As the Ukrainian conflict moves into another month, The Salvation Army strives to embrace all people and treat them with dignity believing no one should be defined by their challenges or circumstances. In doing so, programs and facilities have pivoted to provide food, clothes, blankets, and emotional and spiritual care to refugees across the countries of Eastern Europe. As of April 6, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports 7.1 million Ukrainians are internally displaced and 4.3 million refugees have fled the country. UNICEF reports 2.5 million of the internally displaced are children.

As The Salvation Army seeks to continue to find ways of sheltering refugees, access was granted to an unused community college in Norway. Here they operate one of the largest refugee emergency accommodation centers offering housing, food, and health services for up to 700 people while providing activities for children, and primary and elementary school teaching. In Moldova, The Salvation Army’s Eastern European Territorial headquarters is making room to shelter Ukrainian refugees. An officer reports, “We have 7 families sheltered within our own headquarters, providing private rooms, kitchen and laundry facilities, emotional and spiritual care, and programs and activities for kids.”

Supporting the safe passage for refugees has been a high concern for The Salvation Army. As part of the Anti-Human Trafficking network, the Eastern European Territory has developed posters and flyers in different languages to be used in all locations that will equip refugees with knowledge and guidance to make safer transitions during this crucial time. A young family with a newborn child (born March 2, 2022) crossed the Romanian border at Siret where they were received by Salvation Army emergency volunteers who guided them to a minibus that would take them to safety in Italy.

As a family arrived at a Salvation Army shelter in Poland, the officer noticed that the husband was American and tried to find items in the donated food that would remind him of the United States. The husband said to the officer, “Oh, I’m so happy to be in The Salvation Army. It feels like home here.” One simple act can be all it takes to fill people with dignity and hope.
Netherlands
The Salvation Army is providing medical and social service care to Ukrainian refugees being housed on a cruise ship in Rotterdam.

Georgia
The Salvation Army is providing food parcels, hygiene supplies, clothes, blankets and other assistance in Batumi and Tbilisi.

Greece
A recently launched project, The Meeting Point, seeks to assist people who have fled the horrendous conflict and aims to provide practical and essential material needs, assistance and advice in order to provide a pathway for meaningful integration.

Hungary
Countless volunteers are providing assistance for more than 500,000 refugees that have crossed the border into Hungary.

Switzerland
In Bern, The Salvation Army operates a civil protection facility for 500 people in addition to the existing refugee shelters.

Romania
The Salvation Army in Romania is providing referrals, information regarding employment, education for children and supermarket vouchers to refugees. As of April 7th, 3,054 vouchers have been distributed to 1,889 families.

Ukraine
While the number of people leaving Ukraine has reduced and many are looking to return home, local Salvation Army centers continue to provide safe places for refugees and displaced persons to find rest and a warm meal. The extended need for support by responders has prompted the implementation of “care for the carers” to ensure officers and volunteers are supported as they continue to serve.

Lithuania
Lithuania has seen an uptick in Ukrainian families applying for essential items. The Salvation Army in Klaipeda and Vilnius helps with food and hygiene articles, bedding, supermarket vouchers and clothing vouchers for Salvation Army second-hand shop.

Moldova
The Salvation Army continues to provide clothing, food, laundry services, and emotional & spiritual care. In addition to community rooms and an outdoor playground, a classroom program has been created for Russian-speaking children to continue their education.

Scan the QR code or visit SAWSO.org for updates.

Email us for more information:
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