





on the work in 2024













## **Content**

- 3 Who we are
- 4 Our team
- 5 Our activity in 2024
- 6 Events of the year
- 7 Legal aid
- 8 Psychological support
- 9 Veteran Club Odesa
- 10 Veteran sport
- 11 Work with families of missing in action under special circumstances
- Mobile group
- 13 Cultural events
- 13 Educational activities
- 14 The Project "Communities Synergy"
- 15 The project "Shot of Faith"
- 16 Honoring the memory of the fallen defenders of Ukraine
- 17 Coalition of Veteran Spaces
- 18 Cooperation with state authorities and local governments
- 19 Cooperation with business
- 21 Our partners
- 22 Acknowledgments
- 23 Reviews

2024 became another year of a big test for every Ukrainian — the year of firmness, determination and joint struggle. All of us supported Security and Defense Forces of Ukraine sparing no effort and helped those affected by the war.

In this report we want to tell you our story and share our experience and results we achieved this year.



# **WHO WE ARE**

Creation date: August 6, 2019

<u>The public organization "Veterans HUB Odesa"</u> – it's people united by common values and a mission. We provide assistance to veterans and their families and support to the families of the deceased; we form a new approach to veteran policies supporting the partnership between the veteran community and the government and mobilizing resources for changes.

## **WHAT WE DO**

We provide social services, psychological and legal aid, organize interactive activities and motivational meetings, promote the glorification and memorization of defenders of Ukraine and support development of the veteran movement in Ukraine.



From 2019 we implemented 11 all-Ukrainian and regional veteran and their families support projects. Among them there are the projects of psychological and legal aid, business training, retraining, social events, volunteer help etc.

Every day we improve ourselves and look for the ways to ensure that our activity brings more benefit and help for our visitors.



## **OUR TEAM**



Holopoteliuk Oleksandr head of the NGO Veterans HUB



**Hromovych Uliana** project manager



Mikola Storozhuk deputy head of strategic communications



Anastasiia Boiko lawyer, attorney-at-law



Kartashov Artem lawyer, attorney-at-law



Oleg Makarov deputy head for civil defense



Gladkova Olena practical psychologist, psychoanalyst, family psychologist, trauma therapist



Valentyna Chokan head of accountant



Hutsaliuk Serhii military expert, coordinator of cooperation with the military



Horodylov Oleksandr content manager



Podrazhanskaja Anastasiia office manager



Primak Oleksandr board member, administrator of the technical sector



Tokmakov Oleksii logistician



Shitko Olena psychologist



Litvinenko Oleg case manager for missing persons













# **OUR ACTIVITY IN 2024**

350 + events

12+ all-Ukrainian and regional forums

1232 psychological consultations

768 legal consultations

98 **English classes** 

49 visits to Odesa communities

49 veteran club meetings

15 master classes for children and adults

14 hospital visits

13 new partnership

persons provided with activities and services

unveiling of memorial plaques to the fallen 8 defenders

8 classes with children and youth

sport competitions

concerts

state awards ceremonies

psychological trainings

exhibitions

educational activities for adults

movie screenings

visit of Deputy Minister for Veterans Affairs of Ukraine

guide book "The Heroes of Odesa Streets"

#### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION WORK:**



@veteranshubodesa

650 posts

270.7k reaches

3 800 followers

@veteranshubodesa

500 posts

127,3k reaches

1069 followers

Added social networks







Website Veterans HUB ODESA









Telegram channel Veterans HUB ODESA **Veterans HUB ODESA** 



Instagram







www.veterans.od.ua



@veteranshubodesa





#### **EVENTS OF THE YEAR**

On May 27, 2024, a delegation from the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, led by the Deputy Minister Ruslan Prykhodko, visited Veterans HUB ODESA



In a friendly circle, representatives of Veterans HUB ODESA discussed the features of implementing veteran policy in the region.

Ideas and visions of the future for the development of the veteran environment were also discussed. The guests were presented with directions for working with veterans, as well as the veterans club which operates on the basis of Veterans HUB ODESA.

#### Veterans HUB ODESA joined the cooperation with US veterans

On February 27, a teleconference with American and Ukrainian veterans, as well as experts on rehabilitation policies in the United States, was held at America House Kyiv, in which the head of Veterans HUB ODESA Oleksandr Holopoteliuk participated. During the teleconference, its participants exchanged views on the issues of rehabilitation in Ukraine taking into account similar experience in the United States of America.



