



LIFE'S WORTH IT

Annual Report on CSR Activities in 2020

"When they say it's impossible, look for possibilities."
Tomáš Baťa, legendary shoe magnate



Introduction

When we look back at the year 2020 at RESPILON, we immediately encounter several superlatives. FASTEST ever, because we literally buzzed with the intensity of our immense workload and the rapidity of change. MOST DIFFICULT ever, because like many other companies, we had to orient ourselves extremely quickly within a chaotic situation and make possible the entire transformation of our company on the fly. MOST VALUABLE ever, because during this crisis year we had a steep learning curve, we launched a revolutionary product onto the market, and we started production capacity in our home city and country: Brno, Czech Republic. We proved that our vision to “Help people live better and healthier lives with nanofibers” is a worthy one. And one that is taking us in the right direction – both as to RESPILON’s innovational and commercial activities, as well as to our corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.

Preparing the materials for this annual report provided me with the opportunity to stop and take a look back. I reminisced about every month of 2020 through the lens of our volunteer and educational activities, which gave me a real feeling of gratitude. Gratitude for the trust and partnership with non-profit and patient organizations, because together we bettered the lives of people who have health or other problems and who often do not have the luxury of options. Gratitude for the inspiration and new friendships with a vibrant community of people from different fields – with whom we share common values based on respect for one another, for nature, and for our planet. It gives us meaning to connect “diverse” fields and expertise, and to create products with the use of nanofibers which bring new qualities to the environment in which we live and which we are leaving to our children.

I’m proud to present to you in the following pages the most important activities, month-by-month. Some are about ongoing, long-term cooperation, the value of which grew exponentially during Covid. Other partnerships are new, and I’m happy for them – no matter if they were confined only to that year or whether they will continue.

We mentioned in our 2019 Annual Report that we are working on creating the RESPILON Foundation, which will be the aegis under which all our volunteer and educational activities in both the Czech Republic and abroad will take place. It is important for us to keep pushing ahead. To improve everything we do, and to spread the good name and positive impact of these activities. This is why we are aiming for Q1 2022 for the RESPILON Foundation to be fully functional. Last year, the year of the coronavirus, delayed its start, but allowed us to better consider how to establish it and where we will focus. We perceive a natural symbiosis between our products based on the innovative use of nanofibers and our volunteer and educational activities. We explain, and show through the use of specific examples, how nanofiber brings a functionality to respiratory protection products at a much higher quality level, and how important it is to work correctly with them. We explode deep-rooted myths and actively support the cause of literally everyone being able to effectively protect themselves via RESPILON products. At the same time, we emphasize how nanofibers have broad uses to improve our lives in other areas. For instance, how we can improve the air quality in our homes, or better protect ourselves against viruses and bacteria.

Last year proved to us just how valuable long-term partnership is. We work with non-profit and patient organizations (among others) who devote their time and efforts to help people with respiratory disorders, including serious ones like cystic fibrosis. Thanks to this, from the very start of 2020 we were able to react quickly and effectively to distribute help where needed. During the time when there was an acute lack of respiratory protection, we donated 20,000 nanofiber masks to patients whose reduced immunity and difficulty breathing required a reliable shield against microorganisms – long-term, daily protection, not just during the time of Covid. All through the year we also helped doctors and nurses on the front line, firefighters, teachers, and seniors. We have launched new partnerships, including cooperation for example with Loono, a non-profit made up of young

medics who devote their time to educating people about cancer and cardiovascular diseases by breaking taboos and giving practical advice on prevention.

An important component of the symbiosis between the commercial and volunteer activities of RESPILON is our charity series of nanofiber R-shield neck gaiters in special designs. In quarterly installments, we set aside CZK 20 from the proceeds of each piece sold anywhere in the world to specific non-profit organizations.

We are glad that in this way our customers – who enjoy the combination of original product design and meaningful impact – become a natural component of help. We were pleased that RESPILON's approach to business has been noticed by Forbes magazine, who reported on our story in their November issue. We're very grateful, and if you're interested in reading it, [you can find it here](#).

On the following pages of this annual report of CSR activities in 2020 we will share real stories of children and adults, entire families, and organizations who found themselves in the context of the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The context of this extraordinary time directly impacts our production capacities and our volunteer and educational activities. This is why, in addition to their description, for each month of 2020 we introduce the background as well. There were so many shared stories, big and "small", that it is not possible to share all of them. Each of them however enriches us and makes us think. We appreciate the feedback which we get in such connections, because it pushes us forward and is a constant source of motivation.

Thank you!

Ing. Jana Zimová, MBA

Global Chief for Foundations & CSR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jana Zimová', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

January



Context

The novel coronavirus shook the entire world, and in the first month of 2020 RESPILON had to come to grips with – and attempt to orient itself in – the new situation. Thanks to international connections with contacts and manufacturing activities in China, we had an inkling that a huge problem was brewing. Even so, during this time we had no idea of all the changes the Covid-19 virus pandemic would bring, how much it would impact us and influence all our life roles...

Our activities

First press conference

Information from abroad confirmed to us that the vast majority of people had no idea how to protect themselves against this new threat. This is why on 29 January 2020 in our Brno headquarters, RESPILON gave its first press conference in the history of our firm. The goal was to share experience on which types of respiratory protection come up short and which on the other hand create an effective shield against microscopic attackers. Thanks to this press conference, the Czech media got an overview on existing norms, filter types and their functionality, and

the importance of the correct shape for face masks and respirators in order to form a seal.

“The coronavirus which has been spreading from Asia since December has already infected more than 4,500 people, about one hundred of whom have died. The symptoms are similar to the flu and it is spread in the same way – by airborne droplets. In order to prevent inhaling them, people are turning to various types of face masks and respirators. Most however, do not know what to look for on the respiratory protection market and they reach for ineffective solutions. The most dependable choice are face masks with nanofiber filters.”

