Ukraine Children's Action Project (UCAP)

On the ground, hands on, transparent

Visit our Website

Massive Russian attacks on Lviv - two days before we arrive



Greetings!

As I write this, just within the past 24 hours, Russian drones struck two kindergartens in Ukraine. One, in a suburb of Kyiv, was hit in the middle of the night. The second school, located in downtown Kharkiv, was actually attacked in the middle of the school day. Miraculously, the thirty preschoolers in class at the time of the attack all survived. That's because as soon as the air raid siren sounded, quick-acting teachers rushed the children to an underground shelter. The children were terrified; some crying, some frozen in fear. But they all survived.

Two weeks ago, we were in Lviv to celebrate the opening of six new state-of-the-art

children's operating rooms at St. Nikolas Children's Hospital and visit with a number of other programs supporting kids, all made possible by you and other UCAP donors. How inspiring it was for us to be with our Ukrainian friends and to talk with children at the Kids' Club built by UCAP and at a digital learning center that we'll be supporting soon.

But Ukraine is still a country at war, invaded by an unrelenting adversary that occupies nearly 20% of its territory and is trying to topple a democratically elected government that happens to be an ally of the United States.

And so I suppose it was not surprising that we arrived in Lviv just two days after the city was hit by the largest air attack since the full-scale invasion. The incoming onslaught was estimated at 500 drones and dozens of ballistic missiles. Most were shot down or disabled before they could do damage, but quite a few hit their targets in residential neighborhoods and at energy infrastructure sites. I asked to see what exactly had been hit and was appalled by what I was shown. I saw suburban neighborhoods where entire families were killed or injured and a chapel with a massive hole in its roof. I saw the door to a shelter that was blown off its hinges - and a bomb crater in a children's playground.

But the resilience of Ukrainians and the vibrancy of their culture never fails to impress. One of these days our report to you will bring news of a ceasefire, a pathway to a permanent end to the conflict. And when that happens we'll see a day when Ukraine's children can attend schools where their biggest worry is the next quiz - not the chilling sound of air raid sirens.

Donate

UCAP Funds Digital Learning Centers on the Frontline





UCAP has just funded **3 Digital Learning Centers (DLCs)** in the largest cities of the frontline region of Odessa - which is among the top five regions with the highest number of attacks on educational facilities. These centers were equipped by UNICEF but lost funding for operations due to US budget cuts. So UCAP stepped in with support.

The scale of destruction in the region, the high prevalence of remote learning, and the displacement of children strongly warrant the need to continue safe and modern DLCs in the region.

The centers (all with shelters) are vital for supplementing the lack of face-to-face instruction in this region and providing access to technology, psychosocial support, certified teachers and safe spaces for students and educators.

Six New Pediatric Operating Rooms Open in Lviv!



A highlight of our visit to Ukraine was the opening of a new state-of-the-art surgical unit at St Nicholas Children's Hospital in Lviv.

The new surgical unit consists of **six modern operating rooms: robotic, cardiac surgery, transplantation, neurosurgery, burn, and general-purpose**. It is equipped with an independent power supply from solar panels installed on the hospital roof, as well as a special ventilation system that ensures the highest level of safety for children during operations.

The new facilities will greatly expand the capacities of St. Nicholas Hospital, where the workload has tripled since the beginning of the full-scale war. The additional six operating rooms will increase the number of annual procedures from 12,000 to 21,000, ensuring that every young patient receives timely and adequate surgical care.

UCAP was the founding partner for the project and brought in Kids Operating Rooms (KidsOR) to develop and complete the installation of six new solar-powered pediatric operating rooms at St. Nicholas Children’s Hospital.

More Photos Here

A visit to UCAP's Kids Club





We are always inspired by a visit to the**Kids Club that UCAP built** so children could have a safe place to learn and grow. With pre-school during the mornings and afterschool courses in art, history and English, it is a place of simple childhood joy, learning and socialization. Even during a war. By the way, this would be the first place we'd want you to see when you come to visit Ukraine. The Kids' Club wouldn't exist without UCAP's supporters.

Irwin Shares Ukraine Report on MSNBC



Meet the Children

Svyatoslav (8 yo) & Platon (6 yo) from Donetsk, Ukraine



Sorokina (mother): At the Recovery Camp, my two sons and I went through a huge journey of transformation that changed our lives forever. After the full-scale invasion began, the loss of my home, the internal displacement, I felt like my life had stopped...

Read More

Thank you, as always, for your continued support for the children of Ukraine. UCAP's on-going presence brings hope and assistance to so many families - because of you!

With gratitude,
Irwin and Karen

Other Ways to Give

2024 UCAP Report

***After 3.5 years of operation, we want to share that our administrative overhead is just 14%. The respected Charity Navigator considers anything under 25% worthy of it's highest rating!**

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Thank You

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