# Veterans HUB ODESA took part in the networking of civil society hubs from the International Foundation "Renaissance"







In total, the forum was attended by representatives of more than 30 organizations that in different cities of Ukraine play the role of hubs — places of interaction, training, exchange of experience and concentration of those who are concerned about the needs of others.

The meeting began with a discussion on the achievements, opportunities and limitations in hubs' work where one of the speakers was Oleksandr Holopoteliuk, the Head of Veterans HUB ODESA.

The forum helped not only to discuss achievements and challenges, but also to identify ways for further development and increasing the resilience of the public sector to today's challenges. This event demonstrated that only by combining the efforts of all stakeholders can we overcome obstacles and implement solutions that will contribute not just to the recovery, but also to the prosperity of Ukraine.



#### **LEGAL AID**

Our experienced lawyers are ready to help you with any legal issues. Veterans can contact our specialists for assistance in matters related to:

- providing medical care to servicemen and veterans:
- appealing decisions of MMC (Military Medical Commission) / expert teams to assess a person's daily functionality;
- the procedure of registering disability as a result of war and receiving a one-time financial assistance for disability as a result of war.
- procedure of obtaining the status of a combatant;
- the procedure of obtaining the status of a family of a missing in action or deceased serviceman, receiving compensation for the deceased:
- obtaining benefits and opportunities for veterans and their family members;
- other legal issues concerning you.

Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. We are ready to help you find answers and solutions to your situation.



legal consultations provided in 2024





court decisions on veterans favor



Our organization participated in meetings on veteran policy issues led by Deputy Prime Minister — Minister for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine Iryna Vereshchuk.





Infographics on legal issues posted on the website.























#### **PSYCHOLOGICAL AID**

Our team of veterans and experienced psychologists are always there to support you in any situation. We provide a variety of services aimed at supporting and alleviating emotional discomfort. Do you need just a conversation? Or maybe you or your loved ones need coordination in a crisis situation? We are here to help.



individual psychological consultations in 2024



groups of psychological support

















Our collaboration with the Project HOPE psychosocial support center in Odesa began in March 2024 and continues today. This initiative is aimed at providing comprehensive psychosocial support to veterans, their families, and internally displaced persons affected by the war.

Within the framework of cooperation, the following activities are organized:

- group and individual consultations with psychologists and social specialists;
- psychological support groups with the wives and parents of fallen defenders, with wives awaiting the return of their husbands;
- trainings and workshops on developing stress resistance, adapting to peaceful life, and overcoming PTSD;
- information activities on mental health and social support.

Thanks to this cooperation, veterans and their families are able to effectively adapt to new living conditions, find emotional balance, and receive the necessary support.









Cup painting workshop

Mother's Day Candle Making Workshop for mothers of fallen defenders









Photos from support groups. Photos published with permission from the group members



## **VETERAN CLUB ODESA**

A course launched in 2023, within the framework of which a set of measures is being implemented aimed at forming an active life position among veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war and organizing a progressive, effective, socially active community capable of advocating for the interests of veterans at all levels.

The Veterans Club (VC) is a combination of relaxation in a circle of comrades with training, heated discussions, and lectures on personal growth.

#### The coordinator is Oleksandr Primak, a veteran of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

During 2024, **49** meetings were held, attended by **over 200** veterans.























Freediving classes on the inclusive beach for members of the Veterans HUB ODESA veterans' club were conducted by a professional trainer in this sport, **Denys Kaliuka**.











The first camp of Veterans HUB ODESA veterans' club

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu seminar in TMS HUB ODESA



### **VETERAN SPORT**

The development of veteran adaptive sports is one of the areas of work in Veterans HUB ODESA. During 2024, at the initiative of veterans a group of athletes was formed. They represented Odesa region at various levels of regional competitions in Odesa, Bukovel, Chernihiv, Lutsk, etc. Also, a member of our organization Oleksii Vasyliev, successfully passed the selection for the national team of Ukraine to participate in the Invictus Games 2025 in Canada.

It was Veterans HUB ODESA that became part of the Strongman Federation of Ukraine, headed by the legendary Vasyl Virastiuk.

In addition to strength and adaptive sports, Veterans HUB ODESA develops the sports games such as pickleball and freediving.





