



Town of Palm Beach United Way

44 Coconut Row, M201
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-655-1919

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TOWN OF PALM BEACH UNITED WAY ESTABLISHES UKRAINE REFUGEE FUND WITH HELP OF TWO MATCHING GIFTS

For Immediate Release – Friday, March 4, 2022

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919 or aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

In response to the growing humanitarian crisis in eastern Europe, the Town of Palm Beach United Way has created a fund to provide support to Ukrainian refugees affected by the Russian invasion of their country. Palm Beach residents **Bill and Phyllis Mack** and **Jeff and Nicola Marcus** have graciously offered a combined \$100,000 challenge gift to help kick start the fund. Each couple will match donations dollar-for-dollar.

“It is truly heartbreaking to watch what these women and children are going through,” said Jeff Marcus. “Wives and kids saying goodbye to their husbands and dads and leaving behind the only life they’ve ever known. Mothers walking for hours holding their babies while dragging suitcases through rain and snow. Nicola and I are touched by the determination and spirit of the Ukrainian people and we want to do our part to help these refugees as they escape the Russian invasion. We hope others will open their hearts and help us raise funds for food, medical supplies and other basic necessities.”

More than 1 million people have fled Ukraine, a number expected to increase to 4 million before the conflict is over, according to the UN Refugee Agency. Europe is facing its largest refugee crisis since World War II. The situation is devastating for Ukrainians, whose lives have been upended and whose futures are uncertain.

In accordance with the United Way mission of mobilizing the caring power of communities to support the common good, the Ukraine Refugee Fund will help address this urgent and growing humanitarian crisis. Immediate funds will be used to support World Central Kitchen and Americares. Both organizations are currently providing food, medicine, medical supplies, relief items and emergency aid to refugees fleeing Ukraine.

“The situation in Ukraine is devastating,” said Bill Mack. “Millions of people are being displaced because of the violence. It’s tragic. They need support now and will continue to need support for months and years to come. Phyllis and I encourage our Palm Beach neighbors to donate to the Town of Palm Beach United Way fund to help provide life-saving relief to those who need it most.”

As the crisis evolves, the Town of Palm Beach United Way will continue to identify additional partners on the ground to support the needs of Ukraine's displaced citizens. There is no doubt the needs will be great and will continue for some time.

To donate to the Ukraine Refugee Fund visit

<https://www.palmbeachunitedway.org/united-ukraine>. Checks will also be accepted.

Please make checks payable to Town of Palm Beach United Way with Ukrainian Refugees in the memo and mail to 44 Coconut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

Donations are tax deductible and 100% will benefit Ukrainian refugees. For more information call 561-655-1919.

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