

## FFWPU USA: Giving Tuesday - Feeding Blessed Families in Ukraine

Naokimi Ushiroda  
November 28, 2022



*Photo courtesy of UPF Ukraine*

This [Giving Tuesday](#), November 29, you can celebrate the holiday season with the gift of giving. While there are numerous ways to spread blessings and cheer this season, it's especially meaningful to help those in need. You can support the latest campaign to help feed blessed families in Ukraine this winter.

Maria Makarova, a Ukrainian Unificationist and member of the Manhattan Family Church, recently launched a fundraiser on behalf of UPF Ukraine for families in her war-torn homeland. With support from Rev. Miilhan Stephens, Manhattan Family Church pastor, the [GoFundMe page](#) has raised more than \$7,000 of its \$43,500 goal in just a few weeks. Makarova notes with winter weather now here, those affected by the ongoing war will need to stock up on food and water to provide for their families.

"The war in Ukraine rages on and families are suffering the most," she notes on the fundraiser page. "It's not much, but we want to at least make sure our blessed families can make it through the winter. All of them had to flee their homes and abandon their livelihoods. Despite these hardships, they continue to fundraise, witness, and run workshops to keep their spirits up."

Anna Kalmatskaya, national leader of Ukraine, further detailed the situation of Unificationists in the community in a recent report. She said some members were sent to the western part of the country in advance of the war, while others, mainly women and children, were evacuated to the west of Ukraine and abroad. With some 203 members departing the country as refugees, Kalmatskaya said another 109 people remained, 81 of which were displaced from their homes. "Nine brothers went to war, [and] one of them is wounded," she reported. "Eight brothers are still on the front line."

Despite such trials, members have persevered and banded together through volunteering, helping Ukraine's army, and preparing supplies such as firewood and fuel for the community. Kalmatskaya reported two families are staying together in the city of Vinnitsa, 22 members are in Lviv, and 43 people - 27 adults and 16 children - have come together in a small village outside of Lviv. "[They are] staying as one community," she reported. "Living, working, cooking, eating together, farming, [and] practicing community life."

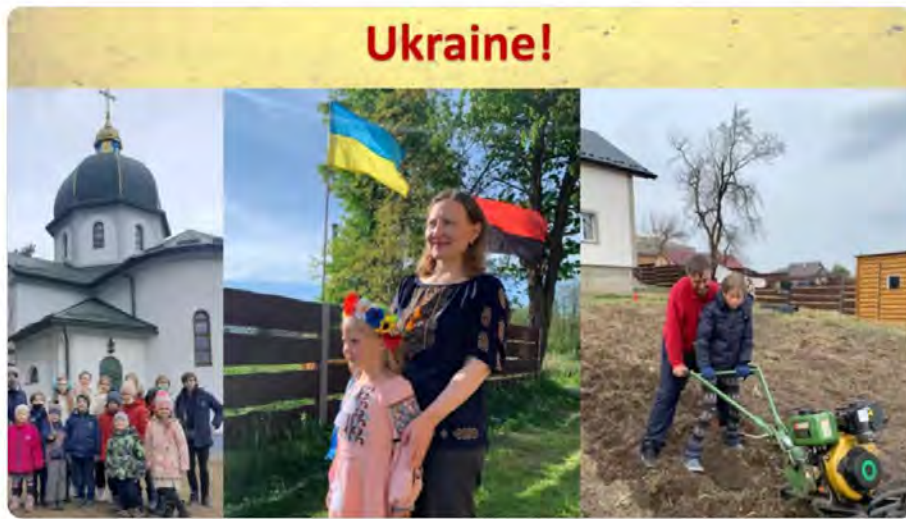
Families have even initiated fundraisers with homemade donuts, giving 20 percent of the proceeds to support Ukraine's army. Witnessing activities have also resumed, including online lectures, an actionizing program, 7-day Divine Principle workshops, and hiking excursions with guests. Although daily life for some has changed dramatically with rural living, Kalmatskaya reported that members have become more united as they connect with their new community through volunteering at a goat farm, helping neighbors with haymaking, and weaving nets for the army.

Still, the war in Ukraine has caused a huge problem of crop failure, which brings the threat of famine and a potential humanitarian crisis. "Ukraine is already facing severe shortages of staples and skyrocketing prices," reported Kalmatskaya. "Presumably, the situation will worsen much in winter. To prepare for this, we need to stock up on basic products for our community that stays in Ukraine."

