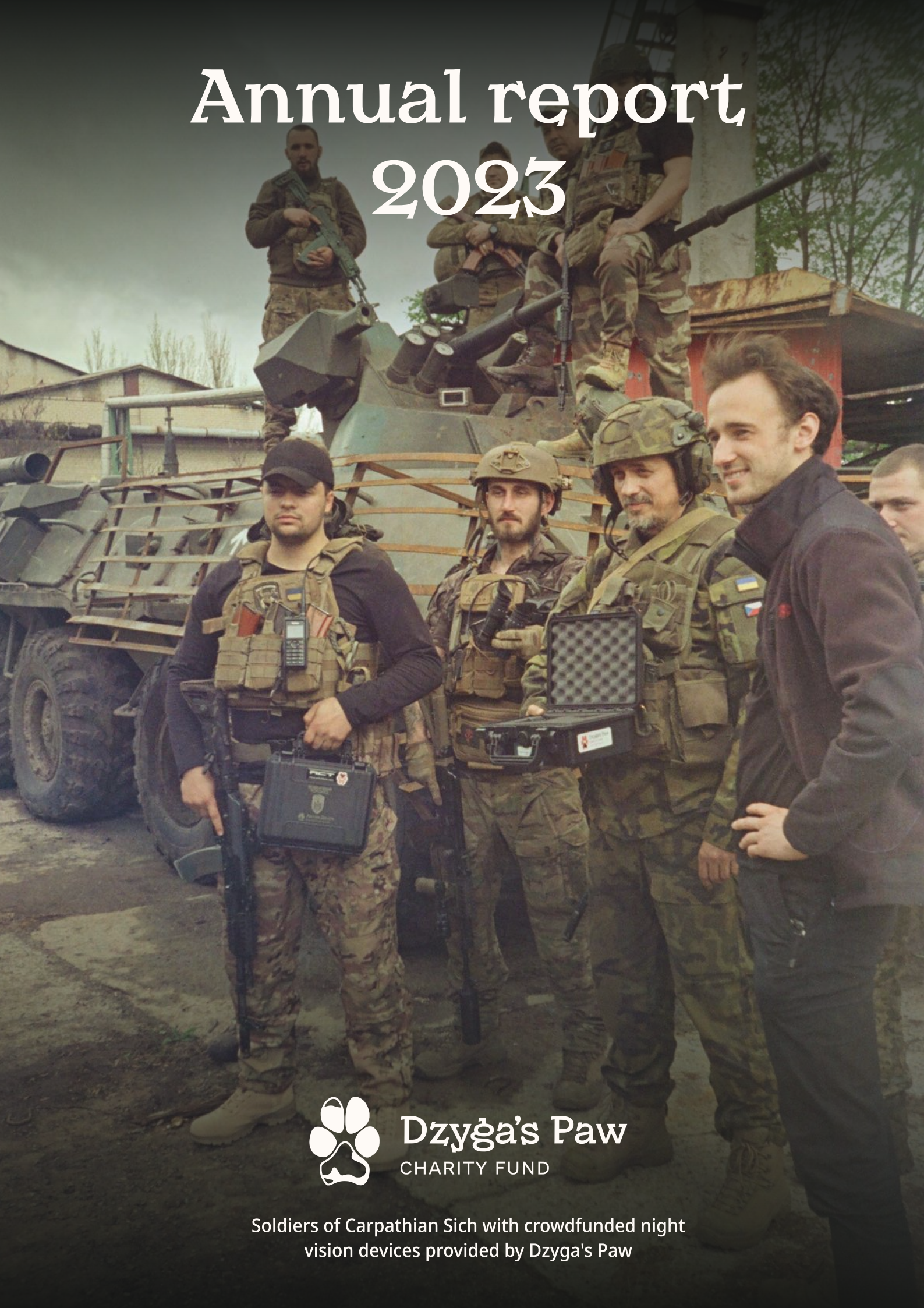
Annual report 2023



Dzyga's Paw
CHARITY FUND

Soldiers of Carpathian Sich with crowdfunded night vision devices provided by Dzyga's Paw

