



what's up

YOUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWS



TOGETHER FOR UKRAINE



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MAKING A **DIFFERENCE** FOR UKRAINE

Grace is a 7th grader at North Muskegon Public Schools in North Muskegon, MI. Her favorite subjects are French, English Language, Arts and Math. In her spare time, she enjoys golf, reading, school sports and making jewelry.

Grace had been watching the news about the war and devastation in Ukraine with her mom, and they were talking about how they could help. Grace enjoys making bracelets and giving them to friends and family, and she made and sold them last summer to raise money for a local pet rescue. So, she decided to make bracelets in the colors of the Ukrainian flag with red and black hearts and including the words love, peace, hope, pray and Ukraine.

She asked for a \$2.00 donation for each bracelet with the money going to Save the Children's Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund. Her Mom posted a sample photo of the bracelets on her Facebook page and family and friends started to place their orders. Grace had hoped to sell at least 20 bracelets. Her parents, Paul and Terri, said they would match the initial amount of money Grace raised. Her results totally exceeded her expectations! Within a week, Grace had made 223

bracelets and raised \$502.00 for Save the Children. With her parents' generous match, she mailed in her first check in the amount of \$1,004.00 for the children in Ukraine.

Grace then asked her principal if she could organize a hat day to raise additional funds for Save the Children. The Middle School/High School hat day raised \$214.00. Grace is very thankful to all the students and staff who participated and made donations.

Grace was also invited to display her bracelets at a neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt. She raised over \$1,200.00 at this event between bracelet purchases and donations.

Her second check was mailed to Save the Children in the amount of \$2,377.00.

In total, this caring young artist raised \$3,379.00 to support our work for the children of Ukraine.

Grace is very appreciative of everyone's support of her efforts to help the people of Ukraine. "Together," she proclaims, "we can make a difference!"



Photo: Hilary Swift, New York Times

RUNNING FOR UKRAINE'S CHILDREN

"Hi there, my name is **Oz Pearlman**," (pictured above, in front) wrote this amazing fundraiser. "I am an ultramarathon runner and professional mentalist. On April 8, 2022, I intend to break the record for most miles run around Central Park ever. I expect to run over 100 miles, which is a feat that has not been achieved since the park was founded in 1858.

"I'm inspired to do this NOW as my family's personal way to help raise funds for the crisis in Ukraine," he explained. "As a parent of three young children, my heart breaks seeing the horrific violence in Ukraine and the impact on these young lives. I can't even imagine what kids and their parents are going through during this unjust war.

"I will be kicking this off with \$1,000 and then matching the next \$9,000 of donations. All donations will go to Save the Children."

The amazing Mr. Pearlman far exceeded his expectations as he explained to his followers in a post after the run.

"On April 8, I broke the record for the most laps ever run (19) around Central Park, which added up to 116 miles and raised \$116,000 for Save the Children's Ukraine Relief Fund. So many people came to cheer me on...share some miles and send kind



Photo: Hilary Swift, New York Times

words of encouragement. It will be a day I remember for the rest of my life and already look back on fondly (even with the pain of running for 18 straight hours!), knowing that together we did something meaningful for people facing some of the worst situations possible. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart."

And thank YOU, Oz, for your amazing accomplishment and your generosity!



TESSA BAKES FOR CHILDREN IN UKRAINE



I saw on the news how children had to hide in bomb shelters, and I found that very heartbreaking. I couldn't imagine leaving my house with my sister and my parents"

Tessa, 11, a 6th-grader at Eastern Middle School in Greenwich, CT, is using her passion for baking to support children in Ukraine – baking scratch-made apple tortes to raise money for Save the Children.

Tessa started her baking business, T Cakes, during quarantine. When she heard about the children's hardships in Ukraine, she wanted to help. "I decided to do some research on charities because I thought my baking business would be a good way to raise money.

"I chose the Save the Children because I wanted to focus on supporting the children in Ukraine, and once I saw how Save the Children provides them with blankets and pillows, nutritious food and emergency shelter materials, I knew these would be needed items."