(From the press release of 29 January 2020)

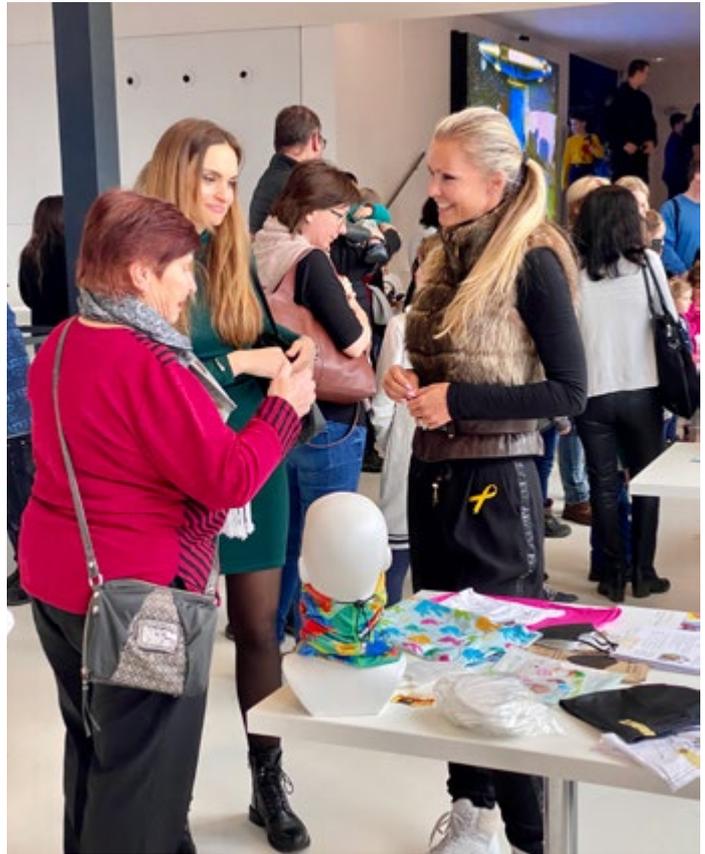
Nanofibers combat the elements

In mid-January in the Philippines, the Taal volcano unexpectedly erupted, spewing an enormous amount of ash and smoke into the atmosphere. The volcano’s fallout reached a number of cities, including Manila, and threatened tens of thousands of people, who had to evacuate. Nanofiber filters can capture even the tiniest particles – and it was exactly this kind of protection which people in the affected areas needed. This is why we donated several thousand ReSpimasks to the Filipino government, which helped the islanders better manage the situation.

In January we provided donations in the amount of CZK 350,000

to these organizations: Nonprofit organizations in the Philippines, senior homes

February



Context

The worsening situation regarding the spread of the coronavirus made itself known via the especial intensity of our communications. We spent long hours on the phone and on e-mail reacting to questions on social networks. We tried to advise thousands of people daily, and distributed protection products gratis to those who most needed them but were unable to find or afford them.

In February however we had to resort to an uncomfortable measure and cancel the discount codes which authorized non-profit organizations could previously use to buy goods on our e-shop at lower prices. Our mission is based on helping those who are ill and/or disadvantaged, which is why at the end of 2019 we reacted to the situation in Australia (massive wildfires) with a 70% discount on our products, which only customers in the affected areas could use. The discount code was massively abused, and many customers refused to understand the essence of it. The coronavirus evoked an enormous demand for protective products, suddenly facing shortfalls.

This is why instead of discount codes, we chose a different solution, and created a special warehouse of our masks, respirators, and neck gaiters, intended exclusively for those who were sick or disadvantaged. During the entire first wave of the pandemic we donated free nanofiber products out of this warehouse, although these limited resources were primarily allocated to our long-term cooperation partners and ties to the non-profit sector. In difficult times we had to painfully decide to whom and how many masks to allot so that others could get some, too. This was the result of the general fear and unfortunately the non-solidarity of healthy citizens. For those suffering from cancer, cystic fibrosis, and their grave diseases, any kind of virus or bacteria could be fatal – let alone during a pandemic – and without respiratory protection they would have to interrupt their necessary treatments.

The general outlook in February represented a very tough time for us. We tried to help with all the powers at our command – with all our material and human resources. The idea of a special warehouse for CSR proved useful – and it’s one we make use of to this day. In practice, this means that in the case of a shortage of a certain product, RESPILON has “our” patients covered.

Our activities

Education and masks for sick children

Cancer patients are among the most frequent users of nanofiber respiratory protection as well as recipients of our help. RESPILON again took part in Children’s Oncology Days, which took place in Brno on 29 February 2020 in the Brno Observatory and Planetarium complex. Visitors to our booth could acquaint themselves in a fun way about the possibilities of respiratory protection via nanofibers, and families of children with cancer received free nanofiber masks.

Skiers with stylish protection

In Bedřichov on 7 February 2020, the 53rd annual Jizerská 50 cross-country ski race took place. We took this occasion to begin our cooperation with the biggest Czech health insurer, VZP, with the end goal of enabling as many people as possible to buy our products at reduced prices. The coronavirus delayed that cooperation, which did not come into full force until August. Nevertheless, competitors from VZP and VZP’s Good Health Club hit the ski trail for the February race in our nanofiber R-shield neck gaiters. These protected them not only from the cold, but also from the risk of infection due to the large concentration of people in the same place.

Agátka’s genuine joy :-)

Give Children with Cancer a Chance Foundation



We really appreciate your support to date and for providing respirators for children with spinal muscular atrophy in 2020. Your respirators were – and are – used by “our” kids not only in schools and preschools (when they were open), but also during the frequent doctors’ check-ups in hospitals and during convalescence, which unfortunately cannot be postponed, even during these trying times. This year respirators were made excellent use of even during psychological convalescent stays for children with muscular atrophy. Your respirators are not only wonderfully protection, but also allow children to breathe easily, which is especially crucial for children with spinal muscular atrophy.