Table of contents

Word from Dimko Zhluktenko, our founder 3

Dzyga's Paw Story 4

Support to the Ukrainian military in 2023 5

Finance 6

Donations in 2023 7

Projects in 2023 8

Dzyga's Paw at international events 13

Our partners 14

Our team 15

Featured stories of the Heroes we support 16

Remembering fallen Heroes 19

How can you help in our mission 21

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the journey of Dzyga's Paw throughout 2023, we are grateful for the remarkable growth and impact we have achieved together for Ukraine's Defense Forces

What began as a small personal initiative born out of desperation has evolved into a fully-fledged organization making a tangible difference in the lives of those bravely defending Ukraine against the Russian invasion.

With your unwavering support, we have transitioned from humble beginnings to an official entity capable of delivering critical aid directly to the frontlines - to the real soldiers with muddy boots in Ukrainian field trenches.

However, our mission is far from over. As Ukrainians, we recognize the ongoing existential threat facing our nation, and our commitment to Ukraine's survival remains steadfast. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Ukrainian defenders who continue to fight bravely, at great personal risk, to ensure that our homeland remains intact. They are the reason why I can write this intro tonight.

We operate in the most interesting landscape, at the sharp edge of life and death, and I am sure we saved lives. Your contributions have been instrumental in saving Ukrainian lives and providing essential resources to those in the line of fire. We still think that helping the Ukrainian Defense Forces is the most important thing one can do in this war. Therefore, we will keep doing so.

We are the boots on the ground, ensuring every operational detail is executed flawlessly. Still, your generosity fuels our efforts and makes our impact possible, so thank you for that, at least. Moreover, thank you for being so involved in our shared journey, and together, we will continue to be the lifeline that Ukrainian defenders can rely on. When they call, we will answer. Ukraine's Freedom is at stake.

Thankfully, Dimko



Dzyga's Paw
CHARITY FUND

Dzyga's Paw story

In February 2022, when the full-scale russian invasion began, Dimko Zhluktenko quit his IT job and dedicated himself to volunteering and supporting various units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Then, he established Dzyga's Paw charity foundation. We started as a personal initiative but gradually evolved into an established professional organization with a highly skilled team. We are now an officially registered, transparent charity that enables donors to help Ukrainian Heroes directly, with no overhead.

Our commitment to transparency sets us apart. You can see all the donations we receive in real-time and the foundation's spending, with a breakdown by categories and a detailed track record of every outbound transaction. We take responsibility for every donated cent.

We started our work focusing on different kinds of support, including humanitarian projects, and at some point, we decided to focus specifically on the war effort. As Ukrainians, we all know that if russia had not invaded, there would not have been a humanitarian crisis. Ukraine is fine. But with russia's barbaric war crimes, it becomes much harder to live here. We want to address the root cause of the need for humanitarian aid in the first place, so our main idea is to push russian invaders off Ukrainian borders so they do not wish to return here.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who enables our work and helps Ukraine fight for freedom, democracy, and fundamental human rights against the barbaric russian invasion. Without our community of supporters, the results we achieved and the impact we created in 2023 wouldn't be possible.