Tessa raised \$2,000 and is proud to help the children in Ukraine as they try to stay safe during the war. This lovely young woman says, "Helping others is a gift, not only to them, but to yourself, knowing that you are doing good for the world." Through this fundraiser Tessa wanted to send a message that people should be grateful for what they have and do what they can to help with the Ukraine crisis.

She appreciates all those who have helped out by donating and purchasing her apple tortes. You can follow Tessa's baking adventures @tessaaddeo on Instagram.



Contributed photo

A LESSON IN GRASSROOTS FUNDRAISING

“Our names are Selina and Louise, two 11th-grade students at the International School of Florence, Italy (ISF). As the conditions in Ukraine escalated, we were vacationing together in the mountains. We discussed the situation on the car ride back home, expressing our dismay and deep concern for ordinary Ukrainian citizens. We considered what our school community could do, and it was clear to us that we should focus on children, due to the obvious connection. We felt that it was our time to rise to the occasion.

“After careful consideration and research, we ultimately found the Save the Children Get Involved initiative and created our own fundraising page connected to the Ukrainian Relief Fund. We named the fundraiser ISF for Ukraine and set an ambitious goal to raise \$10,000. We publicized the fundraiser through social media, by talking to students in individual homeroom classes, by presenting at our school board meeting and through

an article in our school newspaper, as well as by pitching an article to a local English-language newspaper, *The Florentine*.

“Through the amazing generosity of our community and with the help of a teacher mentor we have raised \$5,632 thus far to help children and their families in Ukraine. We are very thankful for all the support we have received from our community and for the possibility Save the Children has given us through their initiative.

“As we engaged with what we thought would be a project focused exclusively on fundraising, something else began to take form. Students, families and teachers, with or without connections to Ukraine, began to take an interest in making a difference themselves and contacted us for input. This experience has been a success not only because of the money raised, but because it opened our eyes to how grassroots movements are created.”



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CHILDREN OF U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS HELP RAISE \$30K FOR **UKRAINE** RELIEF



Children and spouses of U.S. State Department officials who evacuated Kyiv and are now living in Falls Church, VA, have raised thousands of dollars for Ukrainian refugees fleeing their home country.

One of the ways they did that was through a bake sale for Save the Children at the Falls Church City Farmers Market. On Saturday, March 5, hundreds of people crowded around their tent, exchanging hundred dollar bills for a small bag of homemade brownies and yellow and blue beaded flags.

Sadly, many of those who worked at the bake sale had classmates, friends and acquaintances trying to flee Kyiv or other places in Ukraine, hiding in bomb shelters or waiting out the violence in their homes.

“We were thinking about the teachers, friends and colleagues we knew in Ukraine and it was impossible to ignore the news from our neighborhoods in Kyiv,” says Juliet Johnson, one of the organizers of the event. “We wanted to do something to help. I thought of a bake sale because my boys like to bake. I wanted the Embassy kids to also feel like they helped, so choosing a bake sale, something they had the skills to contribute to, was important.

“Many stopped to talk about Save the Children or to ask about our lives in Ukraine and the people we know there,” Juliet shares. “My 11-year-old, Forrest, summed it up perfectly, ‘it was a way we could help Ukrainian kids like all the kids we know from Kyiv.’”

The bake sale raised more than \$9,000. But altogether, says Jessica Hayden, the spouse of an embassy official who is still overseas in Poland, the families raised more than \$30,500 thanks to online donations!



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LUCA **DONATES** HIS 11TH BIRTHDAY TO THE CHILDREN OF UKRAINE

In 2020, Luca, 11, learned the hard truth about inequality after seeing what happened to George Floyd. Luca says, "It broke my heart. I wanted to move to Mars, but my parents told me I couldn't run away from problems! They told me the best thing I can do with my pain is to put it to work. So that's what I'm doing."

That's when Luca discovered Save the Children. He decided one way he could help immediately was to donate his allowance to sponsor a little girl in Mozambique, who is now his friend and pen pal.

And then Russia attacked Ukraine.

