

APRIL 2022



PHA is “Being Family”

WAR RELIEF EFFORTS

by Chris and Christy Hill

The PHA family is connecting vulnerable Ukrainian youth with a community who provides loving guidance towards healthy lives in Christ.

While our mission has not changed, in this time of crisis with God’s guidance, we are fully living into our humanitarian aid roots.

Since the war began on February 24th, our ministry efforts have shifted. Today, while continuing to serve orphans and at-risk youth, PHA’s ministry partners are also providing humanitarian aid and helping with relief efforts.

We are fortunate to be able to continue to get funding into Ukraine. When we send funds to help, we aren’t sending them into unknown hands. We are sending them to Andrey our Ukrainian Director and our long-time trusted ministry partners like Ilya, Zina, Marina and El June. We are in constant communication with them, and they share with us not only the needs of those around them but the also the stories, photos, and reports of how these needs are being met.

PHA’s staff in Ukraine are helping as they feel led and taking opportunities to serve those in need as they can along with continuing to serve the PHA Family of orphans and at-risk youth.

We are currently helping with relief efforts through local churches and providing humanitarian aid as well as serving the internally displaced refugee population. This help is primarily coming in the form of food, fuel, blankets, medical supplies, and relocation expenses.

In the Eastern part of the country, we are serving in Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, and Kamianske. This help is provided to people as they come through these cities traveling from the East to West where it is safer. A journey that used to take 7 to 16 hours can now take days. In these cities we are providing housing for a short time, food, clothing, medicine, hygiene supplies, and transport. We are also supporting the large refugee centers that have been set up for those being evacuated from places like Mariupol which you have likely heard a lot about in the news recently.



Over 90 percent of Ukrainians are still in Ukraine and where PHA is focused on serving in Ukraine today, we know that there will be future needs with refugees in neighboring countries and we are preparing to meet those needs as well. Currently we are exploring partnership opportunities in Romania.

This time spent under the stress and uncertainties of war is providing the perfect opportunity to not only share a warm cup of tea and a hug, but also the love of Jesus Christ.

We can all follow the example of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Ukraine. While the war is not in the US, it’s important to remember that the duress of it is affecting many people here as well. The mission field all around us is ripe for sharing the gospel.

Thank you all for your faithful support during this time of great need.

**-Chris and Christy Hill,
PHA Co-Executive Directors**



WE ARE FAMILY

by Tanya Ilmeyer

Right after some of our kids were evacuated, the director told us where they relocated to. We were privileged and blessed by our Lord to be close to where our orphans are now, so the decision popped up on its own- we need to go see them.

Though it took a bit of planning and almost a full day to get there our hearts are full for a while. Full of love, joy, and pain at the same time. It was hard to look into their eyes. And unfortunately, it was hard not to burst into tears in front of them. Hugging them was my dream for the last several weeks.

God blessed our kids with a good recreation camp, they are fed, they have enough of food and water, and clothes. They are taken

care of in so many ways. Thank you, Lord. We brought them some snacks and of course our ears, eyes, hearts, and hands that were ready to embrace each and every kid.

It is never hard to talk and to hug them. Our kids are still our kids, no matter what the times are. We are family and we will try to do our best to keep our connection.

One of the kids talking to Andrey on the phone said: "can we come to visit you when the war is over?" Dear God, we are ready for this crazy war to be over and to open Domik doors for our kids. Please, bring your Peace and Mercy to Ukraine.

-Tanya Ilmeyer,
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner

ROMANIA

A member of the PHA family recently said that God has been moving people around, putting them in the right places to help Ukrainians right now. That's really the only way to explain how PHA made the connections to be able to work in Romania near the Ukrainian border, helping Ukrainians both inside the country and those who have fled the war abroad. PHA has many connections to the A&M Church of Christ in College Station, Texas. At that church is a couple who is part of the PHA Family and served as missionaries in Ireland. While in Ireland, they met a couple who have family ties to Romania. That couple is connected with a Missionary training facility in Suceava, Romania, near the Ukrainian border, which now serves as a refugee center. Only God could connect that many dots and bring all these people from all across the globe to a place where we can directly provide aid to the Ukrainian people.