Our support to the Ukrainian military in 2023

Total raised	Donations received	Donor countries
$1,191,062	12,566	62

Heroes we support	Parcels sent	Projects implemented
69	192	18

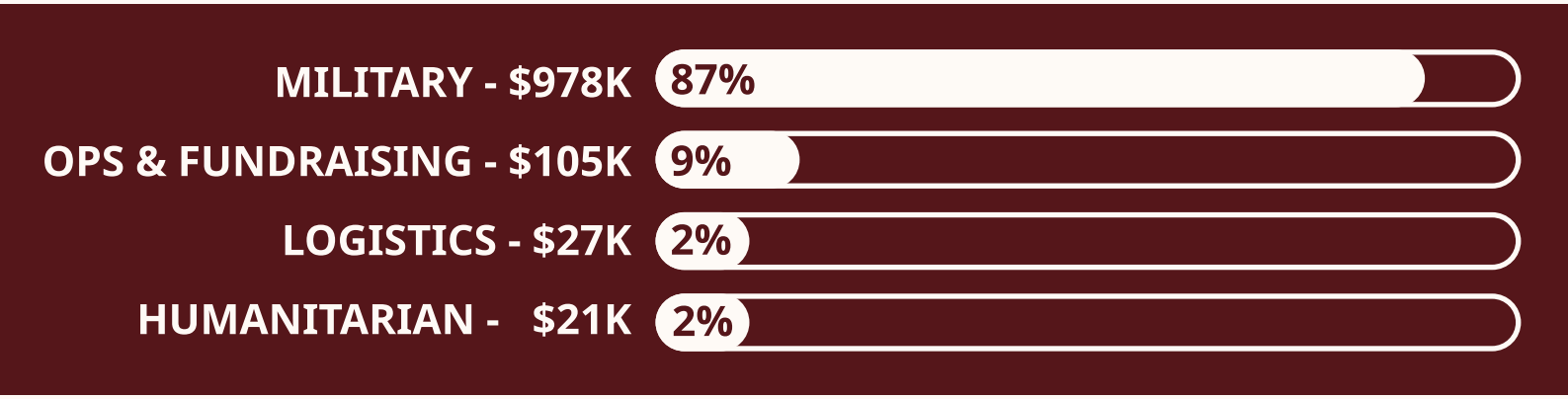




Finance

Raised	$1,191,062
Spent	$1,131,164

Spending distribution



The value of delivered equipment

Drones	$396,669	Vehicles	$23,500
Portable Power	$113,048	EOD Tools	$9,741
Optics & Night Vision Devices	$80,609	Clothing & Body Armor	$9,635
Radios	$57,710	Electronics Accessories	$6,326
Electronic Devices	$39,896	Hardware Tools & Repairs	$5,827
Drone Components	$34,222	Other	$4,492
Starlinks	$30,121	Food, education & medical supplies	$2,247

Donations in 2023

countries our supporters come from
62+

unique donors in 2023
7,271

the largest number of donations from 1 person
80

first donation in 2023, received 01.01 02:08:03
$70.7

most popular donation amount in USD
$102.2

last donation in 2023, received 31.12 23:11:03
$50.0

single largest donation
$55,303

donations to a specific project or hero
63%

donations from individual donors
85%

People supporting us



Thomas 🇳🇴

Millions of us are willing to support you all the way to victory. I firmly believe in a complete Ukrainian victory and look forward to visiting your beautiful country.



Ashley 🇺🇸

Freedom is the most precious commodity after life, and all right-minded people will support defending your freedom. Other freedom-loving people should be doing more to help you and fight with you. You will prevail because you've tasted it and can't let it go.



Kate 🇬🇧

I want Ukrainians to know that support doesn't just mean helping them win the war but continues after the victory.



Daan 🇳🇱

I want Ukraine to win without losing too many people.

Projects implemented



Ukrainian Romance

Project we implemented in February 2023 dedicated to Saint Valentine's Day.

Our goal was $25,000 and we raised $30,000 for 4 night vision devices for Carpathian Sich!

in more detail

For Wolves to See at Night

Project was executed from March 22, 2023 to May 1, 2023 with a fundraising goal of $40,000.
Remarkably, the project exceeded expectations by securing $50,231 in funding. We delivered 9 drones to the unit that help them in daily work.

in more detail





100 Multitools to Demine Ukraine

We ran the 100 Multitools to Demine Ukraine project from March 23, 2023 to April 1, 2023. The "100 Multitools" initiative sought to raise $16,000. The project successfully met its goal, accumulating $16,300 in funding.

