

PRESS RELEASE

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Volunteers from LIBERTY Ostrava helped in eleven non-profit organizations

This autumn, 47 employees of LIBERTY Ostrava lent a hand in eleven socially beneficial organizations from Ostrava where they moved and assembled furniture, repainted and cleaned up rooms, prepared gardens for winter, repaired bicycles, but also produced decorations the sale of which will support the operation of several organizations. Volunteers from the Ostrava steelworks had worked over 350 hours for the non-profit sector during their working hours in November and December.

Since 2008 the corporate volunteering has been traditionally organized at the steel mill during autumn. It enables LIBERTY Ostrava employees to spend one working day a year helping one of the selected non-profit organizations as per their choice. In this way, the mill helps homes for the elderly, special needs nurseries and schools, asylums, social organizations and sheltered workshops in Ostrava.

This year, LIBERTY Ostrava has helped the Salvation Army, Dlaň životu, Domov Korýtko, Charity house of St. Elizabeth, Charity of St. Alexander, Bikes for Africa, Kindergarten and Special needs elementary school of Diakonie ČCE, Pavučina, Prapos laundry, Work Rehab Center and Society for Early Care.

Adam Frydrych, material operator from LIBERTY Ostrava's service team said: *"It was the first time for me to participate in corporate volunteering and contribute a bit myself to a good cause. I chose "Bikes for Africa" because I am an active cyclist myself. In the morning, my colleague and I were greeted by a pleasant team, and within a few minutes all of us were already dismantling the parts of old bikes, the proceeds of which will be used for delivering bike as important means of transport to children in Africa. I had a good feeling from that day and the work, I was happy to help a good cause. Next year I'll join again."*

Daniel Ščigel, head of Bikes for Africa central warehouse added: *"The employees of LIBERTY Ostrava helped us with recycling of bicycles, especially with the extraction of aluminum. Usually, this raw material remains on the bikes as it is labour intensive and the disassembly is slow and usually not worth it. However, the guys from the steel mill were very efficient and careful, thanks to their craft and skills we managed to do in one shift what usually takes us several times longer. Thank you."*

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LIBERTY Ostrava is an integrated steel company with an annual production capacity of 3.6 million tons of steel, which is used mainly in the construction, engineering and petrochemical industries. It is a domestic leader in the production of road safety barriers and tubes. Besides the Czech market, it supplies its products to more than 40 countries around the world. Together with its subsidiaries, it has 6,000 employees. Thanks to above-standard greening, it manufactures its products with the least possible impact on the environment. The mill belongs to the LIBERTY Steel Group.

The LIBERTY Steel Group plans to invest 8.6 billion crowns in the next eight years to transform LIBERTY Ostrava into a carbon-neutral GREENSTEEL producer. A key element of the program to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 will be the replacement of the existing four tandem furnaces of the steel plant with two hybrid electric furnaces and the construction of a new extra high voltage line. The new furnaces will be supplied by **Danieli**, the world's leading manufacturer of machines and industrial equipment, based on the signed contract. At the signing ceremony, LIBERTY Ostrava also entered into a partnership with ČEZ ESCO ESCO, the aim of which is to search for and develop together technologies in the field of renewable energy sources and hydrogen, and launched the activities of the GFG Foundation in the Czech Republic.

In addition to the modernization of the steel plant, the transformation will also include an extensive modernization of the rolling mills, which will improve the quality of the steel and expand the portfolio of products with high added value. The investment program will also include the construction of power plants producing electricity from renewable sources, as well as the development of the GREENSTEEL Academy, the aim of which is to increase qualifications of the existing workforce and stir new people's interest in taking a job in the steel industry.

LIBERTY Steel Group is part of the global GFG Alliance owned by Sanjeev Gupta and his family. The GFG Alliance has three independent industry brands: LIBERTY Steel Group, the ALVANCE Aluminum Group and SIMEC Energy Group which share the same values and strive for a long-term sustainable future for industry and society. GFG Alliance operates in 30 countries around the world, with a total of 35,000 employees and a turnover of over USD 20 billion.

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