Strongman Tournament "Arnold Classic Europe", September 2024. The Odessa region was represented by five athletes: Oleksandr Holopoteliuk, Oleksii Tararaka, Denys Kaliuka, Oleksandr Diuzhykov and Rostyslav Cherednichenko.

Oleksii Tararaka won second place in the "Bench Press" discipline in the prestigious veterans tournament, he was congratulated by the Minister of Veterans Affairs Nataliia Kalmykova and Vasyl Virastiuk.







All-Ukrainian adaptive competitions amona veterans "BESTRONG GAMES", August 2024. Oleksii Tararaka, Oleksandr Komyshny, Denys Kaliuka and Ruslan Tatarov





Oleksii Tararaka, Denys Kaliuka, Volodymyr Trach and Oleh Komnaniiets





One of the representatives from Odesa region in the rowing competitions was Ruslan Tatarov, a representative of Veterans HUB ODESA, an active member of the Odesa Veterans Club

Competition "Strong Ones of Ukraine", Odesa, March 2024. Odesa regional qualifying stage in crossfit of the sports competition "Veterans Games", November 2024. The competition was attended by representatives of Veterans HUB ODESA: Denys Kaliuka. Oleksii Tararaka and Mykhailo Zimin.



The "Victory of the Unconquered" Cup, Lutsk, October 2024. Oleksii Tararaka, Denys Kaliuka and Volodymyr Trach



"Northern Outpost" Competition in Chernihiv, October 2024. Vlad Zadorin, Mykhailo Zimin, Oleksandr Komyshny







All-Ukrainian veterans' competitions, Chernihiv, April 2024. The weightlifter Oleksii Tararaka, archers Ruslan Tatarov and Oleksii Vasyliev took part. The last athlete won the prize cup for the Odesa region in the rowing competitions









Congratulations to Odesa residents who participated in the national selection for the Invictus Games 2025, July 2024



# WORK WITH FAMILIES OF MISSING IN ACTION UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Throughout 2024, our team actively worked to support families of persons who went missing in action under special circumstances. The main goal of the activity was to provide legal, psychological and social assistance.

From February 15 to June 30, 2024, our team implemented the project "COMPASS: Support for Families of Missing In Action" within the framework of which:



After June 30, 2024, we continued to provide information and advisory assistance to families who lost contact with their relatives during the war.



**320** consultations

- **3** forums
- **2** professional developments



#### MOBILE GROUP — VISITS TO COMMUNITIES IN ODESA REGION



A solemn ceremony of handing over five new SUVs to veterans' spaces of Ukraine took place on December 7, 2023. Among those who became more mobile and accessible to residents of the most remote communities was the Veterans HUB ODESA team.

#### **OUR TEAM MADE 49 TRIPS DURING 2024**

#### **Mobile group composition:**

- a mobile team coordinator
- a case manager
- a lawyer
- a psychologist







**12 036** km traveled

46 communities visited

17 group meetings held

**1829** individual services provided, and among them are

918 - legal consultations;

**588** - psychological consultations;

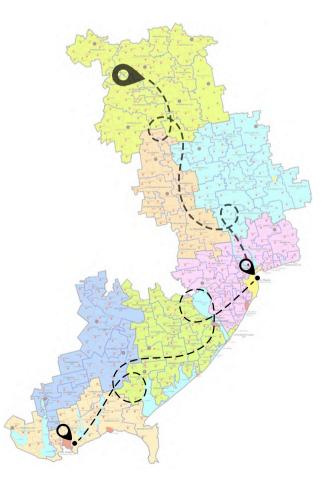
**323** - case manager's consultations













## **CULTURAL EVENTS**

Cultural activities play an important role in the rehabilitation and social adaptation of veterans after returning from the frontline. They contribute to the relief of psychological stress, help find new meaning in life and strengthen ties with society.











concerts

movie screenings

workshops

exhibitions

museum

theatre

book presentations





Vadym Luhovtsov's Exhibition "Other Weapons"





Photo exhibition by the Odesa artist, the veteran of the Russian-Ukrainian war Karen Hambarian. "Odesa. February 22nd/February 24th"

### BAND"VIKNA"

At the initiative of veterans, a rock band called VIKNA was created, which includes veterans and volunteers: a guitarist **Oleksandr Diuzhykov**, a multi-instrumentalist **Mykyta Deina**, and a drummer and the head of the MUZONE music school-studio **Viacheslav Bolbi**. Each of the musicians develops his own musical history and project, but the guys unite to play concerts for veterans who come to the club and to perform at hospitals and rehabilitation centers in Odesa. The VIKNA guys also had a full-fledged concert performance at the Blue Crab club.