We delivered multitools to 7 demining crews of Ukrainian Emergency Services.

in more detail



Slava Ukraini - In Memory of Oleksandr Matsiyevsky

Project was implemented from May 24, 2023, to June 14, 2023. We raised $20,601 and those funds allowed us to deliver tech equipment for the unit where Oleksandr Matsiyevsky served and honor the memory of this brave man.

in more detail

Revenge Drones

Started as a response to a war crime committed by russian army. After they blew Kakhovka dam, we started a fundraising campaign to provide drones for Ukrainian military units. Because they are the only ones who can stop russian atrocities. The project achieved success by raising $51,263. 24 drones were sent to 7 military units where our heroes serve.

in more detail



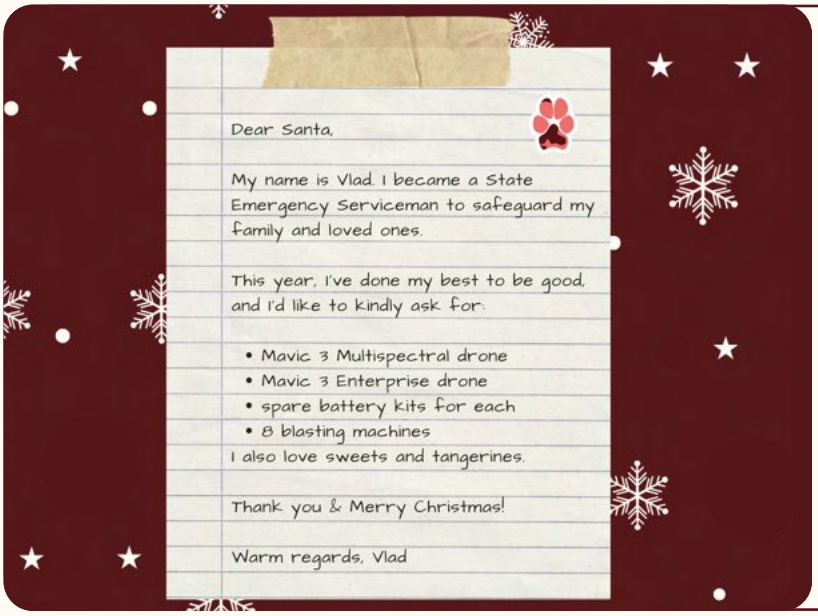


FPV for Kholodnyi Yar

Project was executed from July to September 2023 in partnership with Kholodnyi Yar Festival team that wanted to help their friends who joined AFU.

We raised $11,500 in funding and bought 17 FPV drones for 3 units.

in more detail



Christmas Gifts for Ukrainian Deminers

The initiative sought $10,000 in funding to buy drones and blasting machines for our hero Vlad.

It successfully achieved this goal, securing $10,497. Parcel will be delivered in 2024.

in more detail

Engineer Drones for Max

Our hero Max started a fundraiser to help his EOD friends.

The initiative took place in August and aimed to raise $10,000. It surpassed the goal, accumulating $11,243 in funding spent on 2 Mavic 3T drones.

in more detail





Project Phoenix

The Project Phoenix campaign started on August 24, 2023. Our goal was to help our heroes from Carpathian Sich recover after a missile ruined their warehouse and buy new equipment destroyed in a fire.

The project successfully raised $30,612.

in more detail



Thank You Project

Was a special project to congratulate and thank our heroes on Ukraine Defender Day. We raised $4,650 and delivered present boxes for 46 heroes.

in more detail

FPV for Maestro & Chichka

Executed from October to November 20, 2023 this special and moving project aimed to raise funds for FPV drones for a couple serving in 102 TD brigade.

It gathered $17,049 in funding, allowing us to provide 28 FPV drones.

in more detail





50 FPV for 80th

The initiative 50 FPV for 80th ran from November to December 2023 and was our first project supported by 15 ambassadors.

