

April 8, 2022

Dear Sponsors, Donors and Friends of **The TOUCH Project**,

SPECIAL ZOOM PROGRAM COMING UP ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022, 7 PM!



As many of you know, Sabra and Randy Killen, former residents of Corvallis, OR (now living in Camas, WA), returned from Slovakia, Hungary and Ukraine on Sunday night, April 3. They were able to purchase over \$7000 worth of bedding, mattresses, small and large appliances, food, cookware, diapers, toilet paper, shoes, soap, and hygiene supplies in Hungary and Slovakia. Uzhhorod Refugee Funds were used for these purchases. The items were then transported to Uzhhorod and distributed by members of the Uzhhorod Refugee Fund Team there. The Killens also spent a day in Uzhhorod and visited all of the four programs in **The TOUCH Project**. We are thankful that they were also willing to carry three suitcases of medical supplies for the refugee clinics, in addition to their other 7 suitcases!

Sabra and Randy have agreed to share their experiences and answer questions during a zoom meeting on **Wednesday, April 13 from 7:00-8:00 pm**. We hope you can attend!

In addition, we are fortunate to have **Nataliya Shatalova** join this zoom meeting and share her recent experiences in Ukraine. She returned on April 3, also. Nataliya and her husband, Alexei, were raised in Uzhhorod, Ukraine. Alexei received his PhD at OSU and works at Analog Devices. They live in Beaverton, OR with their two sons who were born in Oregon. When the war broke out, Nataliya created a fund to help children. She was also anxious to visit her mother and other family members. She is the sister-in-law of Dr. Paul Kolesnyk, who leads the Uzhhorod Refugee Team in our sister city. Nataliya was able to visit refugee centers in Uzhhorod and will be sharing during the zoom presentation, also.

This is a great opportunity to hear firsthand from three individuals about what is happening in Uzhhorod, Ukraine and their experiences and feelings. Here is the zoom link for that meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117639033?pwd=SWx1OUJXb2xNbjlrSHE0M0NBW5Sdz09>

DONATE TO THE UZHGOROD REFUGE FUND

As of April 7, over **\$262,000** has been raised for the Uzhgorod Refugee Fund. The Corvallis Sister Cities Association-Uzhgorod Council is amazed and grateful that these funds were donated in just a little over one month's time! Approximately \$57,820 of that amount was wired to Ukraine for expenditures in Uzhgorod for the refugee centers, used to reimburse the Killens for their purchases, and to pay for the medical supplies and medications - bought at cost and sent in eleven suitcases to Ukraine during the past month. The Corvallis Sister Cities Association-Uzhgorod Council has set the fundraising goal at \$500,000 and they are more than halfway there! Here's how to make donations:



- The **GoFundMe account** - This is the link to share with all: <https://gofund.me/a28dca8d>
- Checks and cash can also be dropped off or mailed to:
Citizens Bank- Circle Branch (or any of their 15 bank branches in Oregon)
978 NW Circle Blvd., Corvallis, Oregon 97330
Please make checks payable to: **Uzhgorod Refugee Fund**
Note that due to the emergency nature of this fund, these donations are **not tax deductible.**
- **Please share this information with your friends and associates.**

DONUT FUNDRAISER ON WEEKENDS IN APRIL

Come enjoy a donut or two or more! Tom Kobald has a donut truck and calls his donuts, GnomeNuts. He'll be parked at the Melon Shack on Hwy 20 and Garden Ave., in Corvallis, OR on Saturdays and Sundays, 9 am to 5 pm, during the remainder of April. **Proceeds will go to the Uzhgorod Refugee Fund.** We appreciate Tom's desire to help out, along with so many other individuals, organizations, and businesses, near and far. Thank you, Tom!

If anyone wants to volunteer and take a shift helping out at the Donut Truck, contact Tom at:

- (541) 602-0484
- gnomedonuts@gmail.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/Gnomedonuts-179147109146521/>



NEW SPONSORS AND DONORS FOR THE TOUCH PROJECT

We are thankful to Jo Ann Tower of Portland, Oregon for becoming a donor to The **TOUCH** Project. Each of the four facilities, where children and youth in The **TOUCH** Project reside or participate, are being shared with refugees. Our Ukrainian program leaders are grateful they can open up their doors to these displaced persons, but the need for support is great. We continue to offer support for the refugees in Uzhhorod, along with the separate and individual support needed by every child in The **TOUCH** project. We are also very grateful for the recent **\$10,000** donation to The **TOUCH** Project from an anonymous donor.



HEARTFELT MESSAGE FROM KATHERINE BIZILIA, English Teacher and 1st President of the Uzhhorod Sister Cities Association in Uzhhorod

Sunday, April 3, 2022

My dearest friends

I don't know if I will be able to sleep well again. The sirens are nothing compared to all the awful nightmares what those russians have done to the people, women, and children in Bucha, Irpen and other smaller towns in Kyiv region. If you are on Facebook you see all the posts and photos of the genocide raping women young girls and then driving on their corpses by tanks. While watching the news we were crying. I can't find appropriate words for expressing my feelings. On the other hand, thanks to our Army as they liberated these towns, but what big price was paid. It can never be forgotten or forgiven.

We are having online lessons for school and some students of the refugees join us every day. We start our lesson with wishing Peace and Victory and we finish our classes hoping our dreams will come true soon. I am impressed by some of our Government officials like by the Minister of Foreign Affairs who said that he wants European presidents and officials to come and visit these destroyed places and then let the russians have the responsibility for their crimes and be punished. I felt proud when he said that this would be the main goal of his life.