#### **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

#### **ENGLISH CLASSES A0,A2**

The coordinator, English teacher, volunteer - Ms. Svitlana (Lite Point).













Training on techniques for stopping bleeding «STOP THE BLEED» with "MotoDopomoha"

Trainings "How to communicate with veterans and their families"



## THE PROJECT "COMMUNITIES SYNERGY"

DURATION: SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 - MAY 11, 2025





**Our goal** is to strengthen the network of social ties, improve trust and mutual assistance between representatives of public organizations, activists and veterans from large and small communities.

#### Project activities:

• networking with the participation of government representatives and public organizations; Purpose of the event is to introduce representatives of various organizations and institutions working with veterans for further cooperation and exchange of experience; to promote the creation of new partnerships and initiatives to support veterans: to discuss current problems and challenges faced by veterans and ways to solve them.







• two-day trainings aimed at strengthening networks of social ties, trust and mutual assistance between people and organizations for representatives of public organizations, activists and veterans from large and small communities on the following topics: fundamentals of project management, leadership development, public communications, advocacy and protection of rights, crisis management and emergency response.







• leadership course "Community of Action: Veterans" is training for 20 veterans and/or their families on fundamental human and civil rights, mechanisms for exercising their public rights and freedoms, forming local and state policy, creating public associations, etc.











## THE PROJECT "SHOT OF FAITH"

This is a social program, part of the "I'll Cover" project, organized by the family of the deceased Hero Ostap Makarov — Oleh Makarov and Alina Marshal, the NGO "Veterans HUB ODESA" and the company "STVOL", which provides premises and equipment for the shooting range for the implementation of the project.

**The essence** of the project is to adapt American military medical rehabilitation programs for combat veterans and their moral and psychological support.

**The basis** of the program is free visits to the shooting range and shooting with foreign weapons. This is especially important for veterans with disabilities and amputees: when they take up weapons in their hands, they feel like warriors again.























10СТРІЛ

Over the 12 months of the "Shot of Faith" program, several hundred people have passed through the STVOL shooting range:

**40/60** veterans every month.

Over **700** veterans during the project's existence.

**10-15** veterans every Wednesday.

#### "SHOT OF FAITH. DZURA"

a new direction in work that contributes to the patriotic education of youth on the principles of Ukrainian tradition and culture in Odesa region. The project is designed to master the skills of handling and using weapons, and study the military history of Ukraine.











# HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN DEFENDERS OF **UKRAINE**

Honoring the memory of fallen defenders is an important component of national culture and a moral duty of society. It is not only a way to pay tribute to the heroes who gave their lives for the independence of Ukraine, but also a reminder of the price of freedom.

Veterans HUB ODESA is actively involved in honoring the memory of fallen soldiers organizing and supporting various initiatives:

- Participation in commemorative events such as laying flowers. memorial services, evenings of remembrance, meetings with families of the deceased.
- Creating memorial initiatives: assistance in installation of monuments, memorial plagues, and writing books about heroes.
- Implementation of a nationwide minute of silence in Odesa city public transport and having the driver announce the corresponding text.
- Support for the families of fallen soldiers.
- Educational programs such as meetings with youth, memory lessons in schools and universities.

Veterans HUB ODESA not only preserves the memory of fallen heroes, but also helps their families and educates a new generation of conscious Ukrainians.





















#### **COALITION OF VETERAN SPACES**

The NGO "Veterans HUB Odesa" continues its work as part of the Coalition of Veteran Spaces. This is an association of 26 veteran organizations and initiatives that work throughout Ukraine to support war veterans and their family members, as well as the families of the deceased and missing ones.

#### The main goals and objectives of the Coalition are:

- Uniting various veteran spaces for more effective cooperation and implementation of joint projects. Development of veteran spaces.
- Implementation of better practices and unification of services provided to veterans in different regions.
- Veterans' rights advocacy: joint representation of veterans' interests in front of state and local governments.
- Promoting the successful adaptation of veterans to civilian life, their psychological and physical rehabilitation, employment, and professional development.
- Creating a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and successful cases.







