*Sent to all Members*

March 9, 2025

Dear {%FName%},

There are fewer places in the world today in need of Rotary International’s efforts to promote peace and resolve conflict than in Ukraine.

Orphanages, hospitals and schools have been bombed. Three years of war have left not only physical destruction visible as bombed-out buildings but also the trauma of war is inflicting long-term psychological damage that will take generations to repair.

Consider being a grade-school student in Ukraine. For three years of war, classes have been taught in underground subway stations.  That means three years of a student’s childhood have been lost to war.

Hospital patients face surgery in basements because roofs have been bombed. Healthcare workers, firefighters, police officers, and teachers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.  A medical doctor shared that recent bombing raids at midnight, 2am, 4am and 6am cause sleep deprivation and stress.

People in Ukraine are not the only victims. Today, more than 240,000 Ukrainian citizens are in the United States on temporary humanitarian visas that our government is in the process of revoking today. To where will they go?

A recent arrival from Ukraine living in Wausau shared that his hometown is now occupied by the Russian army. His family home was sold by the military to Russian citizens, leaving him without a home to which he can return.

Rotary International is responding. Generators sent by RI are providing electricity to schools and hospitals. Psychological counseling is available to emergency workers. Medical supplies are sent by generous Rotarians who take a commitment to building peace and resolving conflict seriously.

District 6220 is putting together another shipment under the leadership of our Ukraine Relief Committee Co-chair Sanford Dewitt. Sanford spent more than five years in Ukraine as a Peace Corps volunteer, teacher and consultant. He knows the need and how to respond.

Please join Rotary’s impressive efforts to provide psychological counseling to those impacted by war, medical supplies, generators, housing assistance and so much more by donating now to our District 6220 Ukraine Relief Committee.

Thank you to those impressive donors who have stepped up already.  And thank you to those who will come forward now and make possible our next shipment. The cost of transporting one container of supplies is approximately $30,000.

Invite Sanford to speak at your club. Sanforddewill@yahoo.com

Send a check to “Rotary District 6220” in care of our District Treasurer, Scott Knaffla.

Donations can be sent to District 6220 Treasurer:

 17 E. Nicolet Blvd,
        Marquette, MI  49855

Do it for the kids who have already lost three years of their childhood to war and its aftermath.

Thank you.

ROGER UTNEHMER
Rotary District 6220
District Governor 2024-25
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