

Plymouth Reaches out to Ukraine Refugees



Plymouth Church has raised to date about \$30,000 to assist Ukrainians fleeing their war-torn nation to seek refuge in nearby Poland.

The effort to raise funds continues as millions of Ukrainians have become refugees since the Russian invasion began. At home they witnessed the deaths of civilians and the destruction of homes and cities.

"We are very grateful in the name of all Ukrainian refugees for your Christian help and cooperation," said Father Witoslaw Szyk of the Parish Church of St. Louis in Katowice, Poland, in an email this week thanking Plymouth for our \$8,000 donation.

Plymouth's Cobb Family Emergency Response Fund has thus far authorized distribution of \$22,000 in funds to aid the Ukrainian refugees. Initial funds approved were \$3,000 to the International Rescue Committee, \$3,000 to Save the Children, \$8,000 to the Parish Church of St. Louis, and \$8,000 to St. Stanislaus the Martyr Cathedral in Lubaczow, Poland.



The ERF will do due diligence and evaluate how best to distribute the remaining funds and any new gifts Plymouth receives.

The Parish Church of St. Louis is coordinating distribution of sleeping bags, blankets, quilts, life wraps, hygiene products, and other vitally needed supplies. The church is also arranging for transportation and securing places to relocate refugees. In some cases, volunteers are relocating refugees from Ukraine to Spain. In addition, the church sent hemostatic tourniquets, antiseptics, dressing materials, sterile surgical gowns, pulse oximeters, urological catheters, and vents to a hospital in Ternopil, Ukraine. A second transport of medical supplies went to the same hospital.



St. Stanislaus, located near the border with Ukraine, has worked to provide transportation, food, medicine, and “everything people need to survive and live.” It’s a parish that serves as the first line of defense because of its proximity to the border. The parish priest, Andrzej Stopryra, “has undertaken humanitarian work since the beginning of the war.” He has organized a prayer tent on the border, where the

parish also organizes distribution of food and medicine.

The ERF is grateful for assistance from Michael O’Higgins, a friend of Ambassador Chuck Cobb, who reached out to the Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Ambassador Alexandra Konarska put Plymouth in touch with the above churches, both doing excellent work on the ground to aid the Ukrainians.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

By check: Members and friends of Plymouth Church may write a check to Plymouth Congregational Church and mark it for Ukraine Support. You may mail your check to the church office at 3400 Devon Rd., Miami FL 33133, or place in the Sunday offering plate.

Online: You may contribute online using the link below. Designate Ukraine Support.