



The TOUCH Project

Take One Ukrainian Child's Hand

August 16, 2021

Dear TOUCH Sponsors and Donors,

Greetings!

WE ARE GOING TO UKRAINE!

After careful consideration of our options which included evaluating recommendations from the US State Department, CDC and listening to the opinions of health care providers in Uzhhorod, we have decided to travel to Ukraine this September. The interesting facts are that the volume of new COVID cases in Uzhhorod have decreased dramatically in the last couple of months, vaccines are available and Ukraine is comparable to Canada on its level of concern currently (Level 2 or moderate risk). The United States is currently at Level 4 or very high risk. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html#travel-3> Uzhhorod is also located very close to the borders from Hungary, Slovakia, and Hungary which are all at Level 1 or low risk.

At this time, the following are traveling to Ukraine- leaving on Thursday, September 16:

- Sabra Killen of Camas, WA
- Randy Killen of Camas, WA
- Alice Rampton of Corvallis, OR
- Mark Rampton of Corvallis, OR
- Bill Setnor of Mascoutah, Illinois

Our return flights vary but will be approximately in late September to early October. We will ask each delegation member to wear a mask as required or recommended while traveling and to carry documentation of vaccination. We have purchased refundable tickets in case the COVID situation changes in the next month. We recommend purchasing travel insurance, in addition.

As is expected with **TOUCH** delegations, we have paid for our own travel expenses and will do so with food and lodging, also. We have been given wonderful items to take to Ukraine from **TOUCH** volunteers such as over 2000 pairs of new socks (thanks LaDawn Murphy and team), 10 beautiful handmade quilts (thank you Mary's River Quilt Guild), hygiene and school supplies, and more. With a limited delegation this September, it will be difficult to transport all of these items to the **TOUCH** children this current year. We are requesting that anyone who travels with us – please consider donating part of your suitcase to carry items to the children. We can also air-shrink items into plastic bags and pay for an additional suitcase for delegation members to carry.

Our main purpose will be to visit each of the programs in The **TOUCH** Project, meet with the program leaders and children, and distribute the funds that were raised this past year. We also want to check on various things such as the closure of Chaslivtsi Boarding School, potential sites for a Foster Care Home for older youth and adults with disabilities at the Rehabilitation Center, the replacement of the fence at PS14, and how Pavlovo Farm Home is doing with their new bakery project. Valentina Chervonookaya, New Family Center Director, invited us to the 30th Celebration of the Center and we are grateful we can be there for that event on Sep. 21. It has been two years since our last visit and continuity of connection to the children and program leaders in Ukraine is essential.

Sorry for this late notice about the **TOUCH** delegation to Ukraine as we usually begin to prepare about 4-5 months before actual travel, but we were waiting to see what happened with the COVID situation. We'd love to have additional delegation members. If anyone is interested in traveling with us to Ukraine, please let us know and we will share our flight information with you. Here is our contact information:

Sabra Killen: rankil@aol.com, 360-834-1240, 3842 NW McIntosh Rd., Camas, WA 98607

Alice Rampton: alice.rampton@gmail.com, 541-231-6238, 5455 NW Crescent Valley Dr., Corvallis OR 97330

[SENDING A CARD WITH THE DELEGATION TO UKRAINE](#)

If you would like us to carry a card over to your sponsored child when we travel to Ukraine, please drop it off at a silver metal box in the lobby of Corvallis Family Medicine (2400 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis) or mail to the addresses listed above. We will need to receive all cards or letters by Tuesday, September 14 at 5 pm.

Note: Due to limited space, we are only taking a card or letter in an envelope comparable to a birthday card size. Please do not send manila envelopes or packages. If you wish to include \$5 to \$50, that is fine. To help us with distribution of the cards, make sure your return address is in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope and the child's full name and ID number are in the middle address section. Please seal the letter. See list at the end of this email for spelling and ID number of all sponsored children.

[MORE ON THE CLOSING OF CHASLIVTSI BOARDING SCHOOL](#)



We recently heard from Anya Stynych, former music teacher, and Dr. Paul Blanar, former psychiatrist at the Chaslivtsi Boarding School which has closed. We sent emails asking if they knew what would happen to the children and the school facility itself due to the closure. Anya shared that the children have been sent to live with relatives and are being asked to attend schools near their homes. Their Chaslivtsi school documentation has been sent to the new schools. Dr. Blanar also shared that five other orphanages in the Transcarpathia region were closed. He said that there is no final decision on how the Chaslivtsi Boarding School will be used in the future. There are many ideas including transferring the management to the Chaslivtsi Village Council, utilizing the facility for children's recreation camps, or using the boarding school as a housing site for older citizens with disabilities. We will keep you posted as we learn more.

-

[THE COVID19 VIRUS IN UKRAINE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2021](#)

Here is current data on COVID19 in the Ukraine and the Transcarpathian Oblast. The slow increase in case and death numbers is heartwarming. We are grateful that vaccinations are being distributed.

In Ukraine:

Coronavirus Cases: 2.29 million	June 22, 2021
Deaths: 54,220	June 22, 2021
Coronavirus Cases: 2.36 million	August 15, 2021
Deaths: 56,159	August 15, 2021

In Transcarpathia (Oblast or state where Uzhhorod is located):

Coronavirus Cases: 62,034	June 22, 2021
Deaths: 1,601	June 22, 2021
Coronavirus Cases: 62,389	August 15, 2021
Deaths: 1,611	August 15, 2021

[PUBLIC SCHOOL #14 BEGINS FENCE REPAIR AFTER FIRE IN ADJOINING NEIGHBORHOOD](#)

When a fire in the neighborhood behind Public School #14 caused extensive damage to many Roma homes and to the school fence at Public School #14, we had an immediate response from two **TOUCH** Sponsors. Mike and Nancy Boom, who have already done so much to improve the school facility, quickly volunteered to pay for the rebuilding of the fence. Their gift of \$1700 will not only replace the fence, but will improve the landscaping, also. The Boom donation was wired over to Ukraine last month and the fence repair has begun. Thank you, once again for your wonderful help, Mike and Nancy!



Photo of the fence damaged by the fire.

Stay safe and healthy! Thanks for your support. Please check the list of sponsors and donors below to ensure your name is included.

Sincerely, Alice Rampton, Co-Chair

The **TOUCH** Project

541-231-6238

alice.rampton@gmail.com

Sabra Killen, Co-Chair

The **TOUCH** Project

360-834-1240

rankil@aol.com