We reached our goal and successfully raised $37,246.

in more detail



NAFO Art

The NAFO Art project is our ongoing initiative where fellas can get their avatars painted for donation. We painted 4 such NAFO arts during a year and accumulated $4,000 in funding.

in more detail

SHARK for Shaman

We implement the SHARK for Shaman project with our friends, Ukrainian Charity Fund 1991.

The project secured $174,460 in funding, and the drone was delivered to the unit in January 2024.





NAFO Fella Fleet for 3rd Assault!

This project we started in December with our friends at NAFO. It successfully reached its goal, collecting $29,432 in funding.

That allowed us to buy 50 FPV drones. Drones will be delivered in 2024.

in more detail

International Events

This year, we had a fantastic opportunity to present Dzyga's Paw Charity Fund at international events and meet with supporters of Ukraine in person.

WebSummit

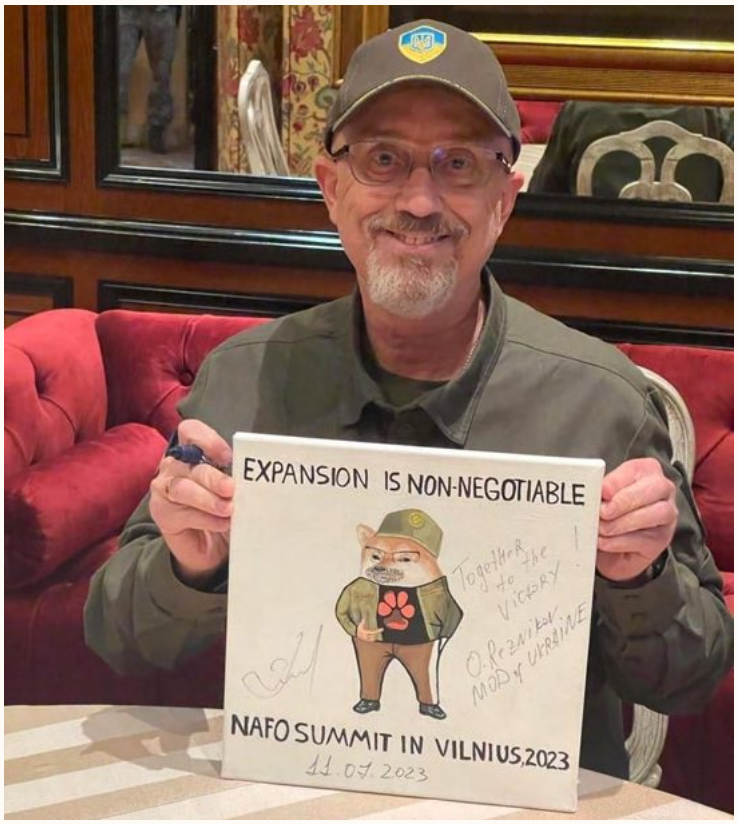
Together with other Ukrainian organizations, we went to Lisbon during WebSummit 2023 and presented Dzyga's Paw Charity Fund.

It was an excellent opportunity to share our story and how tech expertise helped IT specialists Dimko Zhluktenko and Iryna Popovych build a transparent and effective Charity Fund.

We also raised funds for the DJI Mavic 3M Multispectral drone for the State Emergency Service at the event.







NAFO Summit

In July, Iryna took Dzyga, and together they went to Vilnius, where the NAFO Summit took place.

We finally met our good friends and supporters in person and presented our Fund's work to NAFO Fellas.

Also, during the summit, we auctioned NAFO art with Oleksii Reznikov's fella on it and then auctioned it the second time after it was signed by the minister!

That helped us raise $4,000 in total!

Our partners

We understand that the work of this scale can't be accomplished alone.

The collaboration, shared vision, and collective efforts of dedicated Ukrainian and foreign businesses and individuals enable us to make a lasting impact on the lives of Ukrainian Heroes protecting our freedom.

In 2023, we focused on establishing new partnerships and developing this direction.





