



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 announces new matching gifts to Ukraine Refugee Fund; first \$100,000 match met within 24 hours

For Immediate Release – Wednesday, March 9, 2022

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

After initial matching gifts to the Ukraine Refugee Fund were met within 24 hours, the Town of Palm Beach United Way is grateful to announce two additional \$50,000 challenge gifts from the **Huckleberry Foundation** and Palm Beach couple **Susan and Dom Telesco**. The donors will match contributions dollar-for-dollar.

"We are shocked and angered by Putin's reckless and devastating assault on Ukraine," said Susan and Dom Telesco. "It is truly horrifying to witness this immoral atrocity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We hope our matching gift will continue the momentum as we raise much-needed funds to support the brave Ukrainian people."

The Town of Palm Beach United Way created the fund on March 4 in response to the growing humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Palm Beach couples **Bill and Phyllis Mack** and **Jeff and Nicola Marcus** each offered \$50,000 challenge gifts to help kick start the fund. The \$100,000 was matched in 24 hours.

"The giving spirit of Palm Beach is overwhelming," said **Mary Freitas**, Chairman of the Town of Palm Beach United Way Board of Trustees. "We can always count on our donors and supporters to step up in times of disaster and tragedy, and the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine has been no different. We cannot thank this community enough for their generosity."

More than 2 million Ukrainians have fled their country since Russia began its invasion on February 24, according to the U.N. refugee agency. Millions more are still trying to evacuate Ukraine as Russia continues its assault. Ukrainian and Russian officials have agreed to ceasefires to allow civilians to escape through established humanitarian corridors.

The Town of Palm Beach United Way's Ukraine Refugee Fund will be used to support vetted, nonpartisan organizations on the ground providing direct aid to refugees. 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. 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.

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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