In February we provided donations in the amount of CZK 86,151

to these organizations: Nadační fond dětské onkologie Krtek (The Little Mole Children’s Cancer Foundation), Nadační fond Šance onkoláčkům (Give Children with Cancer a Chance Foundation)

March



I have a son with cystic fibrosis and I've been a RESPILON customer for several years now. They always give children with serious illnesses substantial discounts (50%). Now the company has donated the Cystic Fibrosis Club thousands of ReSpimasks. We've tested the product, and no one's ever caught anything in the hospital when using them. It's great that they want to manufacture them in the Czech Republic. It's important for a country to be self-sufficient and not have to rely on importing goods. I don't understand the enmity, this firm has long earned its success through hard work.

Jana Hlavatá Kocandová

Context

The coronavirus crisis worsened in the Czech Republic (and elsewhere). All respiratory protection aids vanished from shops and the warehouses of most producers emptied out – including RESPILON. Domestic and even foreign demands in the thousands fell upon us daily from individuals and business partners alike. The closing of the borders and the enormously complicated situation of negotiating with some governments in effect made it impossible to import our products from the countries in which we manufactured them. The intensity of communications on social media sites and other channels hit an all-time high and we were met with both understanding and also harsh criticism. People in a desperate situation simply were unable to understand that the existing state of things did not allow any company to multiply its production from day to day, nor arrange shipment of masks to Europe from the other side of the world within hours. And even when we were able in a very short time to initiate supplemental production in other plants, it was merely the proverbial drop in the bucket.

Swamped by questions, we tried reacting via a summary of answers to frequently asked questions and by publishing as much information as possible on our web pages, but it was in vain. After a few weeks of exhausting communications, despite all our efforts, we were not able to manage the growing onslaught of questions in the volume the current situation produced.

Our activities

Public awareness in the media

Despite extreme duress, we continued our educational activities and on 17 March 2020 we held a second press conference in Brno, at which we announced the results of our intensive work of recent weeks: soon we would be releasing a new model of nanofiber face mask, the ReSpimask Virus Killer, and the respirator RespiPro Virus Killer on the market. These masks contain, in addition to a 99.9% effective nanofiber, a layer of accelerated copper, which reliably deactivates viruses and bacteria. The result would be products to use and reuse without risk of secondary infection to help customers better manage the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pre-orders for Virus Killers were launched 20 March on our e-shop, followed five days later by another press conference. One of the things we informed journalists about was that a shipment

of our masks which had been held up for a long time in China had finally arrived. In that time of acute shortages, when many firms raised their prices to absurd and unethical levels, we donated 20,000 nanofiber face masks from this shipment to cooperating non-profit organizations.

Another goal of the press conference was to make it possible for healthy people to take a look into the lives of those less fortunate, to better understand their situation. This is why guests from the Cystic Fibrosis Club and The Little Mole Children's Cancer Foundation participated, too. We also addressed the problem of those who had to wear respiratory protection before the pandemic due to illness and had to repeatedly put up with negative reactions from those around them. We explained that for this reason we developed the R-shield neck gaiter with a nanofiber filter – so that those who suffered from illness could wear protection without having to also suffer the “negative emotions” of those around them. Proof of the efficacy of our idea are the positive reactions of patients, their doctors, and the many knock-off copies of R-shields currently on the market from our competitors.

This morning we had a great interview with Jana Zimová. The past weeks for us have been marked by fear, stress, and feelings of helplessness... and then we found out that our foundation is one of those organizations which will receive this “injection” in the form of ReSpimasks for our “Cancer Kids”.

We simply cannot describe the joy we have from this donation, we've had to really economize in distributing what we had. Thank you for sharing this great news, we can now all immediately breathe easier.

Give Children with Cancer a Chance Foundation

Thanks to the company RESPILON Czech Republic, we can give all children – and their parents – who are currently being treated at the University Hospital Brno Children's Cancer Ward disposable nanofiber face masks. Today we received a big box of face masks and tomorrow those who are truly in need will have them. Heartfelt thanks for your long-term cooperation and help!

The Little Mole Children's Cancer Foundation



There are many more, too many to fit into one photo. No matter! We would like to thank the great people at RESPILON.com from the bottom of our hearts, and their Global Chief for Foundations & CSR, who right before the outbreak and all the confusion sent 130 nanofiber Respi-scarves. These scarves can fully take the place of the ReSpimasks which are truly a daily and integral part of children's cancer therapy – and afterwards. We cannot thank you enough for this donation.

Give Children with Cancer a Chance Foundation

Free masks for healthcare workers

Czech hospitals and other healthcare facilities were plagued by an acute lack of respiratory protection. This is why we signed a contract with the Czech Minister of Health Adam Vojtěch on 25 March 2020 whereby the Czech government received a donation of 30,000 nanofiber masks earmarked for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare personnel.



Respirators became unavailable. Yet I travel frequently, so for me they are unfortunately irreplaceable. And I'm not just talking about coronavirus, but even the common cold, which is also very dangerous for me. When the news got out that I'm going to go on a long flight and that I don't have a respirator or even where to find one, the company RESPILON Czech Republic sent me such a beautiful pink (what else?) antiviral scarf. Many thanks for your help: the scarf will not only be of use to me when travelling, but even going into an ordinary mall.

Hope for Sofinka SMA (Naděje pro Sofinku SMA)

In March we provided donations in the amount of CZK 586,060

to these organizations: City of Brno Trade License Office, Doctors Specializing in Cystic Fibrosis, VZP Insurance, Apolinář Birthing Center, ČOPN – Czech Citizen's Group Against Pulmonary Diseases, Together with a Smile, Fundacja MATIO, Slovak Cystic Fibrosis Association, Give Children with Cancer a Chance Foundation, The Little Mole Children's Cancer Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Patients Club

April



Context

In the previous months we had already intensively worked on launching our own production of nanofiber masks in the Czech Republic itself. In April these efforts peaked, becoming the main focus of our activities. Why actually did we make this decision? We did not want to repeat a situation in which people in the Czech Republic (and the whole of Europe, for that matter) desperately sought protection and were unable to get it in adequate amounts or within a reasonable amount of time. This is why we assessed the launching of a manufacturing line within the Czech Republic – in Brno, the place where RESPILON is headquartered – as the best solution, in order for us to have everything under control and not to be dependent on the international situation, government decisions, etc.

