



HELPING UKRAINE

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

11th March 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, dear friends,

Thank you all very much for your support of our efforts to help those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Your funds are helping those in need here in the Czech Republic and also in Ukraine.

Thank you for making this possible! Please find below a summary of updates from *parishes and congregations, Christian Aid Centers, the facilities we operate for refugees, and the status of collections* – CZK transparent account and USD account.

■ What is happening in parishes and congregations

ECM parishes and congregations helping Ukraine — week 7 - 13 March 2022

PRAGUE UMCs

A team of volunteers from Prague congregations led by Jan Harbáček cooperates with the Russian Speaking UMC Prague – Agapé. Three members of the church drive a van on Thursdays. They take turns in driving. Their journey takes them through Slovakia and Hungary, still on the highways, to the Hungarian-Ukrainian border, where they hand over the shipment of food and hygiene products. This is the fastest route, as the highways go almost to the border. So far, the shipments are going through the Ukraine to the distant region of Kharkiv.

The food and other products are collected from the announced collection; part of the shipment is bought. One shipment costs about 20-25 thousand Czech crowns. The purchases of these shipments is paid in full from the collection (the transparent account). Please promote it. We approach suppliers to see if they would give us any discounts as part of their projects to help Ukraine.

Mikulov

- As of last week we have 6 Ukrainians here (2 older women, two boys and two girls 16-22).
- Of these, three stay in two families (they are relatives) and three stay in a family home that was vacated last month by a family of a church member (due to the death of a parent).

- We want to financially support the living costs of those living in the vacant family home. (These days we are quantifying and looking for sources outside our parish.)
- Their youth attend our youth group, all attend worship services. They are professing Christians.
- Other family "convoy" is in a serious decision-making phase. In all likelihood, there will be other people arriving.
 - We consider offering accommodation in the Valtice parsonage, but there is no sufficient heating. We think of replacing the old boiler and insulating the roof.
 - We also have an offer to accommodate somebody on a large farm in the apartment of the father of other members of the parish.
- Other accommodation options for people outside of our families are in our church facilities, but they are emergency options, should the need arise.

Litoměřice

- We are involved among the volunteers in Litoměřice, where we coordinate practical assistance to the newcomers (housing – so far covered by the city, charity, diakony and individuals, material items are collected continuously for the needs of the refugees and some are sent to Ukraine).
- We offered our Maternity Center for moms to meet and babysit their children
- When it gets too difficult to accommodate, we are ready to take one family to our modest rooms in the attics of the church.
- In Jablonné the possibility of accommodation in our church house is registered on the central site. We contacted the town - help is coordinated directly by the mayor, who will contact us when there is a need for accommodation.

Protivín

- We are ready to open our church house for Ukrainian children and mothers in Protivín. They will be under the supervision and teaching of a retired teacher. So far, it is 10 children and several mothers.
- Miluše Šálková and her team care for the camp site Poušť, where women (5) with children (10) are currently staying.

Plzeň – Lochotín

- Members of Plzeň - Lochotín and Horšovský Týn took part in the fundraiser announced by the Czech UMC on Sunday, 27 February.
- On Sunday, 6 March, another collection took place, this time for Michalovce UMC (help for seven young Africans who fled the war from Ukraine and found a home in Michalovce, Slovakia).

- We also help individually (mainly by financial donations to the account set up by ECM and to other reliable organizations).

Praha – Strašnice

- We registered on the official accommodation website and already had one family from Odessa staying with us.
- We are involved in the food collection of Prague UMCs.
- Two families from the congregation are ready to accommodate someone. They have registered on the official website.

Tachov

Together with the local authorities, we are collecting material aid in our church. Much of it will be used here in Tachov, because Ukrainian families are coming and asking for help. The city is arranging emergency accommodation, but it still needs to be furnished.

Praha – Horní Počernice

- We participate in the collection announced by the Czech UMC.
- A member of the congregation will accommodate a Ukrainian family (of 7) arriving from Slovakia on Saturday morning.
- We are considering cooperation with the Christian Aid Center in Horní Počernice – preparation of a programme for Ukrainian children staying there.

■ What is happening in Christian Aid Centres

The Christian Aid Center helping Ukraine — week 7 - 13 March 2022

Christian Aid Center Jihlava

- Director David Chlupáček participates in task groups, meetings at the level of the city of Jihlava.
- We shall provide services in a building with capacity for 30 refugees.
- In cooperation with the Food Bank, we organize a collection point and a distribution point for food and material aid.
- We informally cooperate with the Jihlava congregation of the Orthodox Church, where there is the first buffer accommodation for refugees. So far we have arranged housing for three families, one of them in an apartment in our parsonage. (A mother and her three children.)

