

The Humanity Funds

Kyiv, April 2023

Trip Report April 2-9, 2023/Kyiv

The Humanity Funds (THF) Team visited Kyiv in follow-up to a visit in May-June 2022. The purpose was to assess the **impact and compliance** of programs funded following the 2022 visit, assess current needs and, perhaps most importantly, check on the well-being of our leaders on the ground. What follows is a highly distilled set of takeaways from our extensive meetings.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The visit achieved its objectives. We were pleased by the impact of our programs and were able to assess new requirements and the public mood. Overall morale remains high, possibly a little more cautious as people await the results of the much-discussed spring counteroffensive. The setbacks in Bakhmut are not seen as setbacks but rather as a demonstration of Ukrainian toughness in the face of an overwhelming and costly Russian effort. In Kyiv itself, the war seems distant. Russian attacks on the infrastructure have stopped, at least for now. The Ukrainians proved surprisingly adept at repairing infrastructure damage as fast as it was occurring which may have convinced Russia that the effort was not worth the cost in missiles that might otherwise be used on the battlefield. Underlying the normalcy is an understanding that all this could change at any time.

The normalcy has brought about a change in priorities, from survival to repair, repair of infrastructure to be sure, but more importantly, repair of the country's human capital, its wounded soldiers, its traumatized children, its destroyed families, and its shattered or, at least compromised, dreams. We, at The Humanity Funds, will continue to do what we can to ensure survival but will shift our priorities to help with the process of repair. That is what our new programs will be all about.

Meeting with Member of Parliament Roman Gryshyk

We met at one of the Heating and Community Points (HCP) funded by THF. Gryshyk praised THF for its support and the close working relationship he enjoyed with our non-profit. He was particularly pleased with THF funded HCP1 which had been the model for additional Heating and Community Points in Kyiv and had been widely covered in the international press. He hoped for further THF work with Soloma Cats, a charity he has sponsored.

Meeting with the Ukrainian Charity *Saloma Cats*

- The **three Heating and Community Points** funded by THF were praised for the support they provided Kyiv after Russian attacks on the electrical grid. We are satisfied by the quality of the work put into them. Each of the three HCPs has a heavy-duty generator and a power station, fuel supplies, StarLink connections, etc. And, they all are in residential

areas of Kyiv. One HCP is at a music school and another is currently being used, in non-emergency periods, by a **theater group** running a play on teenagers and their experiences during the infamous Russian attack on Bucha. We were so impressed by the theater's work that we decided to include the group as a special funding project. See: [THEATER](#). We agreed that the utility of the HCPs for providing heat was about over, at least until next winter. They are now being used by students (see picture of student at a HCP), for classes, and as neighborhood centers for events and meetings. We are delighted by the creative and continued use of these facilities and the broad acceptance and ownership by the local community.



- We reviewed the **Demining Program** which consists of community prevention training, particularly for children, and the assembly and distribution of kits used by the “sapeurs” who actually carry out the demining. THF has not provided the level of support for this program that we had originally envisioned, and we want to do more in 2023 and beyond, particularly in light of our 2023 emphasis on children. We agreed to focus on providing US manufactured specialized tools sought by the sapeurs.
- **Medical trauma kits** continue to be in high demand. Some components, particularly US military grade tourniquets, are in short supply. THF recently supplied boxes of these tourniquets, and more are needed.
- Soloma Cats took us to a 700 square meter community **bomb shelter** with dirt floors and crumbling plaster on the walls. In its current state it is unhealthy for all. The City of Kyiv has put up \$50,000 to meet half of the \$100,000 renovation cost. Soloma Cats is hopeful we will contribute part of the balance.



Visit to Ukraine's largest Children's Hospital in Ukraine: "Ohmatdyt" in Kyiv

The THF team met with the General Director, Vladimir Zhovnir, of the Hospital, toured the premature births ward and talked to the staff about their needs. We asked for a comprehensive



list of urgent needs, still pending. The hospital is an old facility built in 1893; it has 720 beds and serves over 270 000 children annually. It is serviced by a kitchen that appears to have been part of the original construction, in bad need of updating. This is a project for which the hospital would like to involve The Humanity Funds.

Visit to Ukraine's Main Military Medical Hospital in Kyiv: "Central Clinical Hospital" in Kyiv

The THF team met with the Head of the Orthopedic department and his deputy. They both came from private practice and now serve seriously wounded soldiers transferred from other hospitals at the front lines. The orthopedic ward we toured was caring for soldiers wounded by Russian artillery in Bakhmut. The hospital is in serious need of support. THF, together with the Radzych family of Mercer Island, raised funds for a mobile X-ray machine for the hospital at the end of March. We are still \$8000 short of the funds needed. We will try to raise the remainder in the next few weeks.



As they put it, "help us see". The hospital provided us with a detailed list of medical items needed (See: [CRITICAL NEEDS](#)).

Meeting with Ukrainian Charity Save Ukraine

The THF team met with the Head of the organization, Mykola Kuleba, and his team. This charity has taken the lead in trying to rescue children kidnapped by Russian Forces.



It has led five dramatic rescue missions to Russia, the latest occurring during our stay. Parents of newly occupied areas of South Ukraine were told their children were being taken to a relaxing summer camp in Crimea when, in fact they were spirited off to Russia where, in some cases, identities were changed and they were moved to more remote areas of Russia. Save Ukraine has ingeniously tracked some of the estimated 190,000 children (the real number may be much higher) and has helped mothers go to Russia to retrieve their children with mixed but overall positive results. The organization takes responsibility for the care of returned children and is in desperate need of funding for their rescue missions as well as for temporary housing and community centers for these families.

Dinner Meeting with the Head of the Human Rights Department of the National Police

THF's first partner in Ukraine, the National Police, handled the distribution of small **generators** to war widows and families who had suffered traumatic experiences in the war. The program was a joint effort of the Human Rights Department headed by Ruslan Goriachenko. He praised the effort that made it possible for at least some families to survive the winter in better condition. Now that spring was underway, he saw no need for more generators, at least for now, but he stressed, as he has always done, the need for therapy for the children traumatized by the war. We reviewed our program for a summer therapy camp this coming summer. Although the camp will be run by *Voices of Children* we have required that at least ten of the spaces be made available for the children of fallen police officers.

Meeting with the Ukrainian Charity *Voices of Children*

Voices of Children is a Ukrainian non-profit with which THF is working with to manage a **summer therapeutic camp for the children of first responders** killed or badly wounded in the line of duty. This charity specializes in therapy for children. Its founders created the Oscar nominated movie "A House Made of Splinters". The THF sponsored camp will be for up to fifty children at a cost of around \$1500 a child. We have raised funds for 30 of the 50. We reviewed plans and discussed dates. One of the Co-Directors of *Voices of Children* also raised the plight of kidnapped children. He recounted the tale of an orphanage director who hid children in private homes at great peril to himself, to avoid the orphans being taken to Russia.



Meeting with The American University of Kyiv

The THF team met with the Dean and Deputy Director of the fledgling American School in Kyiv at the behest of the *Ukraine House* of Sacramento.



The School was founded days before the February 2022 Russian invasion and had to adapt teaching methods and programs during this time of war. They are about to complete the renovation of an impressive riverfront building and are rebuilding their faculty. They are looking for scholarship sponsors for their Ukrainian students. Tuition is \$8000 a year. It is an impressive effort in the face of daunting conditions
