



Town of Palm Beach United Way

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

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Long time donors Howard and Michele Kessler offer new matching gift for Town of Palm Beach United Way's Ukraine Refugee Fund

For Immediate Release – Monday, March 28, 2022

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

Palm Beach philanthropists **Howard and Michele Kessler** have graciously offered a new matching gift to help the Town of Palm Beach United Way continue to raise money to support Ukrainian refugees. The couple will match donations to the Ukraine Refugee Fund dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000.

The Town of Palm Beach United Way has already met challenge gifts of \$50,000 from **Huckleberry Foundation, Jim and Irene Karp, Bill and Phyllis Mack, Jeff and Nicola Marcus, Joe and Susan Plumeri, John and Jana Scarpa, and Susan and Dom Telesco**. To date, the fund totals more than \$1.6 million.

"The Ukrainian people have shown incredible resilience and have been an inspiration to the world as they fight for their country," said Michele and Howard Kessler. "But unfortunately, Putin shows no sign of ending his ruthless invasion, and thousands of Ukrainian citizens continue to flee as their neighborhoods and homes are destroyed. They will need our continued support as they rebuild their lives in the months and years to come."

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 is being used to supported vetted, nonpartisan organizations on the ground in Ukraine providing direct aid to refugees.

To date, the United Way has distributed \$700,000. Funds have helped support Americares, Global Empowerment Mission, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 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.

"We are so grateful that our donors continue to offer matching gifts to help us raise funds for Ukraine," said Board Chairman Mary Freitas. "The support from the Palm Beach community has been amazing and we are already receiving feedback from nonprofits in Ukraine about how our funding is helping make a difference in the lives of refugees."

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.

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