Media Kit

Contents

About

Fact Sheet

Co-Founder Bios

Media Assets for Download

commonmanforukraine.org
Common Man for Ukraine
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Common Man for Ukraine
71 Main Street
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commonmanforukraine.org
501c3 EIN: 59-3841932

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About

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022, four friends with a long history of service to their community in New Hampshire could not look away. Without a clear path to help the orphans and child refugees seen daily in footage from the front lines, they created one.

To learn firsthand how to provide effective, timely, and critical aid, Common Man for Ukraine's four co-founders first visited their Rotary Club partners in Poland and Ukraine in April 2022. On the ground, they discovered specific needs, developed trustworthy relationships on the ground, and established reliable supply and delivery chains.

Their focus quickly centered on the plight of the Ukrainian orphans, children, and families whose lives were overturned by this war.

Starting with a $500 donation from their local Rotary Club, Common Man for Ukraine (then titled New Hampshire for Ukraine Relief Fund) set out to raise $1 million to match the $1 million donation from co-founder Alex Ray.

New Hampshire, the region, and the country responded enthusiastically to help the organization raise and deliver $2.7 million so far – funding the delivery of more than 800 tons of food, hundreds of generators, 10,00 sleeping bags, and a bloodmobile on the war's front lines, as well as making a 3-year commitment to fund a trauma counseling center for refugee children and funding for a happy holiday retreat and counseling experience for children orphaned by the war. Other projects included upgrades and repairs to refugee centers, safe houses, and orphanages in Poland and Ukraine.

In October 2022, the group returned to the sites and projects receiving funding to verify that all the funds were accomplishing the intended goals.

In December 2022, the four co-founders made their third relief trip to the region as part of Common Man for Ukraine's 30-truck Christmas Convoy that delivered another 18 tons of food, sleeping bags, generators, and presents to 1,300 orphans across 21 orphanages in western Ukraine.

On the war's anniversary in February 2023, the co-founders again crossed into war-torn Ukraine to lead a 12-truck convoy delivering 22 tons of food to 14 orphanages and a senior center.

Yet, as the war continues, so does the need. Common Man for Ukraine's next fundraising goal is $10 million. As the organization's co-founders regularly say: There's more good to do.

Common Man for Ukraine is a special initiative of the certified 501c3 nonprofit Plymouth Rotary Foundation, EIN 59-3841932. By partnering with Rotarians abroad, Common Man for Ukraine maximizes impact and ensures all donations are delivered as intended to Ukrainian orphans, children, and families in need. Now, the nonprofit feeds a Ukrainian child of war for an entire month with $44.

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Since Russia's 2022 invasion, Common Man for Ukraine:

- Raised and distributed $2.7 million to impacted Ukrainians in Ukraine and Poland
- Received donations of all sizes from approximately 3,000 individuals
- Delivered more than 800 tons of food to Ukrainian orphanages
- Commissioned a bloodmobile stationed on the war's front lines in eastern Ukraine
- Established, staffed, and funded a trauma counseling center for Ukrainian children seeking refuge in Poland
- Delivered thousands of sleeping bags and generators to help Ukrainians survive the bitter winter weather without heat

During the December 2022 Christmas Convoy, Common Man for Ukraine's 30-truck convoy from Zomasc, Poland, to western Ukraine delivered:

- Christmas packages to 1,300 orphans across 21 orphanages outside Lviv and Rivne, Ukraine
- 18 tons of food expected to last 40 days
- 1,000 sleeping bags & 24 generators

In 2023, Common Man for Ukraine:

- Led a convoy on the war's Feb. 24 anniversary that delivered 22 tons of food, generators, sleeping bags, solar lanterns and more supplies to 14 orphanages and a senior center
- Seeks to reach $10 million raised and distributed to Ukrainian orphans, children, and families in need

Donations:

- Online donations can be made at our website: commonmanforukraine.org
- Checks may be mailed to: Common Man for Ukraine, 71 Main St., Plymouth, NH 03264

Social Media:

- Find us @commonmanforukraine on Instagram and Facebook

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Co-Founder Bios

Gov. John Lynch — Co-Founder, Common Man for Ukraine

John Lynch served four terms as governor of New Hampshire from 2005 to 2013, a tenure marked by bipartisan outreach and results-oriented leadership. Earlier, Gov. Lynch led the successful turnaround of national furniture manufacturer Knoll Inc. as CEO, served as Director of Admissions at Harvard Business School, and as President of The Lynch Group. Currently, Gov. Lynch teaches at Harvard Business School and proudly stands as a co-founder of Common Man for Ukraine.

Susan Mathison — Co-Founder, Common Man for Ukraine

Susan Mathison focuses on creating a better world as an environmentalist and a humanitarian. She spent 30 years at the USDA Forest Service working as a Forester in Vermont, Oregon, and New Hampshire. A passionate advocate, she serves as the President of Pemi-Valley Habitat for Humanity. Inspired by the camaraderie gained from teamwork, Susan has rowed competitively for decades and continues to coach. She is a mother to two grown sons, a dahlia aficionado, and has called NH home for 20 years.

Alex Ray — Co-Founder, Common Man for Ukraine

Alex Ray created The Common Man Family of Restaurants in 1973 and built it into an award-winning hospitality empire dedicated to "doing more good." Providing meals and caring for others in his 18 restaurants, inns, and roadside service stations serves as a mere appetizer to the care he provides in his relief and humanitarian efforts. Alex has volunteered in New York City at Ground Zero, New Orleans after Katrina, Haiti and Honduras post-earthquake, and Puerto Rico after the hurricane. The Common Man for Ukraine mission serving orphans, children and families is his largest volunteer mission.

Steve Rand — Co-Founder, Common Man for Ukraine

Steve Rand exemplifies service above self. He manages Rand's Hardware, a 110-year-old family business in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Steve served as an officer in the U.S. Army and more recently as a representative in the State Legislature. He has also held several leadership roles within the local Rotary Chapter, providing leadership throughout the community. In addition to co-founding Common Man for Ukraine, Steve operates as treasurer for the 501c3.

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Lisa Mure — Co-Founder, Common Man for Ukraine

Lisa Mure, M.Ed., is a public health consultant who works regionally and nationally to improve behavioral health care. Lisa has served on several non-profit boards that support education, behavioral health, and affordable housing. Justice is a common theme in her work, particularly for those facing hardships. Lisa's passion for Ukraine came from reading the news and feeling the weight of another unjust war. Traveling to Lviv and Rivne, hearing the refugees' stories, and experiencing the conditions galvanized her commitment to aiding Ukrainians.

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Media Assets for Download

High-res logo files: Download here

Visual/Audio Assets – February 2023 War Anniversary Convoy: Download here

Visual/Audio Assets – December 2022 Christmas Convoy: Download here

Orphanage B-roll 1.mp4

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Visual/Audio Assets – Previous 2022 Relief Trips: Download here

Co-founders Lisa Mure, Alex Ray, Steve Rand, and Susan Mathison (left to right)

Download here

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