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Kraków**

## **Malopolska has recognized those who help**

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**They continually help others, provide support in difficult situations, organize interesting social initiatives, encourage others to act - these are just a few examples of how the winners of the Amicus Hominum and Kryształ Soli awards are changing Malopolska for the better. The winners of both prestigious awards were announced during this year's gala.**

The symbolic statuettes were handed over by Iwona Gibas of the Voivodeship Executive Board, and the President of the Malopolskie Voivodeship Regional Council, Prof. Jan Tadeusz Duda.

The event was also attended by Governor Łukasz Kmita, Vice President of MARR S.A. Mariusz Kękuś, and voivodeship councillors: Anna Mikosz, Marta Mordarska, Stanisław Bisztyga, Jerzy Fedorowicz and Andrzej Wójcik.

These exceptional awards – the **Amicus Hominum** awards and the **Salt Crystals 2021** – are a modest expression of our gratitude and a gesture of our thanks for being a friend to one another. “Thank you for your social commitment in so many areas. Thank you for every initiative you take to help those in need, for every assistance, not only material, but also for a simple smile or a kind look”

– said Iwona Gibas of the Voivodship Executive Board.

They are willing to help others

During this year's gala, held at the Karol Szymanowski Philharmonic Hall in Krakow honoured those who selflessly help others.

The “**Amicus Hominum**” award was established in 2006 by the Malopolska Voivodeship self government in honour of individuals who act for the benefit of others and support others with their selfless actions. With this award, the voivodeship local government wishes to thank all those whose work and commitment, invention and dedication, promote attitudes of mutual help, support and sacrifice for the benefit of others.

This year's Grand Prix award was given to the Girl Scouts and Scouts of the Malopolska District of the Polish Scouting Association for their excellent, exemplary citizenship and exemplary behaviour during the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it is in recognition of their exceptional empathy and unceasing readiness to accompany another human being, as well as their extraordinary ability to mobilize others to help and promote the idea of volunteering among scouts.

The Amicus Hominum award was also given in five individual categories:

### **CATEGORY: SOCIAL AND FAMILY POLICY, ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Winner: Iwona Zabagło – for her extraordinary ability to involve the inhabitants of the village of Wolowice in matters important to the local community, in particular in inter-neighbourly aid activities,



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including those for the elderly and persons with disabilities, and for exceptional sensitivity and a good heart ready to help those in need in the most difficult moments of their lives.

Honoured: Rev. Artur Barańczuk – for his tireless work over many years to improve the living conditions of persons most in need – the elderly, the lonely and the poor, and for his extraordinary ability to create space for the professional and social activation of persons with disabilities in the Gorlice district.

### **CATEGORY: HEALTH PROMOTION AND PROTECTION**

Winner: Bożena Szewczyk-Taranek – for dedicated work on the implementation and popularisation of the therapeutic method of hortiterapy in rehabilitation, therapeutic and educational institutions, particularly in the Małopolska region, and for the work promoting the importance of therapeutic and sensory gardens through the establishment of an interdisciplinary postgraduate course titled: “Horticultural Therapy.”

Awarded: Daniel Gacek – for his involvement in promoting the idea of voluntary blood donation and organising blood donation campaigns in Krakow, especially in the difficult period of the pandemic, and for recognising the needs of others and his charity work to support the healing process of children, including those with disabilities.

### **CATEGORY: SPORT AND EDUCATION**

Winner: Mariusz Pawlus – for the dissemination of sport and popularisation of martial arts among the Oswiecim district community, and for promoting positive values and patterns of competition in the spirit of fair play, mutual respect, friendship and a healthy lifestyle among children and the youth.

Awarded: Elżbieta Kusina – for many years of involvement in the education and substantive support of tourist guides of Krakow and Malopolska, and for the guides constant striving for development and creating new quality of tourist services, as well as for representing the voice of the guides of Malopolska within the tourist industry in Poland and Europe.

### **CATEGORY: PHILANTHROPY**

Winner: Anna Katarzyna Jawor – for her lay missionary activity, comprehensive help and support for the inhabitants of poor districts of Lima, in particular for taking up the trouble to work with young people and children, and for her open heart and support for Polish national prisoners in Peruvian prisons.

Awarded: Grzegorz Krawczyk – for great sensitivity to the fate of people in need of help, and for his selfless charity work for the residents of the Sucha district, especially for the elderly, lonely and sick people living in mountainous areas. Also for the involvement in charitable activities for underprivileged children, people with disabilities, and those in need in mission countries.

### **CATEGORY: YOUTH INITIATIVE**

Winner: Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of the Malopolska Region of the Polish Scouting Association – for their ability to use their talents to support children and young people and for their moving example of selfless help to those in need – especially seniors, children and the youth – during the pandemic, as part of the initiative titled: “Małopolska Ambulance of the Girl Scouts and Scouts of the Polish Scouting Association”.

Awarded: Agnieszka Serwotka – for her committed coordination of volunteering in the Krakow Festival Office and her invaluable contribution to promoting the idea of volunteering in culture, and for effectively adapting volunteer activities to changing conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Best awarded non-governmental organisations:

The best non-governmental organisations were also recognized during the gala.

