

VOL 1 ISSUE 1 · DEC 2022/JAN 2023

ASSIST UKRAINE

Critical Lifesaving Appeal & Newsletter
Please Share With Friends



Olga Shpak delivers winter supplies to the frontline.

Message from Co-Founder, Art Davidson

Dear Friends,

I want to invite you to help save lives in Ukraine. We put every dollar to work with zero overhead. As our beloved fellow-founder Anne Garrels used to say, "When we decide how to put donations to work, we ask ourselves, 'What will save more lives?'"

We have a team of amazing people on the ground. Before the invasion, Brad was a UPS driver in Maine. With an old van, he began helping people in Ukraine. Seeing how committed and courageous he was, we got him a reliable 4-wheel drive vehicle. Now, he makes death-defying rescues in some of the most dangerous parts of Ukraine. See his sensational Bahkmut rescue, as covered by NBC News, on page 5.

Before the invasion Kateryna Pryshchepa was writing her doctoral dissertation and Olga Shpak was a cutting-edge marine biologist. Now, they help Assist Ukraine supply the generators, power stations, sleeping bags, wood stoves, and sub-zero clothing people need to survive this winter that Putin has weaponized.

When Russia invaded, orphanages were destroyed and more children lost their parents. With the help of some people in western Ukraine we've started a new orphanage for more than 100 children. We need to make room for more. This children's home is a seed of hope in the midst of madness.

To meet urgent and critical needs, we need to raise \$800,000 in the next 30 days. To help meet this goal, a previous donor has pledged to match the first \$400,000 donated. **Every dollar you donate will be matched dollar for dollar.** There is zero overhead and contributions can be tax deductible.

Putin is counting on our losing interest in Ukraine. But we're never giving up. If you can, join us. Get your friends and family involved. Together we can make a difference.

Art Davidson

This issue:

Critical Lifesaving Matching
Gift Challenge
PAGE 02

Ukrainian Orphans Facing
Brutal Winter
PAGE 03

Our Beloved Anne Garrels
& Her Enduring Legacy
PAGE 04

Aide to Civilian Volunteers
& Territorial Defenders
PAGE 05

Hundreds Rescued
Through Assist Ukraine
PAGE 05

Donate Today
PAGE 06

Critical Lifesaving Matching Gift Challenge

As winter temperatures drop, Russia steps up its merciless bombing of Ukraine's power system. Kyiv's mayor Vitali Klitschko has warned on an "apocalypse for Ukrainians." On December 14, UNICEF warned that attacks on critical energy infrastructure have left nearly seven million children "without sustained access to electricity, heating and water, putting them at increased risk as temperatures continue to drop and winter deepens."

One way or another, everyone in Ukraine is now at risk. This invasion is becoming the holocaust of our time. Ukrainians need our help now more than ever. Putin's is betting that people, like us, in the west will lose interest.

To meet the growing needs of the Ukrainian people **we urgently need to raise \$800,000 in the next 30 days. To help reach this goal, a generous donor has offered a \$400,000 matching gift challenge and will match your donation, dollar for dollar.** Money raised from this Lifesaving Matching Gift Challenge will be used for three fundamental purposes:

1. Support Brad and others who are saving lives on the front lines;
2. Help Ukrainians survive this brutal winter;
3. Support a growing number of orphans.

Support received through this matching gift challenge will allow us to provide evacuation vehicles, generators, wood stoves, power stations, sleeping bags, winter parkas, pants, winter suits, hats, gloves and thermal underwear to those in need.

Assist Ukraine will support the growing number of orphans by:

1. Providing clothes, bedding, food, staff support and reliable heating and power this winter and in the future;
2. Providing opportunities for children aging-out of the orphanages to continue their education;
3. Expanding to a new orphanage. The land has been secured. Building plans have been drawn. A French group has secured some funding. This is an exciting opportunity for donors to help make something very special, and very much needed, become a reality.

Please invest in the future of these deserving children today.

Currently, Assist Ukraine serves more than 100 Ukrainian orphans.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE — PLEASE, DONATE TODAY!



No overhead!

Every dollar you donate goes directly to providing relief to help save lives! Your donation will be matched dollar for dollar and put to good use IMMEDIATELY.

Make Your Tax Deductible Gift Today!

Thanks to our valued partnership with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) your gift can be tax deductible. For tax deductible donations, mail your check made out to UCCA to:

**Assist Ukraine
PO box 1740
Carbondale, CO, 81623**

Please be sure to include: "Assist Ukraine" on the memo line of your check.

**UCCA is a 501(c)(3)
Not-for-Profit organization
Tax ID (EIN) 13-6219868**

Online donations may be made by visiting: www.Assist-Ukraine.org



Through Assist Ukraine, you are providing food, heat, clothes, bedding, and hope for these children.



Aerial view of the orphanage Assist Ukraine helped start and continues to support.

