

# Sister City Relationship Annual Report\*

City Clerk's Office  
City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202 PH: (414) 286-2221 WEB: [www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities](http://www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities)



## APPLICATION ORGANIZATION

Name: Friends of Be an Angel

Mailing Address: 11520 N Port Washington Rd #215  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53092, USA

Website: <https://friendsofbeanangel.org>

## PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR MILWAUKEE

Name: Anya Verkhovskaya

Phone: +1 (414) 688-68-65

Mailing Address: 11520 N Port Washington Rd #215  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53092, USA

Email: [contact@friendsofbeanangel.org](mailto:contact@friendsofbeanangel.org)

## SISTER CITY

Name: Irpin

Country: Ukraine

Population: 60 084

## PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR SISTER CITY

Name: Oleksandr Markushin

Phone: +38 (04597) 61-407

Mailing Address: Shevchenko Street, 2A, Irpin, Kyiv region,  
08200, Ukraine

Email: [irpin\\_mvk@ukr.net](mailto:irpin_mvk@ukr.net)

## Updated information about the sister city:

### Areas of mutual interest and involvement between Milwaukee and Irpin in the areas of culture and business:

#### Culture:

Arts and Music Exchange  
Language and Education Programs  
Culinary Exchange and Food Festivals  
Historical Preservation and Heritage Promotion  
Community Engagement through Cultural Events

#### Business:

Trade and Investment Opportunities  
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Collaboration  
Tourism and Hospitality Promotion  
Sustainable Development Initiatives  
Networking and Business Events

## **Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the existing relationship:**

**Expansion of Sister City Cooperation:** Friends of Be an Angel organized a delegation trip to Irpin, Ukraine, furthering our sister city relationship efforts. This initiative aimed to enhance cultural exchange and collaboration between the two cities.

**Sister City Signing Ceremony:** A significant milestone was achieved with the participation of a delegation from Ukraine in a sister city signing ceremony at Milwaukee City Hall. This formalizes the bond between our communities and paves the way for future collaboration.

**Independence day celebration:** the city of Milwaukee actively participated in the Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration, organized by Friends of Be an Angel. This celebration also served as a fundraiser for Ukraine, with support from local leaders.

**Cultural Exchange and Donation:** The city of Irpin generously gifted 100 Ukrainian books to the Milwaukee Public Library, enhancing cultural understanding and appreciation.

**Updated information regarding the local organizational structure in the sister city that supports the relationship:**  
The relationship is locally supported by the government of Irpin headed by the mayor of Irpin, Oleksandr Markushin.

## **Updated information about the applicant organization:**

Organizational status: registered 501(c)(3) charity (EIN: 88-2154500).

Board of Directors:

Anya Verkhovskaya  
Director of Friends of Be an Angel  
CEO of Class Experts Group

Ganna Yudkivska  
UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions

Stella Ayzinger  
Secretary of the Board of Directors

Jennifer Spinner  
Vice President

Bylaws will be attached in a separate document.

## **Number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information:**

**Anya Verkhovskaya**, Director of the Board & Treasurer, CEO of Class Experts Group  
**Boris Nayfish**, coordinator, [boris.n@friendsofbeanangel.org](mailto:boris.n@friendsofbeanangel.org), +1 (414) 364-8776

## **Progress of the goals of the organization regarding the sister city relationship:**

Our commitment to serve as the official sponsor between the city of Milwaukee and the city of Irpin remains steadfast. Together, we aim to facilitate a rich intercultural exchange between these two cities while also directing our efforts towards the critical task of reconstruction and providing relief to the war-torn city of Irpin.

## **Progress of activities of the organization in relation to the sister city:**

As a sponsoring agency dedicated to fostering sister city relationships, our efforts have focused on strengthening ties between communities and providing vital support where it's needed the most:

**Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration:** Friends of Be an Angel actively participated in the Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration, showcasing Ukrainian culture through song and dance in the Milwaukee community. This event also served as a fundraiser for Ukraine, with support from local leaders.

**Establishment of Sister City Relationship with Syracuse, NY:** Friends of Be an Angel sponsored and organized an official visit of the Irpin Delegation to Syracuse, NY, aiming to establish a sister city relationship. This effort also included appeals for urgent assistance and continued support for Ukraine amidst ongoing challenges.

**Community Engagement:** We facilitated Oleksandr Markushyn's speech at an event in Maxwell, celebrating the relationship between Syracuse and Irpin, and raising awareness about the situation in Ukraine.

**Cultural Exchange Events:** We hosted the Irpin Delegation for various events in Milwaukee, including lunch and meet-and-greet sessions, fostering meaningful interactions and understanding between our communities.

**Volunteer Engagement:** Boris Nayflish and Anya Verhovskaya from Friends of Be an Angel dedicated their time to manning the Sister Cities Exhibit Booth during the Holiday Folk Fair, showcasing the bond between our sister cities.

**Humanitarian Support:** Friends of Be an Angel hosted Ukrainian families with children diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) in Milwaukee, providing a lifeline for medical treatment not available in Ukraine.

**Commitment to Sister City Committee Meetings:** We remained actively engaged by participating in all Sister City Committee Meetings, contributing to ongoing collaboration and coordination efforts.

#### **Progress of the methods the organization uses to meet the goals of the sister city relationship:**

**Cultural Exchange Initiatives:** Through organized delegation trips, sister city signing ceremonies, and cultural exchange events, Friends of Be an Angel has facilitated meaningful interactions and understanding between Milwaukee and Irpin. These initiatives have enriched cultural ties and promoted cross-cultural appreciation.

**Community Outreach and Engagement:** The organization has actively engaged the local community in supporting the sister city relationship through events such as the Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration. By showcasing Ukrainian culture and raising funds for Ukraine with support from local leaders, Friends of Be an Angel has strengthened community involvement and solidarity.

**Partnerships and Collaborations:** Friends of Be an Angel has forged partnerships with various stakeholders, including businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies, to enhance the impact of the sister city relationship. These collaborations have enabled the implementation of projects and initiatives aimed at promoting economic development, cultural exchange, and humanitarian aid.

**Effective Communication Channels:** Utilizing effective communication channels such as newsletters, social media platforms, and direct engagement with stakeholders, Friends of Be an Angel has maintained strong connections with the sister city. This ongoing communication ensures transparency, fosters dialogue, and mobilizes support for shared goals.

**Project Implementation and Evaluation:** The organization has successfully implemented projects and initiatives aligned with the goals of the sister city relationship. These efforts, including cultural events, humanitarian aid projects, and economic development initiatives, are evaluated through stakeholder feedback, performance metrics, and periodic assessments to ensure effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

Overall, Friends of Be an Angel's proactive approach, community engagement strategies, and collaborative efforts have been instrumental in advancing the objectives of the sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Irpin, fostering mutual understanding, cooperation, and positive outcomes for both communities.

#### **Financial base of the organization and funds available to support the sister city relationship:**

Our organization operates on a limited financial base and currently does not have allocated funds for direct financial investments into projects. However, we remain committed to supporting the sister city relationship through non-financial means, such as facilitating cultural exchange programs, organizing community events, and fostering collaboration between stakeholders. We believe that these efforts can contribute significantly to strengthening the bond between our communities despite financial constraints.

**Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship, including additional financial support and interest in exchange program:**

We have observed significant evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship. This support includes not only financial contributions but also a genuine interest in participating in exchange programs and fostering connections with our sister city. The enthusiasm and engagement of the local community serve as a testament to the value and importance of maintaining and strengthening our sister city relationship.

---