The “Salt Crystals” award was established in 2005 as an award for the best non-governmental organisations in Małopolska. Its main objective is to strengthen the image of the third sector, promote the activities of the best organisations, popularize “good practices” and disseminate the best ideas. The name of the Award “Salt Crystals” refers to the expression “salt of the earth” referring to precious, exceptional, exemplary people, the most valuable individuals or groups of people within the community.

This year, the Grand Prix was awarded to the Foundation “Pomnik - Hospicjum Miasta Oświęcim” for its activities in carrying out its mission of accompanying the sick at the end of their lives. The award was also given for the continued passion for helping and spreading the idea of a hospice and as an expression of gratitude for the daily care for the terminally ill and elderly, as well as for the open heart and immense support for families during the difficult time of the passing of their loved ones.

It is worth mentioning that this year's edition of the “Salt Crystals” competition was once again supported by the Malopolska Regional Development Agency S.A., which is the sponsor of the financial award of the Grand Prix Salt Crystals 2020 to the amount of PLN 15,000.

The Salt Crystals award was also given in six individual categories:

#### **CATEGORY: SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH, ACTIVITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Winner: “Pomnik – Hospicjum Miastu Oświęcim” Foundation – for its many years of work on behalf of terminally ill and dying persons, and for its comprehensive care provided throughout the entire day: medical, nursing, spiritual, psychological and social care provided to patients, as well as support for their families. Also for its creating dignified conditions for people at the end of their lives, and for the invaluable contribution to the development of hospice volunteering.

Awarded: Stowarzyszenie Centrum Profilaktyki i Edukacji Społecznej PARASOL – for all the social work for children and young people and taking up newer and newer challenges to prevent their social exclusion. Also for implementing the streetworking method and carrying out a number of unconventional projects aimed at levelling social and educational opportunities for children and young people from difficult environments.



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### **CATEGORY: CULTURE, NATIONAL HERITAGE, REGIONAL IDENTITY**

Winner: Society of the Friends of Fine Arts in Nowy Sącz – for its overall activities taken to support and promote artistic creation and the regional folk art of Nowy Sącz and the surrounding region, and for cultivating the memory and caring for the artistic achievements of Bolesław Barbacki born in Nowy Sącz. Also for the support and motivation provided to artists during the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awarded: Stowarzyszenie Scena Kultury Wokalnej “Śpiewanie Bez Granic” – for the immense contribution to the shaping and dissemination of the musical culture of Małopolska and supporting the artistic activities of musicians, bands and orchestras, and for its educational activities, in particular for the organisation of the International Vocal Workshop and the integration of artists and amateurs in the difficult pandemic period. Also for the promotion of Polish music abroad, mainly through the organisation of patriotic concerts “VIVA POLONIA”.

### **CATEGORY: EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CIVIL SOCIETY**

Winner: Obraz w Pigułce Foundation – for supporting the treatment and rehabilitation of children and the youth by organising and running art workshops, cultural and social activation and “art therapy”, and for creating the unconventional “Picture in a Nutshell” project, which, thanks to the interesting formula of a work inside of a work, engages not only the young patients – improving the atmosphere and quality of time spent in hospital – but also the volunteers.

Awarded: Małopolska Association Probacja – for active measures to improve the situation of children of prisoners and the readaptation of convicts, as well as to prevent crime, and for running family programmes in penitentiary units, as well as for carrying out interesting, original projects, in particular “READ TO ME” and “CONTACT, or how to be a better parent from behind bars”. Also appreciating the social campaign “NOT MY FAULT, BUT MY PUNISHMENT”, raising in the public space the issue of protecting the rights of children who have a parent who is serving a prison sentence.

### **CATEGORY: SPORT, TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY**

Winner: Adolf Hyla Cultural and Educational Association – for promoting knowledge on safety in the mountains, in particular through the implementation of the action “Safe and Prudent in the Tatra Mountains”, and for promoting Polish tourism. Also for educational and publishing activities, as well as for the promotion of the memory of Adolf Hyla.

Awarded: Wyobraź Sobie Foundation – for active measures in the area of environmental and global education. For carrying out interesting projects, including “Eco-world changers” and shaping and teaching the young generation “environmental awareness” and the zero waste philosophy. And also for creating their own prevention projects and pedagogical and psychological support for families.

### **CATEGORY: ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Winner: Social Enterprize – Społeczna 21 Sp. z o.o. – for its invaluable contribution to the social and professional activation of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with Down syndrome, for



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helping them take their first steps on the labour market and thus contributing to the development of social entrepreneurship. Also for creating jobs for people with disabilities and demonstrating their potential, and for taking action to promote a positive image of people with Down syndrome.

**CATEGORY: BEST COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Winner: Samaritans Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations – for establishing and managing the Senior Activation and Care Centre Plus for seniors from the municipalities of Gromnik, Wojnicz and Zakliczyn, and thus providing comprehensive support for the elderly, and for the continuous improvement of the quality of life of dependants from rural municipalities and the implementation of activities to activate the residents covered by the project.

Awarded: Zupa Foundation (Zupa na Plantach) – for implementing the unconventional “Zupa na Plantach” project in Krakow, which involves preparing hot meals for the homeless and for the extraordinary ability to bring together a number of volunteers to provide real help, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for carrying out extensive outreach to homeless people, including helping wards emerge from the crisis of homelessness.