

2022 Ministry Report

The war in Ukraine is the coldest humanitarian disaster in contemporary history. There are multiple wars going on at the same time in the world, but no country in the Northern Hemisphere has seen such massive destruction since World War II. Out of 40 million population of Ukraine, over 18 million are now displaced, who lost their homes and had to flee for safety to other regions of the country. Almost every other Ukrainian does not have a home anymore. Over 6 million Ukrainians have fled the country and now are refugees in Europe and America. The official death toll is 10,000 but in reality the numbers could be doubled as more and more mass graves are being discovered. More than 12 million Ukrainians are living in critical conditions now and desperately need help.

Your giving in 2022 to help Ukraine has been unprecedented. Since the war started in February 2022, we received about **\$345,000 to provide humanitarian aid and evacuation for Ukrainians**. Your generosity and care for my country has blown me away. YOU, along with our selfless volunteers working tirelessly in Ukraine are my real heroes. Please don't grow weary! A monumental task to restore Ukraine is still ahead of us. Let's keep on supporting Ukraine and help them fight for their independence and freedom.

Natasha Reimer, Executive Director



Good Samaritan Children's Home

The Children's Home was located in Mariupol, a city that was severely shelled and bombed in very beginning of the war. After sheltering in the basement of the home, it became clear that the children needed to be evacuated. They all packed in a rush, taking only essentials to fit in a van and a few cars. Their caravan joined a long queue of cars and vans leaving Mariupol. It took them two weeks to trek through shelled Ukraine, under bullets, to finally reach safety in Romania. They were hosted for a few days by a partner ministry there and soon were able to get to their final destination in Germany.



Now, 29 children and 19 adults are living in a group home provided by a local church. The German government provides some refugee assistance for them and Mulberry fills in for any other needs they have. The children are going to school and studying German, while 13 staff are working 24x7 to take care of the children. Having experienced war trauma and loss, it is unimaginably hard for them to take care of all the children, so please pray for strength and peace for them.

Mariupol Ministries

Mariupol became infamous for its siege and brutal fighting in the spring of 2022. It was Mulberry's hub for all of our ministries and it is heartbreaking to see the ruins of the city where we once worked with several local churches in unity and peace. Most of our ministry partners and volunteers had to evacuate and ended up in various regions: southeast and central Ukraine, as well as abroad. However, some of our friends stayed behind to help and to be the light of Jesus to those trapped in Mariupol. The city became encircled and engulfed in fire. There was no electricity, heat, potable water, food or cellular connection. Humanitarian corridors were shelled and blocked. Thousands of people became trapped in basements and bomb shelters. The siege lasted two months.

Good Samaritan Children's Home became a shelter for those people. Once a home for 30+ children, it hosted 80 people every day. They only had enough food to last the children about thirty days, but God provided for the needs of up to 80 adults for a month and a half! The neighborhood of Good Samaritan was one of



the very few that was spared, while about 80% of the city was destroyed by mortars and bombs. A well, providentially dug in the fall of 2021 with the help of International Disaster Emergency Services (IDES), provided life-saving potable water for thousands of people trapped in Mariupol. Such stories of deliverance and provision abound.

We helped provide food and medicine through local churches to hundreds of people displaced in the area and refugees. We did lose friends. Our volunteer Nikolai and four other Christian men, young fathers and husbands, stayed in the besieged city to provide food and the message of hope to those in the basements. One day, while delivering food packets, their car was hit by a rocket and exploded. All five men were killed. We will forever remember their sacrifice and their lives given to serve others, just like our Savior told us to live. *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends”.* (John 15:13)

Now, Mariupol is fully occupied by Russia, but the ministry still goes on. A children’s outreach, is reaching out to displaced and at-risk families in the area. Most of them lost homes and family members. Every day 30-40 children enjoy warm lunches and programming while their families receive food packets. Over 50 children from displaced and at-risk families received school supplies, shoes and clothes! In addition, every day, 200-250 adults come to our partner church for food, medicine and the opportunity to study the Bible. As a result of sharing the Gospel with people trapped in the basement of the Good Samaritan and bomb shelters, 18 people accepted Christ and were baptized in September!



Other Ministries

Mulberry’s volunteers and partners are now in Chernivtzi (close to the Romanian border), Zhytomyr (close to Kyiv) and around Kyiv. They are partnering with local churches to provide shelters to the displaced and evacuated Ukrainians, to deliver humanitarian supplies to the areas ravaged by the war and to evacuate people from those areas.

We purchased three 15-passenger vans (pictured on the right) and one semi/box truck to deliver humanitarian aid and to evacuate people. In 2022, we were able to provide food packets, firewood and clothing to over 5,000 people in Mykolaiv, Kherson, Chernivtzi and Donetsk regions! Just recently, we delivered close to 70,000 lbs of potatoes, cabbage and carrots to newly liberated areas of Kherson (pictured below on the right). All of that produce was donated by Ukrainians living in the western part of the country. What a testimony!





In the summer of 2022, IDES shipped a 40-foot container with rice packets for our distribution. Over 40,000 lbs of packaged meals were given through local churches to people in need (pictured above)!



After Russia damaged 40% of the electric grid of Ukraine, we provided about 50,000 lbs of firewood, several generators and dozens of space heaters and propane tanks.

A new children's outreach has been established in a suburb of Kyiv and ministers to 50 children and about 200 families. Kids meet weekly for a Bible study, snack and play time. Our volunteers have been organizing family events several times a year.

Ministry in Occupied Territories

Our team has been involved in direct support of new refugee families fleeing the war. They now provide basic support (food packets, medicine, school supplies, diapers, etc.) for about 40 families every month! Our weekly program Good Gathering provide snacks, games and Bible lessons in a safe and loving environment to about 30 children. In addition, our team blessed 40 at-risk and displaced adults and children with a summer camp on the seaside (pictured to the left). We provided Christian programming for another summer camp at the state halfway house/rehabilitation center for families and children. Meaningful Christmas programs were also held for all our families and children at the rehabilitation center and the Good Gathering.

We continue to support three foster families. Lena's family (oldest daughter of our veteran foster family), pictured to the right, added 4 new children: one sibling group of three and another little boy. What a blessing it is to see the second generation foster family giving a new life and a future to abandoned children! Praise God for all He's done!