The correctness of this step was soon proved, though not via a direct path. While we were able to increase the manufacturing capacity of the R-shield neck gaiters (and we were able to stock 2000 pieces per day on our e-shop), the international situation prevented us from getting deliveries of new Virus Killer masks and respirators into the Czech Republic on time. It was obvious that we were not going to be able to stick to the agreed upon delivery date. This

was a very difficult time for us. We faced the situation head on, and honestly. We informed our clients of the situation and within 10 days of the announcement we returned all our customers' prepayments. We are talking about 22,000 pre-orders, for a total of CZK 60 million.

Our activities

On the last day of April, we published our RESPILON Annual Report on CSR Activities in 2019. Soon after its publication we were pleased by the kind and grateful reactions in e-mails and on social networks. And what about the CSR report for 2020, which you are reading now? We didn't even start it until April 2021, because the tempo of the extended coronavirus pandemic has not yet eased up...

Dear RESPILON, we really appreciate your help and generosity. We would like to thank you for helping us protect a group of people at risk during the "coronacrisis": seniors. And for helping ADRA volunteers as well, the care providers. Your masks protected senior-volunteer pairs during doctors' appointments and during everyday contact when delivering lunches. With your help, our help was done in safety. Thank you for helping us. You're the best.

ADRA Volunteer Center Brno

In April we provided donations in the amount of CZK 28,120

to these organizations: Loono n.p.o, ADRA Humanitarian and Developmental Organization

May



Context

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, emergency help took precedence over work on long-term CSR projects. For example, we had been in touch with a number of non-profit and patient organizations for months, but agreements on the specific form of help and cooperation were delayed due to overwork on both sides. Nevertheless, in the end we always found common ground, as will be shown in the following passages.

Our activities

CZK 20 from every neck gaiter goes to Loono

Some designs for the RESPILON R-shield not only serve for protecting the customer, but have further reaching impact. By purchasing them, customers support a specific non-profit organization, with their logo or motto featured on the neck gaiter – RESPILON donates CZK 20 from every piece sold anywhere in the world to the institution in question. First in the project was the Cystic Fibrosis Patients Club, for whom we created a special design with a parrot motif in 2018.

Over time, other organizations joined in and in May 2020 we began cooperation with the Loono cooperative, which educates the general public about prevention of cancer and cardiovascular diseases, and reproductive health. Together, we created a black R-shield with the logo of a white heart, which captures the organization's aims well. Made in the Czech Republic, we sell them in all countries in which RESPILON does business. We honored this long-term vow to donate with an official certificate and seal, and we are very happy we can – with your help – support Loono.



Dear Mrs. Zimová,

Many thanks for the face masks and for your e-mail and encouragement. I really appreciate your attitude and help with cancer patients (and not just them), for whom the current situation with the lack of respiratory protection makes things really difficult. I follow RESPILON on Facebook, I'm a big fan. You do great work, and your heart is in the right place.

Wishing you personally all the best, and the same for RESPILON, Thank you! Sincerely,

D.K.

Many thanks for the ReSpimasks for Adrianka and her mom! Give Children with Cancer a Chance Foundation



Dear Mrs. Zimová,

On behalf of our patient organization, I would like to thank you for your long-time support, for the products we received from you as a donation, for our patient discounts, and for the R-shield special edition neck gaiters with the parrot, from which we receive a regular financial donation. Cooperation with you is a joy. We really appreciate your empathetic attitude and sincere efforts to help patients.

The basic thing which we based our cooperation on is the level of protection your face masks provide. Being diagnosed with cystic fibrosis means respiratory protection is absolutely essential – and not only now during the coronavirus pandemic. A visit to any healthcare facility without adequate protection for our patients would be gambling with their health. It is so important for us that we can rely on your products. Patients highly appreciate not only the face masks but also the R-shields, which provide high protection while not attracting attention from those around them. Over the past few years RESPILON products have become an integral part of our patients' "CF gear".

We welcome every innovation and that means we're really happy about the Virus Killer face masks. We look forward to further, mutually beneficial cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mgr. Simona Záborská,
Director of the Cystic Fibrosis Patients Club

Dear Director,

Many thanks on behalf of the members of the Czech Citizen's Group Against Pulmonary Diseases (ČOPN), for your swift and selfless help in obtaining protective face masks. In these times, the masks are so very important for those suffering from pulmonary diseases, especially helpful when visiting doctors, as well as in one's daily life. We're so glad to have RESPILON as a partner of our patients' group.

Looking forward to further cooperation,

MUDr. Stanislav Kos, CSc., Director of the Czech Citizen's Group Against Pulmonary Diseases (ČOPN)

In May we provided donations in the amount of CZK 107,608

to these organizations: Orphaned Children in India – with the help of Project Chance, the Brno Police Dept., the Austrian n.p.o Cystische Fibrose Hilfe Wien, the SPOLU NA DRAKA (Let's Slay the Dragon Together) Foundation, and Unie ROSKA – the Czech Multiple Sclerosis Organization

June



Context

In June we really managed to accomplish a lot and made good use of all the hard work we did in the previous months. One of the most important events of this month was the launch of the trial run of the first of two assembly lines which we installed in record time in special “clean rooms” of the Technology Park in Brno, Czech Republic.

Another milestone was the introduction of the new generation of R-shield neck gaiters. This generation was based on customer feedback that the earlier type was a bit difficult to breathe through in hot weather and when exercising. This is why, after successful testing, we began to sell a lighter model with a more breathable combination of materials which still maintains the original level of protection. Interested customers could now buy from us on-line in our Czech and Slovak e-shops launched in June 2020. We were also pleased that R-shield was featured on the cover of the Slovak edition of Forbes magazine.



Our activities

Support for all who take on disabilities as a challenge

The non-profit organization Adapted is an association for challenged athletes, giving them a space for self-realization. We agree with their philosophy that despite physical or mental disabilities, a person can do amazing things. And they can even find happiness in extreme and adrenaline sports such as alpine skiing, longboarding, and paragliding.



