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 21st century. We hope our matching gift will continue to influence 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 Amicares. 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 Cocoanut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

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

-end-
CLASS OF 2022
Missy Agnello
Ann-Britt Angle
Sean Baker
Howard Bernick
Cynthia Boardman
Sandra Bornstein
Jorge Cabrera
Ateh Chandra
Tasha Dickinson
David Duffy
Gail Engelberg
Brian Hurley
John Kessler
Paulette Koch
David Mack
Cara Coniglio McClure
Pamela McIver
Bill Meyer
Sydell Miller
Trip Moore
Hess Musallet
Rita Nowak
Stephanie Ribakoff
Louise Snyder
Bill Tiefel
Betsy Turner
Wally Turner
Debra Vasilopoulos
Kathryn Vecellio
Allen Wyett

CLASS OF 2023
Suzanne Ainslie
Jay Boodheshwar
Paula Butler
Mark Cook
Carla Cove
Christine Curtis
Christina Dennis
Sheila Fine
Mary Freitas
Juliana Gendelman
J. Ira Harris
Darlene Jordan
Beth Lang
Matthew Lorentzen
Danielle Moore
Tom Quick
Cater Randolph
Joyce Reingold
Christine Stiller
Jessica Surovek
Dom Telesco
Simone Vickar
Rebecca Williams
Bob Wright

CLASS OF 2024
James Borynack
Nancy Brinker
Kristen Kelly Fisher
Cynthia Friedman
George Garfunkel
Stephen Hall, Jr.
Vicky Hunt
Ellen Jaffe
Jason Kalisman
Josephine Kalisman
Roberta Kozloff
Jeff Marcus
Heidi Niblack
Daniel Ponton
Richard Rothschild
John Scarp
Laurie Silvers
Felicia Taylor
Robbi Toll
Susan Wright
Mark Zeidman

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS
Michael J. Bracci
Gail Coniglio
Patricia Cook
Diana Eccleston
Michele Kessler
Sidney Kohl
Paul Leone
Margaret Luntz
Sydelle Meyer
Anita Michaels
Lesly Smith

561 655 1919
561 655 1740
info@palmbeachunitedway.org
www.palmbeachunitedway.org
Townofpbunitedway
@PBUnitedWay
pbunitedway