The Third All-Ukrainian Dialogue "Communities to Veterans". June 7, 2024, Vinnytsia



Coalition Congress, August 2024



VII International Veterans Forum "Ukraine. Veterans. Unity". August 22, 2024

In December 2024, the Coalition of Veteran Spaces officially acquired the status of a public organization. From a voluntary association we grew into an organization and acquired legal status.

Formalization of work is a new vector that makes it possible to strengthen advocacy for the veteran topic not only at the community level, but at the state level as well. We also launched new cross-cutting projects for all veteran spaces that are members of the association.



Visit of the Coalition's partner organization Veteran Space in Cherkasy



A case management training of Coalition participants



Visit of the Coalition's partner organization Veteran Space 'Sertsevir' (Chernihiv)



# COOPERATION WITH STATE AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

NGO "Veterans HUB Odesa" participated in advisory councils and working groups under governing bodies to take into account the needs of veterans when making important decisions.

- Coordination Council for the Establishment of Ukrainian National and Civic Identity under the Odesa Regional State (Military) Administration.
- Working group for collecting and processing proposals for renaming toponymic objects in settlements of Odesa region under the Odesa Regional State (Military) Administration.
- Coordination Council for the Formation and Implementation of Veteran Policy in the City of Odesa.
- Coordination Council for the Establishment of Ukrainian National and Civic Identity under the Odesa Mayor.
- Working group of the Odesa City Council on issues of providing prosthetic and orthopedic products to people
  with disabilities, children with disabilities and other specific categories of the population.
- Working group of the Odesa City Council on issues of interaction with public organizations of veterans and combatants related to the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and family members of the fallen (deceased) Defenders of Ukraine.
- Commission of the Odesa City Council for considering applications from family members of the deceased and persons with disabilities who defended the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine or participated in hostilities on the territory of other states, for payment of monetary compensation for the housing they are entitled to receive.
- Commission of the Odesa City Council for consideration of applications for payment of monetary compensation for housing to internally displaced persons who defended the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.
- Commissions for considering issues regarding compensation for damaged real estate objects as a result of hostilities, terrorist acts, sabotage caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.









The NGO Veterans HUB ODESA, the NGO "Family of Angels of Light" and the NGO "Hearts of Mothers of Odesa Region" initiated an appeal to the Odesa City Council to install the Bell of Remembrance and the Waterfall of Tears at the memorial complex "To Fighters for Ukraine" near the Odesa Military Administration. They also introduced the traditional ceremony of honoring the memory of the fallen Defenders of Ukraine "The Bell of Remembrance".



We also initiated and contributed to the creation of the Heroes' Alley in Taras Shevchenko Park in Odesa, which was opened on August 29, 2024.







Presentation of the guide "Heroes of Odesa Streets" prepared in accordance with the renaming of streets in Odesa, December 2024



## **COOPERATION WITH BUSINESS**



The cooperation between Veterans HUB ODESA and **Veterano Pizza Odesa** is an example of effective interaction between veteran initiatives to support military personnel, their families, and the development of veteran businesses in Odesa.



**13 visits to the hospital** — treats, concerts, legal assistance.





The collaboration between Veterans HUB ODESA and the Ukrainian tactical clothing brand **Camotec** is aimed at supporting veterans, military personnel, and their family members through social initiatives and projects.

Jointly organized events:

- dedicated to Defender Day;
- visited defenders at the Oleksandrivska Hospital for Christmas;
- organized a visit to the theater and presented books to children;
- made videos about veterans.











# MEMORANDUMS OF COOPERATION

Thanks to the signed memorandums, it is possible to ensure systematic and long-term cooperation aimed at improving the quality of life of veterans and their families.

13

new partnerships in 2024



razom.ua, Veterans HUB ODESA and Business Association of Defenders of Ukraine



The NGO "Potential"



PROMED CENTER



Municipal Non-Profit Enterprise "Multidisciplinary Hospital for Veterans" in the Odesa Regional Council



Tairov community



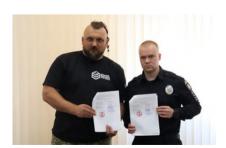
The NGO "Family of Angels of Light"



LLC "Greentech Odesa"



