

Rotary GB&I Ukraine Crisis Taskforce

12th May 2023 Bulletin 27

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The CHILDREN OF UKRAINE desperately need our support

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

In consultation with the D2232 Ukraine Crisis Team, the GB&I Ukraine Crisis Taskforce have identified the current 2 top priority areas, both focused on children, and are asking for help from clubs across GB&I

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

STOP INNOCENT CHILDREN BEING KILLED

- Friendship boxes
- Help a child have a break
- **Keep out warning signs**
- **Humanitarian demining**
- o The ongoing war is seriously affecting the mental health and educational progress of children still living there
- o A sub-group has been formed to see how RotaryGB&I clubs could help children and young people

 Members of the sub-group are from both GB&I and Ukraine 	
FRIENDSHIP BOXES	 To send to as many children as possible Interesting and stimulating things to do while in shelters or at home It becomes a storage box used for special things all children like to keep
Who can get involved	o Rotakids, Interact, schools, youth groups, Rotary, Rotaract and your community
Strong plastic box filled with specific items	 Maximum size = Length 40cm, width 30cm, depth 30 cm Fill – coloured pencils, crayons, books for colouring, puzzles and reading books Optional – good wishes card PLEASE ABSOULTELY NO food, liquids, powders, batteries or sharp objects – for safety, security and to help with smooth logistics
Label it	 Include a label on the box with: Club Name, Rotary logo AND Indicate suitable age group – 5 to 8 years, 9 to 12 years, 13 to 16 years
Send to Collection Point	 Send your boxes to the Collection Point for onward transportation to Ukraine where Rotarians will arrange distribution Rotarian Derwent Jaconelli, Urgent Services Ltd (Aid Ukraine), Prospect House, 56 Prospect Row, London E15 1FX
Need transportation advice	 For any advice about transport of the Friendship Boxes to the Collection Point email Derwent on <u>aidukraine@urgentservices.uk</u>
Prefer to make a donation?	Send donation to Wessex Rotary CIO, Account No: 23520218, Sort Code: 20-11-43 Include reference: Task friend

Zoom session Tuesday 16th May 6pm - 7pm

- Hear snapshots from District 2232 Crisis Team members about the 2 key priority areas highlighted in this bulletin
- o Plenty of time for questions for them and the GB&I Ukraine Taskforce members

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85966933595...

Meeting ID: 859 6693 3595

Passcode: 641604

HATS FOR UKRAINIAN BABIES

Over 6,000 hats have already been received with many more still on their way With many thanks to all the knitters can we please suspend this initiative for the time being



Rotarian Yulia Pavichenko is a member of our children and young people's sub-group. She has worked professionally with children and parents in Ukraine for many years. She has highlighted that

- More than 100,000 women and children have stayed in Kharkiv and live under rocket attacks and bombing
- o Children have few opportunities to continue their education
- o More than a third of Kharkiv district is mined including play gardens, parks, schools and forests
- These children desperately need
 - 1. Physical recovery and psychological relaxation
 - 2. Development of a culture of safe behaviour near mined areas
 - 3. Rehabilitation programmes for mothers and children to prevent 'psychotrauma'

BREAK

- **HELP A CHILD HAVE A** o The summer vacation in Ukraine is 1st June to 31st August
 - o Rotary in Ukraine is planning a 10 day summer camp for 100 children in the Carpathian Mountains

Just £40 per child per day

- They have some funding from Germany and Switzerland but need more
- Just £40 per day per child plus cost of transport and those accompanying

Donations to

- o Please help ensure at least 100 children benefit from this much needed break
- o The more money raised the more children can benefit

Wessex Rotary CIO Account No: 23520218 Sort Code: 20-11-43 Ref: Task camp We really appreciate the support you have given to the people in Ukraine and our Ukrainian guests. Please help us bring some joy to the children still in Ukraine. Do contact me with gueries or other ideas THANK YOU SO MUCH, Cheryle Berry cheryle.berry@btinternet.com Children's Sub-group, GB&I Taskforce

STOP CHILDREN **BEING BLOWN UP Donations to**

Account No: 30502360

Sort Code: 30-84-54

RI District 1080

Ref: Mine signs

'KEEP OUT' WARNING SIGNS

- o Rotary in Ukraine need at least 100,000 signs
 - o £2.50 for a sign, which includes the Rotary logo, on a 1200mm stick
 - o Only £100 for 40 signs
 - Would your club buy one sign per member
 - Delivery of signs has started in the heavily mined area of Kharkiv
 - Odessa and Mykolaiv will come later

HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

- o Mines and unexploded ordinance are a danger to people, especially children
- o Also prevents the return of fields to agriculture which have fed much of the world, especially Africa, for decades
- These fields support food for 80 million people

People, often children, are being killed by inadvertently stepping on explosives

- o Farmers are risking ploughing their fields, it is their income source, and they are being blown up
- o Potentially mined areas the size of England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the de-occupied zones have to be cleared using a combination of methods
- Rotarian Dirk Lustig, a demining expert in Ukraine, is helping Rotary to support the community-based SES (State Emergency Service) Organisation in declaring areas safe
- One of its training centres in Cherkasy has been supported by a drone/magnetometer/software combination to perform what are called non-technical surveys to provide a mapping of the mines. Two magnetometers for the pilot was funded by District 1145 and several other clubs in GB&I
- These technologies mixed with expert and local knowledge allow areas without mines to be recognised and declared free for use
- Though they do not detect plastic explosive, little of this has been found in agricultural areas. They do deliver a safer approach to demining by mapping the metallic mines and ordinance for operatives to undertake clearance
- These surveys have enabled clearance of agricultural areas in Cherkasy Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia regions
- They are now moving to 7 more heavily mined regions and need more drone/ magnetometer combinations. The equipment is expensive, around £60-64k (£17k for magnetometer and £43k for drone)

Can you help with any funds to supply another set? Any clubs or districts is interested in joining with others to make this possible please contact James Onions james.onions@btinternet.com