

KNIGHTS CORNER

March 27, 2022

In the early morning hours of March 1, a truck filled with more than \$60,000 worth of humanitarian aid collected by Knights of Columbus in Poland made its way to Lviv in western Ukraine. As part of an Order-wide effort to provide relief to those displaced by the Russian invasion, Polish Knights have also established “mercy huts” at the border to provide food, water and warmth for refugees, as well as a housing network for those arriving to Poland.

The supplies delivered to Ukraine — including medicine, generators, sleeping bags, warm clothing and other necessities — were collected by K of C councils throughout Poland and brought to regional sites before departing for Lviv on Feb. 28. Local Knights in Ukraine received the delivery and coordinated with an “Anti-Crisis Committee,” established by the Archdiocese of Lviv, to distribute the much-needed supplies. Leaders of the Knights of Columbus in Ukraine are currently serving on the committee.

The Polish Knights’ initiative coincides with the Supreme Council’s commitment to provide immediate aid in support of Ukrainian refugees and displaced families. To facilitate relief efforts, the Knights of Columbus has been working with the Latin and Greek Catholic Churches in Ukraine and with dioceses and councils in Poland. It has also partnered with Caritas Poland — a wing of the international Catholic charitable organization working on behalf of the Polish Bishops’ conference.

In the days since the initial delivery, Polish Knights have assembled supplies for additional truckloads, while a number of smaller shipments have been delivered to Lviv. Through this initiative, Knights in Poland hope to be a bridge between those who want to help and those who need it most.

Prior to the invasion, Knights in Poland anticipated a request from the Polish Bishops’ Conference, creating a database of housing sites and parish centers for the impending influx of refugees. Many Polish Knights have personally volunteered to host Ukrainian families. Supporting the Knights of Columbus Ukraine Solidarity Fund will provide temporary shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing, communications and religious supplies. These items will all be immediately distributed, and 100% of your gift will go directly to these displaced people. You can donate online at kofc.org/secure/en/donate/ukraine.html

As an alternative, you can send your donation to one of the parish offices and our local Council 2084 will make sure the money goes to the Ukraine Solidarity Fund. If you have any questions, please contact Grand Knight Mike Karpus at gk2084@mikofc.org or 616-225-9419.



St. Charles Council #2084