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**CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF IVAN HERASYMOVYCH
KHARYTONENKO (DEDICATED TO THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PHILANTHROPIST AND ENTREPRENEUR'S BIRTH)**

**ДОБРОЧИННА ДІЯЛЬНІСТЬ ІВАНА ГЕРАСИМОВИЧА
ХАРИТОНЕНКО (ДО 200-РІЧЧЯ ВІД ДНЯ НАРОДЖЕННЯ
МЕЦЕНАТА ТА ПІДПРИЄМЦЯ)**

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Preserving traditions in society, respecting our history, and charity requires rethinking the past. It is very important to educate the younger generation on the examples of such personalities as Ivan Herasymovych Kharytonenko, to understand his spirituality, patronage activities, and to highlight the significance of such figures for history.

Ivan Herasymovych Kharytonenko was born on September 25, 1822 in the village of Nizhnyaya Syrovatka, Sumy uyezd, Kharkiv governorate. The boy was born in a large peasant family (his parents had 9 children). The boy studied at a local parochial school, then served as a clerk in grocery and manufacturing shops. Life was quite difficult and it was during this period that he hardened his character. In the early 50s of the XIX century, I. G. Kharytonenko moved to Sumy, married the daughter of the merchant

Skubenko, but his wife soon died and Kharytonenko remarried-with the daughter of the merchant Lishchinsky. Ivan Herasymovych opened a grocery store in Sumy on shares with the merchant Sukhanov. Begins to engage in the sugar trade, reselling sugar from local sugar growers. Having accumulated significant funds, I. H. Kharytonenko fully begins to deal with sugar. Everyone knew him as honest, energetic, and businesslike, so Ivan Herasymovych was respected and helped. The next important step of the future entrepreneur was to buy sugar in one year at all sugar factories. In winter, wholesalers were forced to pay the price for sugar set by Kharytonenko. So the trading house "Kharytonenko and son" gradually flourished. In the second half of the XIX century, he bought estates with sugar factories and land, forests, and built enterprises. So, Kharytonenko owned Pavlovsky (Sumy), Kiyanitsky, Krasnoyaruszhsky, Parkhomovsky, Ulyanovsk, Andreevsky and Rogozyansky factories in the Kharkiv and Chernihiv governorates. The products of Ivan Gerasimovich's factories were distinguished by their quality and received awards at exhibitions more than once. So, in 1900, its products were presented at the world's fair in Paris [1].

Fame, wealth, and awards did not affect Ivan Herasymovych at all. He never forgot his origin, always remembered who he was, what land raised him and gave him strength and power. A simple peasant boy became a powerful entrepreneur who was engaged in charitable activities. In 1880, he built the Stone Tikhonovskaya Church in the settlement of Nizhnyaya Syrovatka, Sumy uyezd. In 1885, he built a three-story house in Kharkiv worth 50,000 rubles and presented it to Kharkiv University [2]. On April 28, 1890, Ivan Herasymovych was awarded the Order of St. Stanislav I degree for services to the spiritual Department [1].

Kharytonenko's charitable activities extended to various spheres of life. It was at his expense that buildings were built in Sumy, and paving stones appeared on city roads, bridges were built, and electric lighting was arranged. The enterprises had schools and hospitals. Ivan Herasymovych, together with his wife Natalia Maksymivna, founded an orphanage for orphaned girls from large merchant and middle-class families and orphans, and donates part of his estate for this [1]. He did not ignore anyone, tried to help financially and morally, and was constantly engaged in charity work.

For the construction of the Kharkiv theological school, he allocated 15 thousand rubles. For almost 12 years until his death, he gave out 20 rubles a month to seven parish priests from poor villages for the poor and beggars. In 1888, at the expense of I. H. Kharytonenko, a theological school was built in Sumy [3]. Such charitable activities certainly reflected Kharytonenko's spirituality, and his humane concessions will forever remain in the memory

of generations. Ivan Herasymovych went through a rather difficult path as an entrepreneur, but retained the most important thing – kindness and spirituality [4]. Thanks to his hard work, wisdom, and perseverance, Kharytonenko worked his way up from a peasant to an entrepreneur and philanthropist. After all, sugar wasn't always sweet. A sense of friendship has always been a trait of his character. He belonged to a sugar syndicate, supported his colleagues. Of course, first of all he took care of his hometown of Sumy, but also did not forget about other cities and villages. Probably everyone who contacted him received help. The figure of the sugar grower is unique and iconic. For significant donations, he was repeatedly awarded. For numerous donations, he received the title of hereditary citizen. His son Pavlo Ivanovych continued his work with dignity. The State Archive of Sumy region has preserved the document "charitable expenses", which indicates the expenses of the Kharytonenko family for charitable causes [1].

The Kharytonenko family's estates were exemplary. In Natalovka and Kachanovka, Kharkiv province, collections of works of art were collected, children of the estates were provided with textbooks, learned musical literacy, sang in churches and on holidays. To create conditions at work, Ivan Herasymovych took care of their daily life, helped their families in difficult times.

Documents of the Kharitonenko Foundation, which is kept in the Sumy Regional State Archive, and yearbooks on the sugar industry, which were published in Kiev under the editorship of N. A. Tolpygin, brought us information about the charitable activities of Ivan Herasymovych and his family [5].

Ivan Herasymovych Kharytonenko died on November 30, 1891 at the age of seventy. Pavlo Ivanovych Kharytonenko continued his father's work. The good name of the sugar patron will forever remain in the history of charity. The coat of arms of the Kharytonenko family contains the meaning of Ivan Herasymovych's life: "I will raise myself up with Labor" on the eve of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding sugar grower, entrepreneur, philanthropist, we have the honor to once again remember the good deeds of Ivan Herasymovych Kharytonenko. His life cycle is an example for his contemporaries. We will always remember and preserve the cultural heritage and conduct new research again.

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