- In the next few days, one apartment should become available outside the shelter, and we are considering its use for Ukrainian refugees - optimally for a mother and child.

Christian Aid Center Žďár nad Sázavou

In cooperation with the town and Diakonia UMC, we have taken over the coordination and preparation for accommodation of refugees in the Dekonta (a company) holiday home in Vojnův Městec.

Christian Aid Center Praha – Horní Počernice

More than a week ago we accommodated one family from Lviv (two mothers, sisters and 4 boys together with their grandmother), who eventually moved to another apartment after a few days.

Currently we have 6 children and 7 adults in the shelter from Ukraine. One couple from Zaporozhye near Kharkov, the father cannot fight, he does not have a leg. They came together with their daughter.

Another larger family with five children; plus women alone. They all come from Kiev and are Russian-speaking. We are working with the local authorities, who have provided regular hot meals from the local school canteen.

■ What is happening in our refugee facilities

The Diakony of the Czech UMC arranges and organizes accommodation for refugees in three facilities: two church facilities - the Veselka recreation house near Vimperk and the Poušť recreation area near Bechyně, and one borrowed - the Dekonty recreational house in Vojnův Městec (staffed by the Christian Aid Centre Ječmínek, Žďár nad Sázavou). Coordination is provided by the director Karel Nyerges.

The final intended total capacity of all three buildings is approximately 100 beds. All of these facilities require staffing and cooperation with the local government; a doctor, interpreter, and crisis intervention are always available. The preparation of the facilities is only possible through the dedicated work of local church members and professionals who are willing to give up their free time for this cause. The cooperation with the food bank in České Budějovice is also a great help.

The situation and availability changes every day in all places.

Some of the needy stay longer, others continue on.

A total of 32 people - 16 of them children - have benefited from this assistance so far. The youngest of them is eight months old.

■ Current collection status

The transparent bank account

In order to provide the above-mentioned aid, we are collecting funds on the transparent account "We help Ukraine" - 2602129572/2010.

You may see the bank account here <https://ib.fio.cz/ib/transparent?a=2602129572>

How the funds are used: the UMC Diakony director and the superintendent set the priorities for use.

Funds will be transferred to the local churches and Christian Aid Centres, which will directly manage the operation of these facilities. Also, funds are spent on purchases of needed supplies. If UMCs or Centers need help with their care for refugees, they can ask UMC Diakony for support from the collection by emailing blanka.simkova@umc.cz.

The funds will be handled in such a way as to ensure the most effective assistance to all those in need. They will be spent on an ongoing basis - we expect that the crisis situation and assistance to those in need will be needed over an extended period of time.

*Status as of 11 March 2022: As of the opening date of 24 February 2022 for the account total of CZK **310,527** has been received, CZK **50,000** has been spent so far (repeated food aid directly to Ukraine in cooperation with the Russian-speaking congregation Prague – Agapé; plus necessary equipment of Veselka site), the current balance is CZK **260,527**.*

Thank you very much to all donors!

Donations from abroad

Our big thanks also go to our international donors!

Through the Bishop's Office of our Central Conference, our USD account is currently receiving the amount of \$**5,440** from foreign Methodist congregations and individuals.

There are three routes for possible donations from abroad for our aid to Ukrainian refugees:

- You may send your gifts through the Advance of Global Ministries, CZECH REPUBLIC IN MISSION TOGETHER (#00399A).
Go to <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/00399a/>
and click on the red DONATE NOW button.
In the box that reads "Designate Your Gift" enter that it is for Ukraine Refugees.
In order to speed up the process, the bishop's office in Zurich can, if necessary, advance donations for this purpose once they show up in the system (Gift Tracking part of the Global Ministries' website).
- You may transfer your gifts to Czech crowns transparent account
IBAN: CZ10 2010 0000 0026 0212 9572 BIC/SWIFT: FIOBCZPPXXX
Details
Number of the bank account: 2602129572 / 2010
Name of the bank account: Evangelická církev metodistická
Address of the owner: Evangelická církev metodistická
 Ječná 545/19, 120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic
Address of the Bank: Fio banka, a.s., Millennium Plaza, V Celnici 10,
 117 21 Praha 1, Czech Republic.
- You may transfer your gifts to US\$ bank account dedicated exclusively to aid to Ukraine
IBAN: CZ04 2700 0000 0013 8741 5749 BIC/SWIFT: BACXCZPP
Details
Number of the bank account: 1387415749/2700
Address of the owner: see above
Address of the bank: UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia, a.s.
 Želetavská 1525/1, 140 92 Praha 4, Czech Republic

Thank you to everyone who is involved in helping those in need financially, by prayers, as well as with practical help and their time and energy.

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' (Mat 25:37-40)