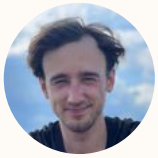


Our Team

We take the organization of work processes seriously. The team now includes project managers, the logistics department, the media department, the transparency department, and volunteers. Furthermore, we are an officially registered charity in Ukraine and operate according to Ukrainian legislation. We work with lawyers and accountants to use our allocated funds efficiently and safely.

We are a legit, transparent charity that enables donors to help Ukrainian Heroes directly, with no overhead. Our commitment to transparency sets us apart. We have built a system that tracks donations and expenses almost live.

Initially, it all started as a one-man army or one-man-and-a-dog army
Now, there is a whole team behind Dzyga's Paw! Some members of our team have an IT background, and a few have experience working in charities and volunteering. This collective expertise has allowed us to build institutional capability and carry out our work efficiently.



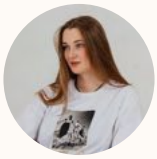
Dimko Zhluktenko
founder and head of Dzyga's Paw



Iryna Popovych
founder and head of operations



Vasylyna Koliba
fundraising team lead



Yustyna Boiarska
fundraising manager



Natalia Ukrainets
communications team lead



Yelyzaveta Bryzhak
communications manager



Igor Podgurskyi
volunteer
procurements & logistics



Mykhailo Poliakov
volunteer
IT & Transparency



Rinat Botchenko
volunteer
design



Vladyslav Pavliuk
volunteer
Starlink projects



Mariia Hirna
volunteer
communications



Olexandr Demyanenko
volunteer
procurements & logistics



Dariia Reshetukha
volunteer
project management



Viktor Ladyzhets
volunteer
procurements & logistics



Serhii Onyshchenko
volunteer
procurements & logistics



Severyn Kurochka
volunteer
project management

Featured Stories of the Heroes we support



in more detail

Vasylyna. Deputy company commander, Carpathian Sich battalion

She was born in the Lviv region and has been with the battalion since its establishment.

Despite the death of the battalion commander Oleh Kutsyn in July 2022, Vasylyna continues to serve with courage and commitment, taking on a new role as deputy company commander for moral and psychological support, which is essential to her fellow fighters.

Vasylyna worked in the event industry and with various music bands in her civilian life. In particular, she was responsible for the main stage of the "Kholodnyi Yar Festival of the Unconquered Nation." With her advertising and event management expertise, Vasylyna brings unique skills to the unit.

Dan. Commander of the intel & recon section, 47th Brigade Magura

A young man in his early 20s, who used to do research in Data Science, is now a military man. Loves singing, whistling, and any kind of jamming.

As the war escalated, he joined the 47th brigade and, at first, was assigned to a mortar battery as a gunner. He is now commander of the intel & recon section and leads the air recon unit.

After the war, he wishes to return to ML and apply his background for research in the defense sector, aiming to prevent future threats to Ukraine. But also, once again, wants to sing, whistle, and jam.



in more detail



in more detail

Oleh Yaskiv. Head of the communications group, 103rd territorial defence Brigade

Oleh represents Ukrainian academic community; at the same time, he is an active public figure in Ukraine. He is vice-rector of science at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

But because of the russian invaders, Oleh was forced to pause his academic and cultural work and join the army to defend his country. Oleh joined the territorial defense unit even before the 24th of January. So when the full-scale war broke out, he knew what to do.

It's a pity that academics must take up arms, so we do our best to help them come back alive. Now Oleh is the head of the communications group and supports the needs of the brigade's aerial reconnaissance and engineering units.

Hennadii and Lilia (Maestro & Chichka). Serviceman of 102 TD Brigade.

Parents to 2 daughters and Asya, the cat. Currently, they are also members of The Territorial Defence Forces.

Before the invasion, the couple worked together at an industrial enterprise, Lilya as a chief accountant and Hennadii as a manufacturing engineer.
Since they have always done everything together, they also decided to defend their home. On February 28, 2022, they joined the 77th battalion of the 102nd TDF Brigade. Hennadii is the chief sergeant of the mortar battery. And Lilia keeps accounting in the military.