This is why we created the new color R-shield neck gaiters for sports, a lighter-weight design in adult and children’s sizes. As we did for the Cystic Fibrosis Patients Club and Loono, we donate CZK 20 to Adapted from every one of these designs sold.

Cooperation with Adapted made such sense that we put our heads together once more and created a limited edition R-shield (100 pcs) in an attractive black and white pattern. These custom-made pieces were donated to Adapted so that they could take the proceeds from their sales to use for activities associated with Adapted. A hundred good souls can then be proud to wear their logo on their gaiters, expressing the will to never give up when stricken with a congenital or acquired disability.



I had a transplant operation and a few weeks ago I came down with a serious case of pneumonia. Sometimes I found it difficult to breathe with a neck gaiter, but the VK respirators almost breathe by themselves. I could barely notice that I had them on. They’re comfortable, plus they give me a feeling of safety, like every RESPILON product. I took a good look at this product from all aspects and can find absolutely no room for improvement.

K.D.

In June we provided donations in the amount of CZK 95,694

to these organizations: the Austrian n.p.o. Cystische Fibrose Hilfe Wien, the Adapted association of athletes with disabilities

July



Context

Our benefit activities did not go on summer holiday. We continued working on new projects and products which we prepared for market launch in the second half of 2020.

Our activities

Hope for parentless children

We continued to think about which organizations we could help via our R-shield special design project. And so in July we reached out to the Spanish charity organization Collective Calling, which works on rehabilitation and reintegration of homeless persons into society via places called Centres of Hope. In Spain, teams of volunteers work with adults and families in need; in Tanzania, they work with street children, whom they try to place with loving families. The centers' goals include providing a roof over these orphans' heads, food and protection, as well as education and hope in order to live a happy and meaningful life. This is why "Tumaini" – the Swahili phrase for hope – became the foundation of the design of the new R-shield inspired by African art.

In cooperation with RESPILON fans on social media, we chose one of three design options and began production. As is now custom, from every piece sold, CZK 20 goes to support a target organization – in this case, Collective Calling.

In July we provided donations in the amount of CZK 18,200

to the organization Collective Calling

August



Context

As you know from the chapter on February 2020, circumstances at the beginning of the year forced us to temporarily suspend discount codes for selling our products to patients and other disadvantaged persons. In the summer we decided to try to reinstate them, though not for individuals/patients but rather to cooperating non-profit organizations who deal with certain disabilities.

Our activities

Fighting the pandemic

This time we arranged discounts for those insured by the VZP Insurance Company. Why VZP? Because they are the biggest healthcare insurer in the Czech Republic, providing coverage for 5,680,000 clients. And our mission is to provide available and quality protection to the greatest number of people possible, in order to end the coronavirus epidemic as swiftly as possible.



I would like to thank you once more for the respirators you donated. All the patients suffering from spinal muscular atrophy are really happy for them. These kids have trouble breathing even without masks, and your respirators are the only ones that they are able to use for a longer period of time.

T.R.

In August we provided donations in the amount of CZK 31,600

to the organization Charles University

September



Context

The coming of autumn means not only the start of the school year, but also unfortunately, new dangers for our airways. That usually means a flu epidemic and increased smog due to the start of the heating season, only this time another wave of Covid-19 was thrown into the mix. At RESPILON we followed up-to-date developments in the pandemic and realized that it was necessary to focus on education as well. We were aiming at schools in particular, to show children how to correctly protect themselves from viruses. In the previous months our young ones missed many hours of school. It was obvious then that quality nanofiber masks could help protect against the spread of disease in schools – and by doing so, forestall more closings of educational facilities.

Our activities

Forbes took notice of our CSR activities

The prestigious magazine Forbes wrote about the charity and educational activities of RESPILON and invited us to share our experience in that field with readers.

For healthy and educated pupils

On the very first day of school we went to Brno's Labyrinth lab school, both to welcome pupils and give them something

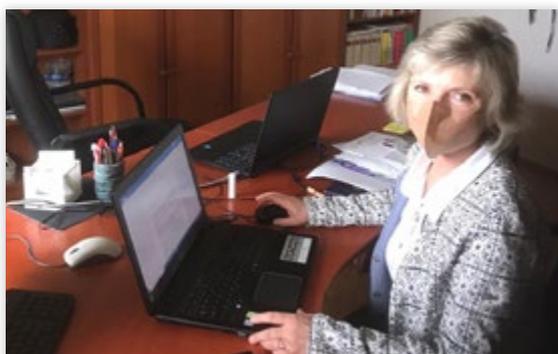


Free respirators to the sick and to charity groups. RESPILON talks about its corporate success

“In addition to distributing protective aids to people with illnesses, RESPILON also manufactures neck gaiters in special editions – of which a portion of the proceeds go to selected charities. They cooperate with non-profit organization which help people with amputated limbs, cancer patients, and people with cystic fibrosis. Each fiscal quarter they donate a portion of the sales from those products to support non-profit organizations such as Loono, whose founder Kateřina Vacková is one of Forbes' 30 Under 30. ‘We're glad we can work with a Czech brand. We know how well their face masks and respirators work,’ said Vacková.”

[You can read the article in full on Forbes' web pages.](#)

practical: an antivirus R-shield neck gaiter. We explained how to use and take care of the neck gaiter to the children and their parents, so that the gaiters would reliably protect and maintain their functionality as long as possible. We explained to parents that they are not only a more economical, but also a more ecological alternative to disposable masks and respirators. We donated a total of 275 R-shields to children and their teachers.



The company RESPILON let me try our their new VK respirator, which really made my day. For years I have been suffering from asthma, and wearing masks and respirators was difficult because after a certain amount of time I would always start coughing under the mask. It can be especially uncomfortable for the people around me. Most of them are afraid that I would infect them with something, but I'm not sick. The VK respirator gives me no such trouble; it's light and breathable, and very wearable. In my job as my town's mayor, I often have to travel to Prague, and I use public transport, mostly the metro. I can easily put the VK on for that, and afterwards take it off, put it into my purse, and I don't have to worry I'm contaminating things in my bag or my surroundings. I can even reuse the VK when needed. For my job, and in these times, the VK makes a great coworker.