I spent about ten days in Suceava, Romania, with a PHA board member and several volunteers helping serve at Kairos, the missionary training school turned temporary refugee center. We

also spent part of that time trying to understand the process of getting aid into Ukraine and looking for opportunities for PHA to be able to support Ukrainians inside of Ukraine in even more ways. There I saw an incredible display of God's providence.

Not only had he put people in place to get PHA there, but there were people from all over the world from hundreds of different

organizations working to help the Ukrainian people. One of whom is a group of men inside Ukraine called the "Volunteer Brothers." They have a fleet of vans and drivers taking food and humanitarian aid supplies from western Ukraine into some of the hardest-hit areas distributing those supplies and providing transport back for people fleeing the fighting.

When they reach the Romanian border, those same people are welcomed by hundreds of volunteers who will provide them with assistance in every possible

way. Some of them come to Kairos, where a team of volunteers will provide all the logistics of helping these Ukrainians reach a place of safety. All across Europe, they help book train, bus, and

airplane tickets for people to be able to connect with friends, family, or organizations that will take care of them. For those who wish to stay in Romania, they also find housing, all the while they give them food, hot tea, and a place to rest while their journey is mapped out.

The vast majority of these refugees are women and children, some older men, but very few fathers. With few exceptions, all men aged 16-60 currently have to stay in Ukraine. These families usually only have what they could fit in a suitcase as they left their homes behind. We met people there with heartbreaking stories, people who fled from Mariupol, Kharkiv, Kyiv, and many other places. But we also saw joyous moments, a son reunited with his family and friends who lost each other in the chaos back together again. So many people spoke with pride of their brave husbands and sons who were still in Ukraine caring for others and defending their homes. Even our ministry partners refugees themselves, who left their homes and family members were serving tirelessly the other refugees coming through Kairos.

Through all the hardships and the pain, the thing I brought back from Romania most is a sense of hope. Our God is so powerful, and He is stronger than the forces of evil that drive this war. He has been putting people in place for years to provide aid and to show His love to the Ukrainian people. He has been preparing PHA for this time as well. He is opening doors we could never have imagined for PHA to daily live into our name "Program for Humanitarian Aid."

Thank you, PHA family, for supporting Ukraine. You are part of the plan that God has put in place. You are what's allowing PHA to serve the Ukrainian people. Please keep Ukraine, its people, and PHA in your prayers as we work on expanding our reach and providing more aid to those inside Ukraine who need it most.

-Wes Hawthorne
PHA Development Officer

GROWTH TO THE PHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PHA is excited to share that Carolyn Hutson is our newest member of the Board of Directors! Carolyn and her husband Joel have been supporters of and ambassadors for PHA for many years and we are thankful to add them in this "official" capacity.

Carolyn Hutson graduated from Texas A&M University in 1984 with an MS in Accounting. She spent twelve years in public accounting, specializing in auditing. She retired as EVP-CFO of Brookshire Grocery Company after a career spanning twenty years with that company. She has served on several boards, including Brookshire

Holdings Inc, Goodwill of East Texas, Literacy Council of Tyler, and the Business Advisory Board for UT Tyler. She and her husband, Joel, are active members of Marvin United Methodist Church where she has served as Administrative Council, Finance and Women's Ministry chairs. She and Joel also both serve as CASA volunteers. She and her husband enjoy having their two sons, wives, and grandson living close by in Tyler.



Program for Humanitarian Aid (PHA)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I WANT TO JOIN THE PHA FAMILY:

____ Prayerfully

____ Financially through a one-time donation

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 Other: _____ ☐ I would like to be contacted with more information about PHA.

____ Financially through monthly recurring donations

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 Other: _____ ☐ I know someone who would like to hear about this ministry.

Donations can be made through the PHA website: www.ProgramForHumanitarianAid.org



PHA is “Being Family”

P.O. Box 12087
College Station, TX 77842
(979) 220-5691

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TYLER, TX
PERMIT #275

APRIL 2022

Please pray for:

- The PHA Family of kids who are now safely in other countries and for those who remain in Ukraine.
- The PHA Family of kids in the Ukrainian Military and Territorial Defense.
- Those in leadership positions within or organization such as our Ukrainian ministry partners.

