

DONATION TO UKRAINE- PAYING IT FORWARD

My cousin, Allison Sierra and her 15- year- old daughter Bella were living and working in Kyiv, Ukraine when war broke out. The U.S. State Department immediately evacuated all non-essential Embassy personnel. Ally and her daughter were heartbroken to leave the many colleagues and friends they had found among the Ukrainian people. As the relationships continued across the miles, Ally began to put out appeals for donations for people she personally knew to be in need. From our Congregational appeal, \$5,000 was sent to Ally and in her letter of gratitude she outlined how she distributed the funds. Her words follow:

“Thank you to everyone who donated to help Ukraine. I am so touched by your kindness and grateful to have been able to pass this on to some wonderful causes. I would like to share where the money went.

First, of the \$5000, I sent \$900 to a Ukrainian contact of mine Tanya (Tetyana). She and her daughter had worked for embassy families, housekeeping work, and lost all sources of income. When the war broke out, they refused to leave Kyiv as they could not bear abandoning their pets and elderly neighbors. Tanya expressed gratitude for being able to use the donation not only for her family but to help others through baking and cooking to help feed neighbors, military, and territorial defense teams fighting the war.

I also sent \$2100 to World Central Kitchen. My friends/colleagues, Dan and Sarah, both worked with me at the Embassy and now are continuing their work in Rzeszow, Poland, on the Eastern side of Ukraine. I told them about the donation and they reached out saying that Sarah’s parents had committed to matching every donation received and they would also match the \$2100 donation! They wanted me to let you all know how grateful they are to you! Their sons are staying in California with their grandparents who have been helping them raise money for Ukraine.
<https://donate.wck.org/team/412201>

Lastly, I sent \$2000 to Direct Ukraine: <https://www.directrelief.org/emergency/ukraine-crisis/> I learned about this agency through my Embassy newsletter and trust that the funds will be put to good use. With so many thanks.....Ally”

I add my personal gratitude to the many people who made it possible to do all of the above through the Sisters of St. Dominic! Please keep Ally and Bella in your prayers as they re-locate to their new Embassy assignment in Singapore!

Marie Danaher,O.P.