Before the full-scale invasion, Liliia and Hennadii were fulfilling their dream by building a cottage cabin with a large garden in the countryside. And this is what they plan to do after the war. Also, the couple's dream is to spend time with their daughters, traveling to France, Poland, and Switzerland.



in more detail



in more detail

Makhno, UAV operator.

Our hero Makhno, 37 y.o. fought russians in 2014-2015 as a member of the “Bukovinian Bisons” border guard unit but then decided to go to Poland to work on solar panels.

“On the first day, while I was getting home, I kept following the news, how the enemy approached Kyiv, Kherson, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv. My work colleague and friend comes from Prybuzkyi village, Mykolaiv region. He was returning with me and constantly received calls from his fellow villagers, sending photos of the destruction of their village. I realized that the same fate could be waiting for my city!”

Makhno joined the 80th Air Assault Brigade, as he had combat experience and a desire to stop the enemy before they approached his home. He has a 5-year-old son and wife back there.

Mike, signals officer

Michael from Lviv is the youngest hero we support. When he turned 18, he dropped out of university and joined the military.

Since Michael was studying CS, he became the signals officer for the artillery battery. His task is to ensure all the radios are working correctly, set up Starlinks, and manage the power supply. Their unit has been deployed both in the south and the Donetsk region.

After our victory, Michael plans to go back to studying CS. He dreams of working as a successful AI researcher in a free and peaceful Ukraine.



in more detail

Remembering fallen heroes

The harsh reality of war is that loss is inevitable. Unfortunately, some heroes we supported and cared for were killed in action. That's the most difficult part of our work.

In this part of the report, we would like to remember those who died protecting our country and our independence.



Viktor, Brit

a Ukrainian who moved to Great Britain in his early twenties. Had a family there with two kids. Viktor served four years in the British army.

In 2022, he joined the Ukrainian Armed Forces, serving as a company commander and leading an air recon unit.

Victor was killed in action while performing a combat mission in September 2022.



Dmytro Kotsiubailo, Da Vinci

was the youngest battalion commander in the Ukrainian army and "Hero of Ukraine" awardee. He was leading the Da Vinci Wolves battalion - one of the most professional and effective units in the UAF. We were honored to meet the hero in person and support his unit.

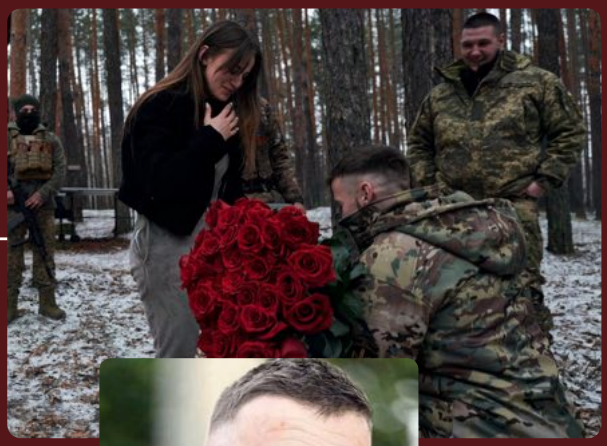
Da Vinci was killed near Bakhmut in spring 2023. That was a terrible loss for his unit and the Ukrainian Armed Forces.





Orest Rys, Zalizniak

senior lieutenant of the 30th Mechanized Brigade. Since 2014, Orest has gone from volunteer to reconnaissance commander. In December 2023, he was killed in action at the age of 28.



Nazar Zelenevych, Toretto

platoon commander of the Carpathian Sich battalion. He volunteered to join the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the first days of the invasion. Toretto was killed in action in August 2023, only 6 months after getting engaged.





Nazar Pidkovych, Kaban

deputy company commander of the Carpathian Sich battalion. When the full-scale war started, Nazar returned to Ukraine from Barcelona to join the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Died in February 2024 after he had been in a coma for more than a week as a result of a severe head injury.