J.S., town mayor



Greetings,

At the start, let us once more thank you very much for the possibility of owning RESPILON neck gaiters – for several reasons. In recent days we have gotten feedback not only from pupils, but especially from teachers. Even though some pupils (and even some teachers) have said that it is slightly more difficult to breathe through the nose and mouth with them, everyone is aware that this is one of the effects of better protection.

The neck gaiter gives its owner a feeling of greater safety. We have gotten very positive feedback on both the design and the quality of the fabric, but above all on its practicality. Pupils and teachers, thanks to the ability to have RESPILON constantly around their necks, can always have it ready to pull on and off when needed. It fits and adheres well, and at the same time it is very easy to wear and remove without touching the areas which the wearer should not touch.

Finally, they also liked the fact that this unusual design is a kind of an emblem for Labyrinth – and not just at school. If one of us sees someone in a shop wearing their RESPILON (and you can tell from a distance by the color and shape), the first thing they think of is that they're from Labyrinth. Nevertheless, we would be happy if this form of protection were to spread beyond our parts and was a welcome accessory for the greater public.

In closing, many of us are aware that RESPILON neck gaiters will be of great use in the winter. Some of the teachers said an additional plus was that the nanofiber brings the children's voices down a few decibels. :) (not yet verified!)

From teachers' feedback: "RESPILON, a soft fabric tunnel with a tasteful design – I appreciate the choice of 2 quite different designs and options, due to the nose clip and adjustment system it stays on one's face and does not slide. It's easy to take off and thanks to the fabric used it even becomes a stylish accessory. And there's no need to have to store it somewhere and then have to look around for it."

"Breathing with the neck gaiter is a bit more difficult for me, but safer."

With gratitude,

RNDr. Mgr. Břetislav Svozil, Ph.D.

LABYRINTH elementary school

RE: Respiratory aids for children after transplant operations

Dear Mrs. Zimová,

We received your package with face masks and neck gaiters intact at the hospital. Little Marek immediately checked it out for himself :)

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We really appreciate your help. We feel better already, knowing that Marek has adequate protection after his transplant operation.

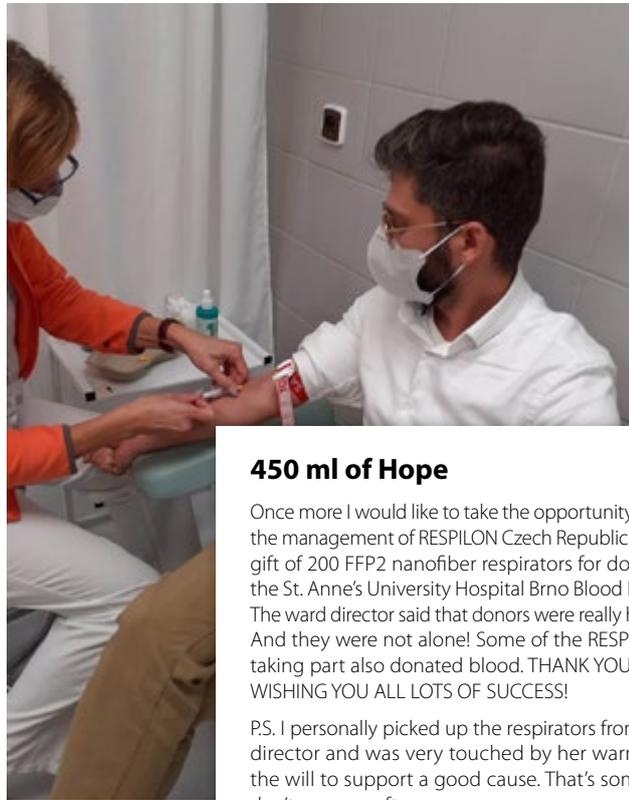
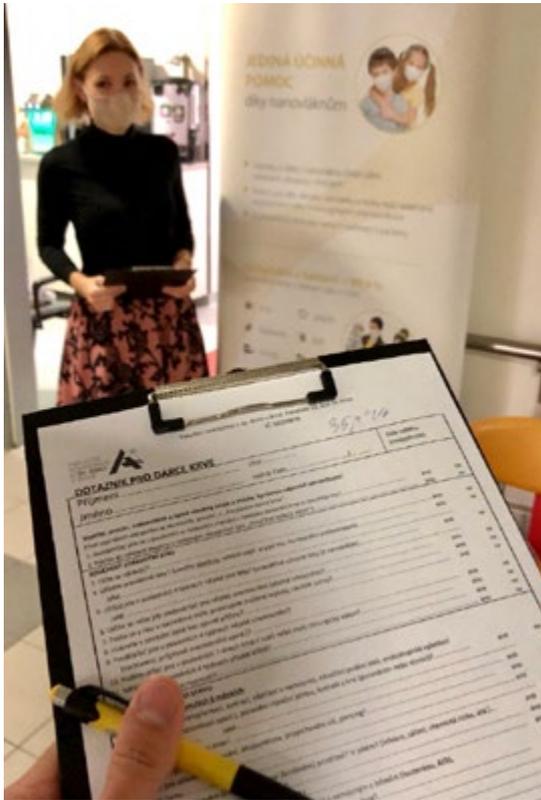
Wishing you a lovely day, *Sincerely,*

P. H.

In September we provided donations in the amount of CZK 247,825

to these organizations: IS Produkce, elementary schools

October



450 ml of Hope

Once more I would like to take the opportunity to TRULY THANK the management of RESPILON Czech Republic for their splendid gift of 200 FFP2 nanofiber respirators for donors and staff at the St. Anne's University Hospital Brno Blood Donation Center. The ward director said that donors were really happy with them. And they were not alone! Some of the RESPILON employees taking part also donated blood. THANK YOU RESPILON, AND WISHING YOU ALL LOTS OF SUCCESS!

P.S. I personally picked up the respirators from your company director and was very touched by her warm welcome and the will to support a good cause. That's something you just don't see very often.