Ukrainian Orphans Facing Brutal Winter

Your gift has allowed us to start a new orphanage in western Ukraine, where children from bombed-out cities and villages are safe and have found hope. With more than a hundred children from the Kharkiv and Bucha areas we are at capacity, and making room for more children.

Through Assist Ukraine, you are providing food, heat, clothes, bedding, and hope for these children. We are installing a generator system that keeps the lights on and the water pumps and heating system working. The children need more winter clothing. Some younger children are being taken to a trauma treatment center for additional care. For older children about to transition from the orphanage, we are finding, and funding, ways to continue their education.

Our commitment to the orphanage is \$8,000 every month. We are now at capacity and need to expand. **A reoccurring donation for continued care for these children will be invaluable.** Please consider partnering with us on a monthly basis through a recurring donation.

Assist Ukraine has been invited to partner with a French group in building a new facility to care for up to 500 children. If you would like to help develop this new children's home please contact Art Davidson at artdavidson43@gmail.com.



Through your donations to Assist Ukraine you helped set up a computer lab for older children, opening a door to their future.



Our Beloved Anne Garrels & Her Enduring Legacy

In September, Anne Garrels, one of our co-founders and an inspiration to everyone who listened to her report from war-zones for NPR over the years, passed away. We miss Annie, but continue what she helped start with two amazing Ukrainian women, who came to us through her.

One of these Ukrainian women, who we consider fellow founders of Assist Ukraine, is Kateryna Pryshchepa. When Russia invaded, she paused work on her PhD. dissertation on Ukraine's transition to a democratic state to coordinate our logistics in and through Warsaw, Poland. Kateryna is a journalist who has written and spoken about the war in numerous forums.

Our other Ukrainian partner, Olga Shpak, grew up in Kharkiv and was based in Moscow doing cutting-edge research on whales before the war. A few days before the Russian invasion, she felt a strong foreboding and returned to Ukraine to be with her family. On February 24, she forever shut the door to her prestigious and beloved whale research with the Russian Academy of Sciences. For the past ten months, she has been working tirelessly out of Kharkiv to source, purchase, and distribute what civilians and defenders need to survive. She says, "All my adult life I've worked with whales. This war has changed my priorities. I am not sure I will ever return to science. My fellow Ukrainians, who have defended our country so heroically, will still need a lot of help after we win this terrible war."

Kateryna and Olga are working together to first identify specific and urgent needs of territorial defenders and civilians caught in the war, then source, purchase, and deliver what is needed. As this newsletter is being put together, Olga has 29 generators on their way to the eastern front and Kateryna is purchasing power stations, winter survival gear, and a generator for the orphanage we've helped start.

"The fast-approaching winter was looming over the city, as Russia opened a new stage in the war—the targeting of civilian infrastructure."

*Kateryna
Pryshchepa*



Russia strikes have crippled power plants across Ukraine.



SAM Junctional tourniquets Assist Ukraine delivered to medics on the front line.

Aide to Civilian Volunteers & Territorial Defenders

Much of our assistance has gone to civilian volunteers, Territorial Defenders, who often lack even basic equipment and survival gear. We do not provide guns or ammunition. With your help, we have provided protective gear, medical evacuation vehicles and medical supplies, including thousands of tourniquets and other items for medical kits. We also supplied more than 100 SAM Junctional tourniquets @ \$350 each; where standard tourniquets don't work, they stop hemorrhages and bleeding.

Hundreds Rescued Through Assist Ukraine



*The all-terrain vehicle pictured on the left was donated by Assist Ukraine and served as the escape vehicle in the rescue of stranded families and injured volunteers." **Watch the NBC National News Story on Brad.***

Brad (full name withheld for his safety) pictured in the photo above, leans against an all-terrain vehicle provided by Assist Ukraine. When we saw how committed and courageous Brad is, we wanted to make sure he has everything he needs to make the kind of rescues others can't do, or don't dare to try. He is a unique person, who is becoming known as "Bahkmur Brad" for his fearless rescues. Here, he is being interviewed after finding and rescuing an American woman who had been missing for weeks in a Russian-controlled city. He makes daily runs into areas under siege to deliver needed supplies and to rescue the injured.



Children we serve at the orphanage Assist Ukraine helped start.

Double Your Impact!
Help Us Raise \$800,000 in the Next 30-Days
to Meet Critical Needs in Ukraine!

A generous donor will double all gifts received in the next 30-days up to \$400,000.
For tax deductible donations, mail your check made out to UCCA to:

Assist Ukraine
PO box 1740
Carbondale, CO, 81623

Please be sure to include: "Assist Ukraine" on the memo line of your check.
UCCA is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization,
Tax ID# (EIN): 13-621986

Online donations may be made by visiting:
www.AssistUkraine.org where we can receive payment via Paypal or Venmo. Please note that your
donation made via Paypal will be made to Families Assisting Families, a non-profit directly
benefiting Assist Ukraine.

Be assured that your entire donation will be received by Assist Ukraine and
that 100% benefits those in need.

Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions please contact
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