



HELPING UKRAINE

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

28th April 2022

Thank you all very much for your support of our efforts to help those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Your funds help those in need here in the Czech Republic and in Ukraine.

Thank you for making this possible with your support!

On the following pages, you will find a summary of current information *from parishes and churches, from Christian Aid Centres, from the facilities we operate for refugees*, as well as *the status of the fundraiser*.

■ What is happening in parishes, congregations and Christian Aid Centres

ECM parishes, congregations and Christian Aid Centres helping Ukraine — week 18 - 24 April 2022

Horní Počernice

One family (grandmother, mother and son) has been staying with Jiří Procházka (98 years old) for a month. Communication is sometimes difficult, but the coexistence works very well. The son Vanya (11 years old) has started attending the local school; he likes it – after initial fears.

The Christian Aid Centre Horní Počernice accommodates 20 refugees (mothers, children and grandmothers) from Ukraine. Most of the children are already in school and some of the women have jobs. Dominika Kružíková continues to teach Czech and her group has grown to include visitors from outside the Centre.

Petr Procházka, pastor

Tachov

Negotiations are currently underway with the organization People in Need, which would like to create a sort of a self-help club for Ukrainians in the city in our congregation's premises. There would be a possibility to meet, share advice and help, and also a playroom for children. We shall see how this

develops, depending on the interest of the refugees themselves. At the same time we have had an offer of our regular activities translated and will be expanding them. It is an opportunity for getting to know each other and integration, which is quite lacking here.

Jana Daněčková, pastor

Litoměřice

Our parish has been visited several times by a mother and daughter who come from a Pentecostal congregation in eastern Ukraine. Despite the language barrier, we were able to encourage and pray for each other.

In cooperation with Litoměřice volunteers, we also prepared a list of activities for the children and invited them to our softball club and summer camp.

We have a volunteer from the USA, Nancy Naidu, here for two months - together with her we are planning a shared afternoon Five O'Clock Tea Conversation for Litomerice residents and refugees from Ukraine.

We are preparing a shelter for an incoming family in the home of a member of our church.

Filip Jandovský, pastor

■ What is happening in our refugee facilities

The Diakonia of the Czech UMC arranges and organizes accommodation for refugees in three facilities: two church facilities - the Veselka recreation house near Vimperk and the Poušť recreation area near Bechyně, and one borrowed - the Dekonta recreational house in Vojnův Městec (staffed by the Christian Aid Center Ječmínek, Žďár nad Sázavou). Coordination is provided by the director Karel Nyerges (diakonie@umc.cz).

Diakonia UMC

Greetings to all of you, dear friends,

as you yourself can see, the situation with the inflow and outflow of people from Ukraine is changing.

What is the current occupancy of our centres? There are 15 people in Vojnovo Mesto, 21 people in Poušť and 11 people in Veselka. In the period from 5 March 2022 to 27 April 2022, we have provided assistance to a total of 59 people.

We try to help people who don't have a job find one. Some are already working and, where possible, children are attending school. There is more difficulty in getting smaller children into kindergartens, but some will go to enrolment soon and then we will see.

Children from Poušť went on a trip to the zoo in Hluboká nad Vltavou. We are trying to make their stay in the "secluded forest" more interesting.

Thanks to PilsFree, which organized a computer collection, we received 15 laptops for our residents.

The laptops have already been delivered to the facility and the families are using them for studying and also for contact with their relatives in Ukraine.

Thank you for your support!

Karel Nyerges, director of Diakonia UMC

■ Current collection status

Status as of April 28, 2022:

Czech and foreign donors have sent a total of CZK 1 773 266. CZK 523 150 has been spent.

49% of this amount went to humanitarian aid directly to Ukraine,

51% to help refugees before the war here in the Czech Republic - whether in our facilities or in parishes and Christian Aid Centres.

Thank you very much to all donors!

How we handle funds in the transparent account and donations from abroad:

- Priorities for the use of resources respond to a changing and evolving situation. Given the difficulty of forecasting, the strategy is refined at regular intervals with particular regard to the effectiveness and sustainability of our aid - also in view of the commitment we have made to the specific people in our facilities and the trust they have placed in us.
- The main priority for us now is to secure and maintain the assistance to those who have already entrusted themselves to our Diakonia, parishes and centers, and to extend and continue this assistance. We do not forget about the direct humanitarian aid going to Ukraine, where we consider it important to effectively use the synergies with our Russian-speaking UMC and our direct contacts in Ukraine as well as our knowledge of the local terrain.
- On the basis of the actual operations to date, we are in the process of quantifying the costs of operating the refugee facilities established by Diakonia. For the time being, we expect to operate these facilities for at least the next six months. Even if the war

ends immediately, the reconstruction of Ukraine and the need for refugees to stay abroad will take longer.

- With this in mind, we are also transferring a portion of the funds directly to Diakonia UMC - to an operationally earmarked account dedicated to the operation of our refugee facilities, and to enable longer-term planning and organization of this assistance.
- Diakonia UMC also tries to take advantage of all current opportunities for financial support to refugees from the state. Despite the government's media image, not everything is working as declared so far. Diakonia also tries to link our facilities with the respective municipalities and obtain their material and non-material support.
- Our churches and Christian Aid Centers respond selflessly and promptly to the need for help in their places of operation. These are also churches that find it difficult to manage a balanced budget on their own. It will therefore also be necessary to support them in their assistance to those fleeing the war in the medium and long term.
- The specific financial flows and the use of funds are currently approved by the Diakonia UMC Director together with the superintendent and the Head of the District Office. Daniela Hajčiarova (pomahame.ukrajine@umc.cz) is the contact person for collecting any requests from congregations and Christian Aid Centers for financial support within the framework of the transparent collection.
- All funds raised are earmarked for aid to Ukraine. Should an unexpected favorable situation arise and there is no further need to fund aid here in the Czech Republic or humanitarian shipments, any remaining funds would go directly to the rebuilding of Ukraine in cooperation with the Ukrainian Methodist Church.

Thank you for your trust in us to help those in need. We are trying to help as efficiently and thoughtfully as possible with a good and quick result.

For donations from abroad for our aid to Ukrainian refugees there are four ways:

- You may send your gifts through the Advance of Global Ministries, CZECH REPUBLIC IN MISSION TOGETHER (#00399A).
Go to <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/00399a/>
and click on the red DONATE NOW button.

In the box that reads "Designate Your Gift" enter that it is for Ukraine Refugees. The funds are sent through the bishop's office, and we receive the full amount because banking fees are covered by other sources. (Preferable.)

- You may use the payment gateway at our web site <http://umc.cz/>. Please select EN in the upper right corner for English, this will allow you to pay in US\$. The funds will be converted into CZK and go directly to the transparent account. (We would receive the funds quickly, but pay fees 2% of the amount to the bank.)
- You may still transfer your gifts to Czech crowns transparent account
IBAN: CZ10 2010 0000 0026 0212 9572 BIC/SWIFT: FIOBCZPPXXX
- You may still transfer your gifts to US\$ bank account dedicated to aid to Ukraine
IBAN: CZ04 2700 0000 0013 8741 5749 BIC/SWIFT: BACXCZPP

Please do not send checks to Czechia, it is extremely costly and slow to cash them here.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in helping those in need financially, by prayers, as well as with practical help and their time and energy.

Edited by Daniela Hajčiarová