X. M., 450 ml of Hope project

Context

From its founding in 2013, RESPILON has cooperated with universities, research institutions, and other organizations in the fields of science and business. This is how we continue to create a unique network of expertise, laboratory capacity, and contacts who all do their part in contributing to the development of a new generation of protective nanofiber products. In October 2020, this network expanded further when RESPILON became a member of the Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce (ČISOK). We're glad that we can share experiences with our Israeli colleagues, learn from the experts in their laboratories and incubators, and together establish new trends in the field of respiratory protection.

Our activities

Reward for blood and plasma donors

We know that our health is something necessary to protect and that doing so is complex. This is why we have become a partner to the event "450 ml of Hope – Donate Blood at St. Anne's" which took place from 5–10 October 2020 at St. Anne's University Hospital in Brno. We outfitted the entire staff of the blood donation center with RespiPro White nanofiber respirators – as well as every donor of that precious life fluid.

While there is awareness about the necessity to donate blood, not everybody in the Czech Republic has heard about the need to donate plasma. We're trying to change that, and so we supported the project "Donate Plasma" announced by the EUROPLASMA company with a donation of our products.

Doctors, pharmacists, and patients first to have the opportunity to try the new self-sterilizing VK RespiPro respirators



Dear Friends, I must say that RESPILON RespiPro VK was a happy surprise. I work as a caregiver in a senior home, so during this difficult situation I have to wear respiratory protection 12 hours a day. With standard respirators, caregivers are exhausted after a few hours of use, not to mention the obnoxious plastic smell we have to breathe. A person needs to find a place away from people to take off their respirator from time to time, which is difficult during constant care. With RESPILON however, none of this is the case. It lets me breathe easily for 12 hours and at the same time provides needed protection for myself and those around me. As a person giving direct care in social services, I can **WHOLEHEARTEDLY RECOMMEND IT**. If I can wear my RESPILON comfortably for 12 hours, then it will certainly pose no problem for someone using it for a shorter time.

Q.H.



Your VK respirator truly has it all: it provides protection, it's breathable, comfortable, snug fitting, and also handsome. It's important to know that your sole protection/respirator will not discomfort you, will not limit your ability to provide healthcare, and that while wearing it you have tremendous faith in its ability to protect you. As a healthcare worker I can only thank you and be here for you, one and all.

M. Z. midwife, University Hospital Brno Maternity Ward



In October we provided donations in the amount of CZK 88,200

to these organizations: Czech Muscular Dystrophy Association, ParaCENTRUM Fenix, Prak – prevention and advice, AVMinority, EUROPLASMA, NADĚJE (Hope) foundation, RED NOSES Clowndoctors

November



Context

The penultimate month of 2020 marked a real turning point in the history of our company. In spring the Covid situation prevented the launch on the market of our revolutionary Virus Killer nanofiber respirator series, which not only capture microorganisms, but deactivate them. Closed borders caused the unavailability of technologies, materials, laboratories, and subcontractors.

This was one of the reasons why we decided to launch our own production capacity in our homeland. And it was in November when the first thousand pieces of respirators newly named VK RespiPro rolled off our production lines. With this product, customers had in their hands a level of protection never before seen– the self-sterilizing effect made it possible to reuse VK for a cumulative period of one week without the necessity of further care or disinfection. We took the occasion to introduce VK RespiPro to reporters at our press conference on 10 November 2020 in the Brno Technology Park.



A mere two days after the official launch, VK RespiPro became one of a trio of main protagonists in the cover article of the November issue of Forbes – together with Jana & Roman Zima, who have run RESPILON since its inception. The in-depth article quite aptly describes how 2020 was for us: “Turbulent, tumultuous, unbelievable. Full of highs and lows.” And that in fact stood for everything which we were able to manage and complete despite that time of countless obstacles.

Our activities

Bikers with a heart of gold

For several years now we have been supporting the sports project Charity Jam, culminating each year in a BMX exhibition at which the crème de la crème of Czech and international free riders compete. All proceeds go to support specific children suffering from mental or physical disabilities.

In 2018, RESPILON created two designs for R-shield neck gaiters with the Charity Jam logo, and for each piece sold anywhere in the world we donate CZK 20. Even though the exhibition race did not take place in 2020 due to the pandemic, RESPILON made Charity Jam a donation – which they used to purchase 10 notebook computers for elementary schools. These computers will help children during e-learning. They were given to children from families who did not have access to such computers, and each pupil also received an antivirus R-shield to better protect their health. Monies left over from the donation were used to buy refreshments for doctors working on the front line of the Covid pandemic.



Neck gaiters support the development of mobile apps for young cystic fibrosis patients

The mobile app CF Hero helps young people suffering from CF in the fight against this insidious disease and contributes to extending their lives. CF patients' time-demanding treatment regime demands extreme accuracy, periodicity, and attention – which can be difficult for teenagers. The app reminds patients in a gentle way about daily inhalation and breathing rehabilitation and helps establish necessary habits.

In November 2020 we created a second limited edition of our R-shield neck gaiters for CF Hero in two special designs. They were available only on the CF Hero e-shop and the entire proceeds went directly to support this app. R-shields are thus helping patients with cystic fibrosis in yet another way.

Virus Killer in action

For the second time in 2020 we supported the event "450 ml of Hope" – this time in University Hospital Bohunice. Blood donors and healthcare workers who supervise donations deserve admiration and the best protection against viruses. This is why we sent our new virus killer – VK RespiPro – into the fight against the coronavirus. We provided two hundred donors and healthcare workers at the donation center with self-sterilizing respirators.





Donation to Czech State Material Reserves

RESPILON is a Czech firm, which in 2020 also began manufacturing locally. We work globally, but here we are at home. And we try to support our country in the most diverse ways. In November we provided 10,000 nanofiber respirators gratis to the Czech Administration of State Material Reserves. Thanks to them, help is sent to where it is truly needed: to healthcare workers and other specialists on the front lines.

Education for Polish patients

At the end of November we took part in Cystic Fibrosis 2020, the 20th annual workshop run by our Polish partner, Fundacja MATIO. The event was intended for their patients suffering from cystic fibrosis, and due to the pandemic, it took place this time exclusively online. Under the auspices of our cooperation, we also supported MATIO with a donation of self-sterilizing VK RespiPro nanofiber respirators.



