



Town of Palm Beach United Way

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

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Palm Beach couples offer new matching gifts totaling \$150,000 for Town of Palm Beach United Way's Ukraine Refugee Fund

For Immediate Release – Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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

Three additional Palm Beach couples have graciously offered matching gifts totaling \$150,000 to help the Town of Palm Beach United Way raise money to support Ukrainian refugees. **Jim and Irene Karp, Joe and Susan Plumeri and John and Jana Scarpa** will match donations to the Ukraine Refugee Fund dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 per couple.

The Town of Palm Beach United Way has already met challenge gifts of \$50,000 from **Huckleberry Foundation, Bill and Phyllis Mack, Jeff and Nicola Marcus, and Susan and Dom Telesco**. To date, the fund totals more than \$500,000.

"Each day we watch as new horrors unfold for the Ukrainian people," said Joe and Susan Plumeri. "Millions of women, children and elderly are displaced, and numbers continue to rise dramatically. We believe it is our moral duty to help provide assistance to refugees during this rapidly evolving humanitarian crisis."

The Town of Palm Beach United Way created the Ukraine Refugee Fund on March 4 in response to the growing humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The fund will be used to supported vetted, nonpartisan organizations on the ground in Ukraine providing direct aid to refugees.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is just horrific," said Jim and Irene Karp. "The bombing of residential buildings, maternity hospitals and other public spaces is barbaric. Our hearts go out to the innocent Ukrainian people who are trapped in this nightmare. We want to do our part to support these brave refugees."

Donations to the Ukraine Refugee Fund will be used to support AmeriCares, Global Empowerment Mission, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, United Help Ukraine and World Central Kitchen. These organizations are currently providing food, medicine, medical supplies, emergency relief items, hygiene kits, transportation and other aid to refugees fleeing Ukraine. 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.

"Ukrainian refugees have lost homes, businesses, livelihoods, loved ones, and so much more, but they have not lost hope," said John and Jana Scarpa. "We are optimistic that humanitarian aid from agencies like Town of Palm Beach United Way and others around the world will continue to provide support and uplift the spirits of refugees in need. The Ukrainian people will need assistance for years to come so every contribution makes a difference."

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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ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.

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