



Town of Palm Beach United Way

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

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## Town of Palm Beach United Way Ukraine Refugee Fund receives new matching gifts totaling \$125,000 from three Palm Beach donors

For Immediate Release – Wednesday, April 6, 2022

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

Challenge grants from three generous donors are providing another boost to the Town of Palm Beach United Way's fundraising efforts for Ukrainian refugees. **George Albrecht** will match donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000, the **Fanjul family** will also match up to \$50,000, and **Christine and Alan Curtis** will match donations up to \$25,000. All three matching donors hope their pledges will encourage friends and neighbors to continue contributing to the United Way's fund.

The Ukraine Refugee Fund, launched on March 4, totals \$1.8 million. Matching gifts from **Huckleberry Foundation, Jim and Irene Karp, Howard and Michele Kessler, Bill and Phyllis Mack, Jeff and Nicola Marcus, Joe and Susan Plumeri, John and Jana Scarpa, and Susan and Dom Telesco** have already been met.

"My family and I feel tremendous compassion for the millions of innocent Ukrainians who have been forced to flee from their homes to escape the brutality of this unnecessary war," said Pepe Fanjul, Jr., Executive Vice President of Florida Crystals Corporation, speaking on behalf of the Fanjul family. "The horrific scenes unfolding each day as millions of families seek safety in neighboring countries has felt extremely personal to my family. We are hopeful that our support of these relief efforts will ensure food, medical supplies, transportation and shelter can be provided to help during this heartbreaking humanitarian crisis."

The Town of Palm Beach United Way has so far distributed \$1 million from the fund to five nonprofits providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine refugees. World Central Kitchen and Americares have each received \$300,000, Global Empowerment Mission has received \$200,000 and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and St. Jude Global Alliance each received \$100,000.

St. Jude Global Alliance – a worldwide initiative of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital – is the most recent charity added to the list of beneficiaries. St. Jude's team is helping evacuate Ukraine children battling cancer to hospitals and clinics that can help them continue their treatment. To date, the agency has assisted over 700 children and families with transport to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the U.S. and treatment centers throughout Europe and Canada.

"Those fleeing Ukraine are mostly women and children," said Christine Curtis. "For refugees in need of medical care, the situation is especially terrifying. We are committed to helping these brave families find safety and treatment beyond the reach of Russian brutality."

The Town of Palm Beach United Way's other fund beneficiaries are providing food, water, medicine, medical supplies, hygiene items, financial assistance, transportation, and other emergency aid to Ukrainian refugees.

"Thousands of aid workers are working around the clock and risking their own lives to transport people to safety," said Albrecht. "They're sacrificing their safety because they couldn't sit by and do nothing. When I saw there was an opportunity to make a significant impact through a matching gift to the Town of Palm Beach United Way's fund, I was called to action, as I hope others will be."

To donate to the Ukraine Refugee Fund visit [www.palmbeachunitedway.org/united-ukraine](http://www.palmbeachunitedway.org/united-ukraine). 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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**ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.**

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