The sacrifice of these brave people could not be in vain. This is one of the reasons why we continue working and doing everything in our power to strengthen Ukrainian defenders and contribute to our Victory.

How can you help Dzyga's Paw in its mission?

Start creative fundraiser

Start

Donate

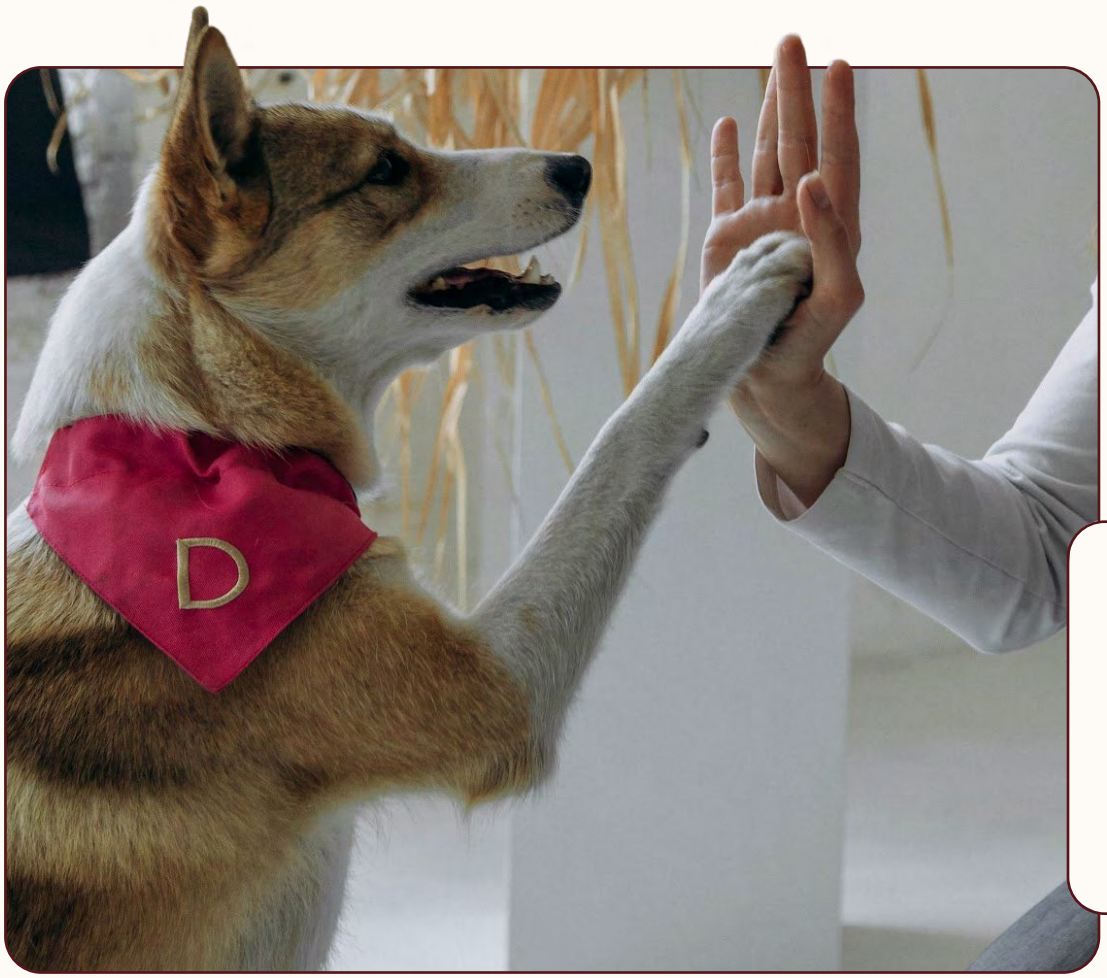
Donate

Help us buy items from wishlist

Help

Subscribe to our newsletter to follow the updates

Subscribe



If you want to partner with us or implement a joint project - contact us via hello@dzygaspaw.com