Luca had been reading about Anne Frank's experience during

World War II so he felt especially connected to what the children in Ukraine were going through. He had no doubt he wanted to donate his 11th birthday to the children of Ukraine. He set out to raise \$500, but at the very last second he doubled it to \$1000. To his surprise, Luca met his goal within hours, and the incredible people in his Los Angeles community have now more than doubled that goal, donating \$2,287 and counting.

When asked if he felt proud, Luca said, "Proud? No! This is something I SHOULD do. Should I feel proud when I brush my teeth? Or do my chores? No. I am grateful, but not proud. I know our donations will not solve the problem," he shares, "but every little bit we give will surely help."



Contributed photo

MOUNTAIN TOWNS **RISE UP** TO AID UKRAINE

One thing Vermonters are particularly poor at is sitting around doing nothing in the face of a storm or other crisis. And so it was when two residents of Weston, Wayne Granquist and Jim Linville, were overwhelmed hearing about the atrocities in Ukraine. What could be done to offer support from far-off Vermont?

In literally a few days, a small group kicked into gear – gained access to the Magic Mountain ski area, flooded towns with a “Help Ukraine!” flyer, arranged food including hundreds of pierogis and gallons of borscht and also arranged live music that included a Ukrainian “front man.” Over 400 people descended on Magic’s Black Line Tavern for the event on Saturday night, April 9th – and more than \$40,000 have been raised for Save the Children’s Ukrainian Crisis Relief Fund.

Looking back, the event was a miraculous example of how Vermonters can mobilize and care about “making a difference” – standing up to challenges that affect the lives of people, wherever they are.

Two who spared nothing to help with the event were Will Reed and Lexi Young – both of whom have mothers who are Ukrainian Americans. They cajoled three local chefs to provide all the food gratis. They also got a “kicking” Vermont band, The Western Terrestrials, to come and play.

Geoff Hatheway, President of Magic Mountain, engaged the whole Magic team and donated the venue and his team’s time and creativity for the event. As Geoff noted, “We are a community mountain and make a special point of pitching in to help our neighbors and other good causes.”

Gun Burns of South Londonderry sewed Ukrainian flags for the event, including a huge one used as a backdrop for the bandstand. She also organized and ran a terrific silent auction of donated items. Local children pitched in at the Peru Town Hall by making over 200 Ukrainian buttons which they sold at the fundraiser. The kids brought in over \$1,000 and gave event-goers a beautiful little keepsake.

As for getting the word out about the event in record time, a number of other charitable organizations were tapped, from libraries and churches to Neighborhood Connections. Folks came out of the woodwork to donate food, auction items and time. In short, the entire community was enlisted and energized!

Save the Children was chosen from a large number of other excellent options simply because the organization has been in Ukraine for years and is also equipped to help Ukrainian refugees in the many European countries that are accepting them.



EMPANADAS: A DELICIOUS WAY TO SUPPORT SAVE'S UKRAINE RESPONSE

Originally from Argentina, Jackie Mendive has lived in the U.S. for over 20 years. Making empanadas for her family was a way of keeping her culture alive. In Nov 2016, she made empanadas as a fundraiser for a charity in Argentina that fights infant malnutrition. She sold out and six weeks later had turned her passion into a business – Empanadas on the Go. Today, Jackie's business is thriving, selling thousands of empanadas a month.

Empanadas (dough wrapped meat, cheese or fruit pockets) are a staple in many cultures with varying names from meat pies to pasties. Jackie's empanadas are filled with her own unique recipes celebrating her Argentinian heritage. With over a dozen available types of empanadas ranging from steak to gluten-free to vegan, Empanadas on the Go offers the perfect meal, or snack, for a busy family.

Jackie's mission extends beyond keeping New York- and Connecticut-area families stocked with empanadas. She also continues to help to fight hunger in Argentina, donating a percentage of her profits to local charities and supporting a program in Buenos Aires that fights infant malnutrition.

Last month, Jackie chose a different path to doing good, donating over \$10,000 to Save the Children's Ukraine's Relief Fund. Muchas gracias Jackie!