In November we provided donations in the amount of CZK 119,540

to these organizations: Donio foundation, NADĚJE foundation, RED NOSES Clowndoctors, Cystic Fibrosis Patients Club

December



Context

The Christmas season is not only a time of peace, calm, and love, but also one of respect for freedom and the human right for self-determination. This is why we created two new R-shield designs in a limited Pride Edition to support the LGBT community. We believe that this rainbow nano present will please its recipients not only because of its effective virus protection, but also by its meaningful impact.

Our activities

Nanofilters as a component of fine art

Education on health risks can take on many forms. From lectures to presentations of research results to art projects. The latter was the path chosen by artist Adam Hudec, whose work RESPILON has been supporting since 2016. This time in his installation “Prachovnice” [Dustfree Chambers], Adam depicted the fairly frightening fact that during the life of the average person the respiratory system filters out 18 kilos of pollution! We were glad that we could contribute in a small part to the creation of Adam’s installation – the young artist in fact uses nanofiber filters from our production line in his work. After successful exhibitions from Slovenia to China, this time he also brought his work to the Czech Republic and exhibited it in the Brno Gallery of Architecture. All under the motto “Clean air, clean planet = healthy people”.

R-shields against bullying

The Ptáček siblings have a respectable collection of medals from world championships in martial arts. Josef is the four-time world champion and seven-time world runner-up in grappling. Martina is an eight-time world champion. In 2020 however, they entered into another match – one in which

we all need to pitch in to win – the fight against bullying. This is why we decided to support their project “Caging Bullying” with a donation of 50 R-shields donated to children and participants in workshops and training – the program is comprised of both mental and sports training.

“These times call for us not to be indifferent and not to think only about ourselves – and RESPILON answers that call magnificently. R-shields are a great team player in whatever we do. They fit perfectly, and one can breathe easily in them. We also like the original designs which support good causes.”

Martina & Josef Ptáček



Leaving aside the fact that I have to wear a respirator, I am glad for the RESPILON VK. I've been wearing it for the ninth day and I estimate that I've had it on for 4–5 hours in total. After a short while I completely forget I'm wearing it, so I often find myself leaving it on when I don't have to. You can breathe perfectly through it, and there's no odor, even after several uses. Plus it looks quite good. I've recommended it to several of my friends and my dentist. Thank you for the opportunity to test it.

T.P., administrator of the SOS dětské vesničky (Children's SOS Villages) in Brno

In December we provided donations in the amount of CZK 65,000

to these organizations: the Ptáček siblings, RED NOSES Clowndoctors, senior homes

New Cooperation

The network of non-profit organizations, healthcare facilities, and other enterprises with which RESPILON cooperates in the CSR sphere continues to expand. To benefit these partners we conduct educational events and we enjoy participating in their events as well. We provide our partners with our products at reduced prices or as donations, we share experiences with protecting the most at-risk patients, and we raise awareness about modern nanofiber health aids. In 2020 we included the following organizations among our partners:

Loono, z.s.



A team of young doctors, medical students and other professionals who teach the public about prevention in the area of reproductive (#allgooddownthere) and psychological health. They also dedicate themselves to prevention of oncological (#boobsandballs) and cardiovascular diseases (#yourheartforlife). They talk about health and the body in an understandable way without the use of frightening statistics, and inspire others to look after themselves in a pleasant and timely fashion. Loono falls under the aegis of the First Faculty of Medicine at Charles University.

SPOLU NA DRAKA Foundation (Let's Slay the Dragon Together Foundation)



This foundation helps children who were born with a serious neurovascular condition called spinal muscular atrophy. The goal of the foundation is to allow seriously ill children and their families to live as normal a life as possible. It lets these children do everything their classmates normally do. It lets them be children, play, experience anger and laughter, to run away from mom and dad and come back to them with busted knees... And it lets their parents rest for a bit – with the awareness that they are not alone in this.

Unie ROSKA – Czech Multiple Sclerosis Society



The main mission of the society is to support patients with multiple sclerosis. The aim of the support is to create the necessary conditions for a dignified, quality, fully-fledged life for people with MS, and to contribute to their necessary integration into society. This is something quite demanding and extensive, requiring active cooperation with all the other domestic and foreign entities in the field. And it must be continuous, systematic, and without time constraints.



SMÁci, z. s.

This citizen's initiative was founded in 2017 with the goal of protecting the interests of patients with spinal muscular atrophy and their families. SMÁci promote, support, and protect the interests of patients with SMA, their families, and other people who care for these patients. They also contribute to ensuring the quality of life, care, support, and effective treatment for patients with SMA. At present, this patient organization is made up of more than 100 persons with this disease; together with their family members and others interested in the problem of SMA, they have nearly 200 members.



Klub pevného zdraví (Good Health Club)

Organization made up of insured members of the VZP insurance company, offering its clients benefits in the form of discounts with VZP's contractual partners. The club has been in operation for a decade and now has roughly 1.2 million clients. It provides bonuses aimed mainly at a healthy lifestyle, sports, slimming, relaxation, travel, and many other activities.



Adapted, z.s.

Adapted means taking on a challenge. Because even a seeming end can become a great beginning. And whether the obstacle is physical or mental, a person is able to do incredible things. Thanks to experience with physically challenged athletes who have been able to come to grips with their fate, the Adapted association wants to give the chance to experience the real adrenaline of extreme sports to anyone with a disability who wants to take part.

Asociace muskulárních dystrofií v ČR, z.s. (Czech Muscular Dystrophy Association)



Patient organization made up of people with muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular diseases, their family members, friends, and supporters. Muscular dystrophy is a serious, progressive, yet untreatable grave illness in children and adults. Muscular dystrophy is one of the most difficult conditions a person can have because many are forced to use a wheelchair and depend upon the help of others – with all the negative consequences which can come with this.

Our partners





LIFE'S WORTH IT

**Annual Report
on CSR activities in 2020**

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