



## DONATION *for* UKRAINIAN AID

### ③ HERMANAS TERCIARIAS CAPUCHINAS DE

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE WROCLAW, POLONIA · Ursula, Milena, Bożena e Alicja

Since February. 24, 4.75 million of refugees have crossed the border into Poland, mostly women and children. Some have left for other European countries, or for the United States and Canada. Others, after some time, have returned to their homes, but an estimated 3 million are here in Poland. Across Europe there are currently about 5.8 million Ukrainian refugees. Women, mothers with children, grandmothers, young girls... from one day to the next they left behind their whole lives, their husbands, fathers and brothers, all their possessions and embarked on a journey into the unknown in search of a safe place, free from bombs and violence.

Our Congregation of Capuchin Tertiary Sisters of the Holy Family, through our community in Poland, from the first moment responded to the need to give shelter and help to those who were arriving.

And so, thanks to the generosity of many people and institutions, we began to organize ourselves: first of all, we had to renew and adapt our house, creating three cozy and comfortable spaces for three Ukrainian families (the first of which had been ready since February 26, that is, since the third day of the beginning of the war). In each space there is a kitchen, a bedroom and a living room to create some privacy for the family occupying it. At different times we lived with 1 or even 4 families (at the most difficult time there were 14 people sheltering in our house, which is not very big).

When, due to lack of space, it was no longer possible to accommodate the families arriving in our house, we rented 3 apartments, taking care of paying the rent and bills for water, gas, electricity, etc. We supported the families financially, so that they would not lack basic necessities, such as food, clothes, shoes or access to the internet, that is, contact with their relatives in Ukraine and information. But we also bought furniture, washing machines, refrigerators and the necessary utensils so that they could enjoy a certain level of comfort.

At all times, we tried to bring some normality to their lives: celebrating Ukrainian and Polish holidays together, birthdays, helping with official formalities, finding jobs for their mothers and grandmothers or schools for their children... And above all, listening to their fears and sharing their pain. In total there are 8 families, with their names and personal stories, who have lived or still live in our house or in one of the rented apartments.

The generosity and trust placed in us also allowed us to help financially and with goods (medicine, powerbank, specific milk for disabled children, food, cleaning and hygiene products, creams and baby food, etc.) the institutions and people we knew who bring humanitarian aid directly to the people and areas most affected by the war in Ukraine. We supported several humanitarian transports in this way.

We also helped financially two other congregations of the Franciscan Family that have their communities in Ukraine, as their convents have become even more, if possible, a place where people and especially those fleeing the war zone, call, saying, "We heard that we can get help here." Realizing that the sisters themselves know best the concrete needs of each place, the people and the people taking refuge in their convents, we have entrusted them with a portion of the donations received and know that it has been used for food, clothing, footwear, toiletries... which are then distributed to the needy.

In addition to economic cooperation, on a daily basis we try to be attentive to the needs of the refugees in our surroundings and we cooperate as volunteers with the institutions and people who organize aid (in a center for Ukrainian children, in the reception of refugees at the train station, in a warehouse where food, toiletries and clothes for refugees arrive and are distributed free of charge).

The needs are great and we have winter ahead of us. We know that the situation with rising prices and possible lack of gas will become very difficult for many families, both Ukrainian and Polish and from many other countries.

Our help would not be so far-reaching without the cooperation and help of people, religious congregations and various institutions who have placed their trust in us by sending us their financial contribution. With utmost transparency, we make sure that the money reaches those in need.

We thank IFC-TOR for their generous contribution and thank all of you for allowing us to help!



Hermanas Terciarias Capuchinas de  
la Sagrada Familia de Wroclaw, Polonia  
Ursula, Milena, Bożena e Alicja