

July 22nd, 2022

Hello and a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the Boxcar Foundation Inc. to all our supporters.

We have returned from our trip to Poland to aid in the Ukrainian refugee crisis and your contributions to the Boxcar Foundation have made a world of difference. We want to share with you what we saw and felt and how we will be allocating the generous funds we were able to collect.

For the first two days we met with private individuals who were providing shelter for refugees. These locations were recommended by our guide, Tomasz Cebulski, who was indispensable to our trip. We did several shopping trips to purchase the specific needs for these shelters. We purchased food, toiletries, and everyday essentials as well as kids swimming pools, bubbles, soccer balls and other needs that were requested for the specific places. Our van and shopping carts were overflowing, and they were met with much appreciation.

We had many meetings with NGOs and most impressive is the JCC, Krakow. They are a key provider of services, a strategic partner that has already helped over eighty thousand Ukrainians over the last four months. They headquarter in Krakow on the Ukrainian side of the Ukraine-Poland border and inside Ukraine, and do not differentiate between Jews and non-Jews when providing support. They have an amazing and efficient infrastructure, and we will be directing financial resources to them. They have agreed that all the initiatives we are participating in go directly to the programs on the ground with no administrative fee charged.

Here are some of the initiatives we will be participating in:

- A 7-day a week distribution point for food, medicine, hygienic supplies, toys and clothing and 400 free meals a day that are used by 600+ Ukrainians daily.
- A mother and child safe space that provides day care for 25 young children and 20 Polish and English classes a week for their mothers, as well as psychological counseling and job training in a warm and cozy environment.
- Closet of Good distribution center, the largest center of its type in southern Poland, having distributed 400,000 items of clothing to 80,000 Ukrainians.
- 12 full time psychologists who provided 1400 hours a month of therapy in 5 locations in Krakow
- An Evangelical Christian organization that brings supplies into Lviv for distribution across Ukraine and brings people out to Poland. They have also created the only NGO help station on the Ukrainian side of the Korczowa border crossing, providing food, medical care and sanitary supplies.
- Transport for Ukrainians who are traveling onward via Poland to other countries in Europe, US and Israel.
- Sending truckloads of supplies to other refugee centers in Krakow, to the border, and to numerous other points, including hospitals inside Ukraine. After the Russian attack in Bucha, 16 semi-trailers trucks full of food were sent there.
- Housing for 380 Ukrainians in hotel rooms and apartments in Krakow and an entire residential estate outside of Krakow that houses 70 Ukrainians as well as social services. We are expecting 45 orphans from Ukraine in the next few weeks.
- An LGBTQ+ friendly hostel that also serves all refugees from Ukraine.
- Food to 80 Ukrainian Roma refugees.

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It is difficult to convey how it feels to connect to the coordinators and the refugees themselves. There was a warmth and a heart-to-heart feeling in helping other human beings in need that is moving, and it affects one in a very profound way that compels you to help.

With over 3 million refugees displaced we made a small dent, but it made a difference to those we were able to reach. The need is great, as even if their basic needs are met of food, medicine and shelter they still need to adjust to a new life and the reality of living with the uncertainty of their loved ones in danger and providing for the future of their children, thank you for your support and let us continue with this effort. **If you are moved to do so, please pass this worthy endeavor on to your friends and family.**

**<http://boxcarfoundation.org/> where you can follow our amazing journey and donate via PAYPAL or CREDIT CARDS.**

**Mail checks to:  
The Boxcar Foundation Inc.  
4201 Lake Cook Rd #100  
Northbrook il 60062**

**For donating stocks and bonds:  
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101-02300 THE BOXCAR REFUGEE FUND.**

A very special thanks to the women of Collier Resource Center and the Bonita Quilters who so lovingly made the handmade quilts. They are so beautiful and were appreciated by all.

And to all the children and teachers who sent cards with messages; and to my granddaughter, Samantha Fiutak for lovingly placing a friendship bracelet into each card! It brought tears to their eyes more than once. I also want to acknowledge my 10 year old grandson, Drew, who set up a lemonade stand and donated all his proceeds – (\$335 in one day, not bad, eh?) to the refugee children.

To Darrin Commerford, who took photographs, not just for us but for the refugees. He took portraits for all the refugees who wanted them and then sent them back to the centers for their personal use. He personally connected with the refugees and their children, interacting with them in the most beautiful way. Their pictures were always taken only with their permission.

To my sister Margie Commerford, who with her amazing ability to connect and make those in her presence feel comfortable, a special Thanks. We watched in awe as you made the most anguished refugees forget their troubles just for a moment to chat normally and feel hopeful about their situation.

Thank You again to all of you.

Thank You,

*Jack Nortman*

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