Liubashiv community



Odesa State University of Internal Affairs



Manufaktura\_llc



Odesa National University of Economics



## **OUR PARTNERS**







































































- > the NGO "Hearts of Mothers of Odesa Region"
- > the NGO "Rivnovaha"
- > the NGO "Veterans and Disabled of ATO "Rapira""
- the NGO "Veterans of ATO of Lyman Region"
- > the NGO "Center for Assistance to Participants of ATO of Podil Region"
- > the MNPE "Odesa Regional Medical and Physical Education Dispensary" of the Odesa Regional Council
- the First Interregional Department of the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory
- > the Department of Social and Family Policy of the Odesa Regional State Administration
- > the Department of Education and Science of the Odesa Regional State Administration
- > the Department of Labor and Social Policy of the Odesa City Council
- > the Department of Internal Policy of the Odesa City Council



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

VETERANS HUB ODESA appreciates each and every one who helps, guides and supports our cause. We are sincerely grateful for your dedication, time and efforts.

We would like to say THANK YOU to:



**Oksana KOLIADA**Project Manager of the NGO "Space of Opportunities", Coordinator of the

Coalition of Veteran Spaces of Ukraine



**Serhii HUTSALIUK**Head of the First Interregional
Department of the Ukrainian Institute
of National Memory



**Svitlana (Lite Point)**volunteer, English teacher



**Pavio ZHURAVLOV**professional athlete, founder of the
United Athletes Foundation, founder of the
social project "Fit Group Ukraine"



**Zoia DMYTRUK**Head of the Department of Social and
Humanitarian Work in Odesa State
University of Internal Affairs



**Oleksandr SAPEHO** Head of the NGO "CF "Vidhuk Ukraine", volunteer



**Mykyta KORENIEV** Head of the Odesa Regional Employment Center



**Viacheslav BOLBI** founder of the music school Muzone Music Hub



**Yulia (**<u>Anantkar Kaur</u>) yoga trainer, volunteer



**Anatolii DYMCHUK** entrepreneur, philanthropist



#### **REVIEWS**

"I asked for psychological help in a state of uncertain loss (my husband became missing in action more than 1.7 months ago), when I no longer had the strength to cope. I hardly slept and did not know what to do next, how to live. During the consultation, there was a lot of support, explanations of my states and reactions. I began to cope with life's challenges, became more stable, I always looked forward to meeting with Olena because I knew that she would listen and support. Thank you for the opportunity to work together! You helped a lot!"

- Tetiana, 32 years old

"A very good video, the benefit, the presentation, the visuals..."

- Anna, 28 years old

"I am very grateful to the mobile group for the fact that I have the opportunity to issue a family registration certificate and the corresponding status"

the wife of a fallen border guard from the Pishchansk community of Odesa region "I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the legal assistance provided to me. The lawyer I worked with showed high professionalism and deep understanding of my situation. She helped me collect all the necessary documents, submit applications to the relevant authorities. Thanks to her help, I felt that I was not alone in my plight and that there were people ready to help and support me. Her advice and recommendations were clear and understandable, which helped me act confidently and purposefully. I recommend seeking such assistance."

- Iryna, 37 years old, individual entrepreneur, Odesa

"Only thanks to the mobile group I was finally able to get all the MSEC documents from the archives of the regional TCRSS for my deceased husband"

- Liudmyla, wife of a deceased disabled veteran from the Baltska community in Odesa region.

"I am a veteran and I intend to start my own business. I thank the specialists of the mobile group for their advice on how to do it and where to start"

- a veteran from Ivanivsk territorial community in Odesa region.

"As the wife of a person missing in action, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your important and invaluable support during this extremely difficult time for me. Your professional and warm support has become a hope in my life and has given me the strength to move forward. You have listened to my feelings and emotions with great empathy, helping me understand their nature and find ways to overcome stress and anxiety. Your ability to create a safe environment where I could openly express my thoughts and experiences was extremely valuable to me."

- Tetiana, wife of a missing in action, 42 years old, Odesa.

- "I am infinitely grateful to the mobile group for helping to restore justice. Now I will receive a pension"
- Oleksii, a disabled veteran living in Saratsk community in Odesa region

"I applied to Veterans HUB ODESA in the fall of 2023. Then I had specific questions for lawyer Anastasiia Boiko. But I saw like-minded people here and that was the most important thing. Later, through the club I got into English courses, then I decided to create a pickleball team and that's how it all started.

- Mykhailo, veteran, Odesa



Odesa city, Mykhailo Boltenko street, 6

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Choose what you want!