

February 28, 2021

Dear **TOUCH** Sponsors and Donors,

We promised to send you an update on how the children in The **TOUCH** Project programs in Ukraine are doing. Here is our report from Vasyl Chubar, **TOUCH** Director, on Feb. 28, 2022. We are appreciative of his efforts to connect us with these vulnerable children in Uzhhorod and help us learn first-hand what is happening in Ukraine.

*An update on the **TOUCH** programs from Vasyl Chubar*

New Family Program

All the children remain in Uzhhorod or Transcarpathia. Everyone is safe. It's not clear whether the center will operate in the upcoming days due to a national martial law. They will act according to the rapidly changing situation. None of the adult boys have been called to the army or on the front line. According to the law, they are not supposed to be mobilized but should one decide to join the forces, they can do so. Also, none of the children have relocated or moved across the border and don't have such plans so far.

Public School #14

There was a COVID quarantine in early February, so children studied online. Then in mid-February the elementary school was back in classes for one week before Putin's full-scale invasion began. At the moment no school will be held for at least next two weeks, probably more. The school's administration officials attend the school daily to make sure everything is okay on the premises. Also, administration and teachers stay in touch with the children and families and are also checking up on the children when visiting the communities. Four or five families have relocated abroad. The school is involved in volunteering to help temporarily

displaced people and refugees. The NGO linked to Oksana, Roman, Ruslana raised money to help those arriving in Uzhhorod from other parts of Ukraine as well as people spending many hours in lines on the border.

Pavlovo Family Farm Home.

Here is a super brief but positive update for Pavlovo! The young women at Pavlovo, Maria and Vasyl Lutso are all together. They are safe and healthy in the calmest, most remote corner of the region right on the Slovakian border where even Ukrainian cell phone networks hardly have any coverage! Pavlovo is safe. They even accommodated fifteen (!) additional displaced women and children who had to leave areas that are under Russia's air-strikes and artillery.

Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities

The center has been working nonstop. They even managed to avoid the most recent COVID quarantine and hope to continue providing services on a regular basis despite the martial law. Albeit, not all the children and clients attend the center these days. Dr. Iryna Roshkovych says there is no information whether any children, center visitors or families relocated or crossed the border. As well, there is no information if any of the parents are involved in the operation on the front line.

*Finally, all **TOUCH** program leaders and participants greatly appreciate your care, love and support!*

A few words on the war in Ukraine. Putin's Russian military continues the heavy attack and invasion along the whole front line from north-east-south direction with constant airstrikes. They are shelling and bombing most of major cities and strategic locations of our country including government and military bases. Innumerable civil buildings are under attack and hundreds of thousands if not millions of civilians are forced to become

refugees. Nevertheless, the Ukrainian Army, backed by the joint effort of defending forces, volunteers and literally every person in Ukraine and all over the world, is doing an incredible work defending not only our country, but the whole world with its democracy and modern values.

*On behalf of the **TOUCH** programs and Corvallis-Uzhhorod Sister-Cities Association let us thank you for supporting Ukraine by reading these updates, sharing the information, joining the “Support Ukraine” Rally in Corvallis and other cities,, donating money to help, etc. Every contribution counts!*

Also, several reliable Ukrainian news outlets launched reports in English:

[Ukrayinska Pravda — online news about Ukraine](#)

[Russia invades Ukraine — live updates from Suspilne](#)

*I'll keep you posted on the situation in Zakarpattya and Uzhhorod. So far, it's safe and peaceful here. Thousands of people arrive in Uzhhorod every day! Temporary shelters for the refugees are being arranged in several schools. A strong volunteering movement has been rapidly organized to help refugees with the basic needs as well as arrange the supply of necessary gear and medication for the soldiers. Let me repeat again, it's safe here in Uzhhorod at the moment, and all **TOUCH** children are in town and under supervision.*

Take care.

Vasyl Chubar

The Corvallis/Uzhhorod Council of the Corvallis Sister Cities Association has been having daily meetings via zoom to discuss how best to help children, individuals and families in Uzhhorod. We have both been attending those meetings. We will be sending out a link to a GoFundMe account which CSCA is establishing to

support the Uzhhorod citizens' heroic effort to help with the refugees arriving daily. The number is currently at 15,000 but is expected to rise to 50,000. In addition, many individuals seek refuge in Uzhhorod on their way to try and cross the nearby borders in Slovakia or Hungary. We hope you will help with this effort and share the opportunity with friends and family who are interested. We are working hard to get the account up and running but there are many details to make it technically operable and ready for the public to receive the link.

The Ukrainian people including those in the military have shown such resilience, determination, and love for their country. We are grateful for their strength through an utmost difficult and fearful time. One dear physician friend in Uzhhorod shared the following with us today. *“When the recent invasion occurred, I was frightened and fearful. Then I worked hard to gather my courage. I was grateful that I could do that. Now I have trust and belief that Ukrainians are united and we have pride. We will survive. We are doing the right thing.”*

We thank all of our sponsors and donors in the program for your concern and care.

Sincerely,

Alice Rampton, Co-Chair
The TOUCH Project
alice.rampton@gmail.com
541-231-6238

Sabra Killen, Co-Chair
The TOUCH Project
rankil@aol.com
360-607-7197