

Dear Friends from St. Colette Church and all who engaged in helping Ukrainian refugees,

We would like to express gratitude and appreciation on behalf of Ukrainian families who came to our city (Chorzow, Poland) seeking shelter for their children and themselves. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for clothes, shoes, hygienic supplies, diapers, and bedding. It was a huge help, especially for the first wave of refugees who came in great numbers in a short time. Most of them came to Chorzow with one carry-on bag or sometimes just with a plastic bag, ID documents, and the clothing they were wearing. Mothers were holding children in their arms because strollers did not fit in the train full of people running away from war.

We cordially thank you for all the monetary help we have received from you. It helped to repurpose the Polish Red Cross (PCK) building which was used as a nursing home until the pandemic came. Then it was closed temporarily but never regain its function.

Thanks to your generosity in a short time, we were able to purchase new bedding, kitchen appliances, cleaning supplies, and such small but important things as window and door knobs that we needed to replace to make that building a new home for refugees. We did everything we could to make that building feel safe and home-like for women with children and some elderly people with severe health issues who live with us too.

We also used the money we received from you to help Ukrainian refugees to buy necessary medicine, corrective lenses, and hearing aid. In addition, we bought some toys and simple outdoor equipment such as soccer and basketballs, jumping ropes, and badminton rackets so children and teenagers have something to do in their free time. Thanks to you we were able to purchase school supplies, gym uniforms, and school shoes for all the children who were able to continue their education in local schools. It was our priority to have the children get into schools so they can reestablish their regular routines and social interactions. We focused on creating a new "regular" life, especially for children who experienced unbelievable trauma. Daily time at school helped them to refocus and new friendships at school worked like therapy for them.

Some of the money we have received from you we used to organize in collaboration with the Polish Red Cross (PCK) a Family Fest at the end of May. In Slavic culture, Mother's Day (May 26th) and Children's Day (June 1st) comes always big celebrations. Children got some toys and an outdoor party while the mothers got small gifts of Instant Coffee and a big chocolate bar (their favorite) and a coffee hour in the backyard. They got very emotional because they got cards with a thank-you note for their effort, determination, and courage while leaving Ukraine to save their children from all the danger that war brought to their country.

Again, we want to say a big THANK YOU for your open hearts, minds, and generosity. Because of you, we were able to organize help and a new home for the Ukrainian refugees. You helped us to provide them with better living conditions and much-needed safety.

Yours Faithfully,

Social Workers engaged in helping Ukrainian refugees in Chorzow