Fundraiser organizers said basic products - including salt, sugar, rice, buckwheat, pasta, oatmeal, flour, sunflower oil, canned meat, and fish - will cost approximately \$43,500 for 100 people over the next three months of winter. "Any amount that is given is greatly appreciated," noted Makarova, who also encouraged support through prayers.

*You can donate to feed blessed families in Ukraine [here](#). Donations collected through a similar campaign organized by the DMV (DC-Maryland-Virginia) community also benefit Unificationists in Ukraine.*

# To stock up food for families in Ukraine



## Ukraine!

\$8,696 raised of \$43,500 goal

49 donations

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Donate now

Maria Young \$300 · 6 hrs

Mehrdad Mizani \$100 · 6 hrs

Jack Ashworth \$200 · 7 hrs

KI KIM \$300 · 8 hrs

Lynn Criner \$300 · 8 hrs

See all

See top donations

Mariya Makarova is organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Universal PeaceFederation.

Dear Family,

The War in Ukraine rages on and families are suffering the most. It's not much, but we want to at least make sure our Blessed Families can make it through the winter. All of them had to flee their homes and abandon their livelihoods. Despite these hardships, they continue to fundraise, witness, and run workshops to keep their spirits up. I hope you'll take a minute to at least read the report below from the Ukrainian national leader, Anna Kalmatskaya. If you can donate anything at all it will be greatly appreciated.

For the latest updates, you can also view the donation page set up by our Maryland Family Community. <https://www.givesendgo.com/G2U1G> All donations are going to same place.

Blessings to you and your family this holiday season!

Pastor Miilhan Stephens  
Pastor of Manhattan Family Church

Maria Makarova  
Ukranian member of our Manhattan Family Church  
New Hope Holy Community for Post-Soviet Countries

Report from Anna Kalmatskaya, national leader of Ukraine.



### Ukrainian members situation after the war outbreak:

Preparing for the possible war, we sent some members to the western part of Ukraine in advance. Those who remained in Kyiv, since the beginning of the war, were in our premises, mainly in the basement, due to constant shelling and bombing. A week later, we evacuated mainly women and children to the west of Ukraine and abroad.



### Ukrainian members situation after the war outbreak:

Two Blessed families were staying in the occupied Bucha for 14 days, miraculously escaping through a humanitarian corridor that was constantly blocked by Russian troops.



- 203 members went abroad and became refugees.
- 109 people are staying in Ukraine. 81 of them had to leave their houses and became internally displaced.
- 9 brothers went to war. One of them was wounded.  
8 brothers are still on the front-line.



Volunteering, helping the army, preparing supplies of firewood and fuel for our community for the winter.



Two families are staying together in Vinnitsa. One family had a baby two days before the war. Another family had a baby during the war. (Three second generation children for now were born during the war).



- 22 people are staying in Lviv City.
- 43 people are staying together in a small village in Lviv region, renting two wooden houses. We are 27 adults and 16 children, staying as one community.



Living, working, cooking, eating together, farming, practicing community life.



Doing FR with self-baked donuts. 20% of the result is given to support Ukraine's army.



Doing witnessing activity: online lectures, working with actionizers who come to stay with us, holding 7-days DP workshop for two guests, hiking challenge with guests.



Activity for second generation: 14-days actionizing program for children of 13+.



Volunteering: helping local center for the Internally displaced people that serves 3000 IDPs, volunteering at the goat farm, helping neighbors with haymaking.



Daily life during the war: waiting out the air raid in a bomb shelter, weaving nets for the army at the local school.



The war in Ukraine has caused a huge problem of crop failure. This threatens potential famine and a huge humanitarian crisis. Ukraine is already facing severe shortages of staples and skyrocketing prices. Presumably, the situation will worsen much in winter. To prepare for this, we need to stock up on basic products for our community that stays in Ukraine.

A set of basic products for one person for one month:  
**145\$** (salt, sugar, rice, buckwheat, pasta, oatmeal, flour, sunflower oil, canned meat and fish)

For 100 people for three winter months: **43 500\$**.

**Thank you and with love from Ukraine!**



Donate

Share

## Organizer and beneficiary



**Mariya Makarova**  
Organizer  
Staten Island, NY



**Universal PeaceFederation**  
Beneficiary

Contact

## Words of support (1)

Please donate to share words of support.



**Mineko Christian**  
\$100 • 1 d

Keep up the good spirit!! People in Ukraine are always in our prayers.

Created August 6, 2022 • [Community](#)

Report fundraiser

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