Regarding my family: My grandson is thinking of choosing international law to study at the university after finishing school. He is a tenth grader now. He and his dad are volunteering a lot and I am really proud of them. Granddaughter Katya is tutoring a refugee and this is her contribution. Mariya, my youngest granddaughter, will be six in June and she is calling me often because she wants to study English.

I often think of my Mom and I think she wouldn't survive this situation if she were alive. I remember her telling me about World War II and how my grandmother was hiding her in the cellar - not from Germans but from russians who took everything away from them. Well, I have classes in the morning so I probably have to try to fall asleep. Glory to Ukraine and to our Army. Love Katherine

TELEVISION STORIES ABOUT THE UZHHOROD REFUGEE FUND & SISTER CITIES

Corvallis Sister Cities Association and their various projects to improve the situation for refugees in Uzhhorod has been gaining quite a bit of television coverage. We are thankful to KATU, KPTV, KGW, KLCC, and other stations for being interested in our effort.

- <https://katu.com/news/local/corvallis-students-add-messages-of-hope-to-supply-shipment-for-ukrainian-sister-city>
- <https://www.kptv.com/2022/04/05/corvallis-community-sending-support-sister-city-ukraine/>
- <https://www.kgw.com/video/news/nation-world/ukraine/corvallis-volunteers-bring-supplies-to-their-ukrainian-sister-city-of-uzhhorod/283-1445423e-850d-44d8-9aa4-5075ebb2e049>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11bu684tBvY9kmdlPx75VR6K7MMOBGWyM/view?usp=sharing>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOxnfQJ1KM>
- https://www.klcc.org/disasters-accidents/2022-03-15/corvallis-community-is-raising-money-and-sending-supplies-to-its-sister-city-in-ukraine?fbclid=IwAR3CS1WIL_Rry54EH9GFCQ8lcM_SFPmqhLQmbnapudNK9JQjJLIeU7fm-ko



DON'T FORGET: Earl Newman has donated 200 of his silkscreened prints, featuring Ukraine and refugees, with all proceeds going to the Uzhhorod Refugee Fund. Each print is signed and numbered.

- The prints numbered 1-20 are nicely framed and are being sold for \$1000.
- The prints numbered 21-200 are being sold for \$100.

The prints are being sold, so don't miss out. If you would like to purchase a print, email standwithuzhhorod@gmail.com or go to the sister city website: https://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/earl_newman_print/

Unframed prints are available at the Corvallis Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis, Or. 97333.



We appreciate Steve Dominguez at Stoneyburn Framing Gallery in Corvallis. Steve is a retired EPA scientist who began framing the beautiful artwork of his wife, Jan Roberts-Dominguez, a well-known food editor, author, and artist in Corvallis. Steve provided a wonderful discount for the framing of the Newman prints, numbered 1-20 and signed by Earl Newman. Thank you, Steve! His framing gallery is located at 1740 NW 17th St, Corvallis, OR 97330. If you want more information on his gallery, call 541-758-8098 to make an appointment. Here's Steve with one of Earl Newman's print which Steve framed and is being sold to benefit the Uzhhorod Refugee Fund.





DON'T FORGET: Two teenage sisters from Corvallis, 16-year-old Alessandra Bakker and 13-year-old Isabella Bakker, wanted to do something to help the refugee situation in Ukraine. They have created beautiful posters and note cards. Local artist, Sharon Rackham-King donated paper and supplies and printed the posters and note cards, free of charge with all proceeds going to the Uzhhorod refugee Fund.



“Rise” by Alessandra Bakker, age 16



“Field of Hope” by Isabella Bakker, age 13

Prints (8x10) are \$30 and 4 notecards of both scenes are \$25. Here is a link to an order form for you to use to purchase either the prints, notecards or both. Link: <https://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Bakker-Mail-Order.pdf> They are also available to purchase at Visit Corvallis at 113 SW 3rd, Suite 101 or at the Corvallis Museum, 411 NW 2nd Street. Thank you, Sharon, Alessandra, and Isabella.



One of our **TOUCH** sponsors recently sent us this link regarding a Ukrainian singer from a band called BoomBox who left his group’s tour to go home and fight. But before he did, he sang a classic Ukrainian song and posted it online.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cae5TydPAXh/>

Then the band *Pink Floyd* got together (after decades) to put the man’s a capella song to music with a video integrating images of Ukraine with the words to the song. It’s both heartbreaking and hopeful.

I thought it might be something to share with

the **TOUCH** folks. <https://youtu.be/saEpkeV1id4> Thank you for sharing, Cheryl.

We think constantly of our friends and the **TOUCH** children in Ukraine and send them our love. We are overcome with sadness, fear, anger and frustration as we see cities in Ukraine being destroyed and people fleeing for their lives. There is no sane reason why this is happening. We ache for the physical pain and emotional trauma they are experiencing.

Our **TOUCH** Director in Ukraine, Vasya Chubar, is preparing an email about what the Uzhhorod Refugee Team is doing. We will send that when it arrives.

Sincerely,

Alice Rampton, Co-Director
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541-231-6238

Sabra Killen, Co-Director
The **TOUCH** Project
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360-607-7197

The **TOUCH** Project = Take One Ukrainian Child's Hand

<https://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/>, <https://www.facebook.com/CorvallisUzhhorod>