



THE MASTER'S FOUNDATION

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May 2024

Dear Ministry Partner,

Greetings dear friend! At the heart of Masters Foundation during this very difficult time for Ukraine, is the vulnerable element of society – families. Children and mothers are experiencing anxiety, distress and coping with great losses.

This is the time of year that our partners are making plans for summer camps and programs that will help to take the focus away from the current war time realities and give children a chance to relax, refocus, be encouraged, and participate in programs that let them know they are very special. We want to assist as many of these camps as possible.

You will read the testimonies of parents who attended such a program in April. Despite the cold weather, the experiences of the children are I wish I could publish all the details of their gratitude, but I trust you will sense the delight, and renewed energy. Unfortunately, this group of children will be returning to a very volatile environment as the aggressor has intensified its shelling in this area.

The “Children of Victory” continues to supply spring outfits to the children of families who have lost a parent. The Art Therapy classes continue to serve as a blessing to children in the northeast of Ukraine.

As you read this newsletter, we ask for your prayers. We also want to let you know that our needs going forward to complete our ministry needs for the year 2024 are approximately \$100,000.

We are so grateful for your support both prayerfully and financially. God bless you!

Gene Clarke – President



THE MASTER'S FOUNDATION

SPRING 2024

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BRINGING HOPE, LIFE & SALVATION

THE YOUNG GENERATION IS OUR FOCUS!

The war in Ukraine rages on! Despite the air raid sirens, attacks and destruction, life goes on for the people. Children attempt to go to school, people work, families gather for meals ... everyday activities continue as much as possible.

YET the long-lasting effects of war are very evident in the wonderful people of Ukraine. Trauma, PTSD, anxiety, depression wreak havoc in the everyday lives of people.

Master's Foundation wants to make a difference in people's lives affected by the war. Our desire is to break through the trauma of war and bring encouragement and healing. We want to bring hope and joy to as many as possible.

John F. Kennedy said, *"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."* For the remainder of 2024, our focus at Master's is to pour into the children and youth of Ukraine. It is the best hope for their future.

This summer, camps for kids will be more important than ever. A week away from "war" and all that it brings can be a life changer for a child, and for a teenager. Having time in nature, away from the sounds and sights of war, hearing the message that God loves them and has a future for them, will bring light to their darkness.

Art therapy programs are also needed



to soothe the fear and anxiety from war. This therapy also helps with sleeplessness and night terrors that so many children are experiencing daily. It can also change the fear-based thinking that plagues so many children and youth that come from the war zone.

Each year, Master's Foundation is providing scholarships for students at L'viv Theological Seminary. For many of the students, finances are very tight. And with the war, funds are even more scarce for them. Without Master's help, these students would not be attending seminary and being trained for ministry. We want to continue to invest in as many future leaders as possible.

WHAT IT COSTS!

Summer Camp costs ~ \$50 CDN to send a child to camp!

Art Therapy costs ~ \$200 CND for a ten-week session of therapy for a child!

L'viv Seminary Scholarship costs \$1,000.00 CDN for tuition and living expense for one student!

Would you prayerfully consider how you can help us invest in the future of Ukraine? Would you prayerfully consider what you can do to pour life and hope to a child and teenager of Ukraine?

Together we can help make a difference that will last for eternity! – Karen (board member)

CHILDREN SPEND A WEEK IN THE CARPATHIAN

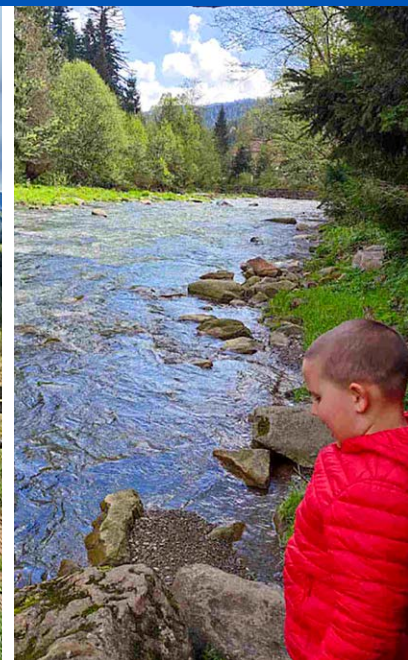
HERE ARE SOME TESTIMONIES RECEIVED FROM FAMILIES IN UKRAINE.

In April MF helped sponsor this trip for families of autistic children. "This morning, we all woke up to the singing of birds and could admire the diamond tints of spruces covered with snow under the sun's rays. After a delicious breakfast, the children and their parents went for a walk and enjoyed nature and got acquainted with the local flavor. For most children and mothers, this is the only opportunity to go to a quiet, pleasant place, away from sirens, shelling, and explosions, which, unfortunately, is the everyday reality of our region."

"As a mother of a child with special needs (autism), it is always difficult for me to travel, but when teachers know children, they can successfully combine all their needs which helps a lot in a new place. The opportunity to see something new and interesting encourages the development of new impressions in the children. During this week, there were a lot of difficult things in the behavior of the little one, but on the last day I heard a whole sentence from him (this is rare): **"I am happy, I am very happy!" Thanks!!**"

"It so happened that while raising a child with a disability, due to the wartime stressful situation in the country, I myself fell ill. Having gone with my daughter to the charming cozy Carpathians, I began to recover, my sleep improved, my appetite improved. Together, we overcame many fears - it was an incredible experience! we enjoyed walking in the fresh air in the forests and near mountain rivers and were able to improve our health, for which we are very grateful!"

"For our family, this trip is extremely important, even more so for me. My son grew up with severe autism. It is very difficult to live only on the social assistance we receive from the state and traveling was out of the question. The offer from the CF was like a breath of fresh air in the literal and figurative sense. This week, D walked more than in the whole of the previous year,



as he has a lot of autistic protest habits, and it is impossible to redirect him to something else. And at the same time, he became much calmer. For me, this is a big reboot against the background of the events that we have gone through over the past few months.

"During this trip, our special daughter (Down syndrome) and I breathed calmly, laughed and rejoiced, and even **"forgot" about the war**. So many very vivid emotions, joy and a wonderful rest. We even climbed a huge mountain. I take with me to K new strength, good mood, and my "reset".

"D has autism. The biggest fear that we had shared was when we climbed Mount B on the lift. I was worried about Dima's behaviour at height. But curiosity won. Dima's reaction was very changeable. At first, he seemed to freeze and did not move, then he began to fidget a little, and then I heard his **exciting laughter**. But the real delight of Dima was caused by



MOUNTAINS



The Children of Victory project which began last fall has carried into the spring of 2024

mountain rivers and waterfalls. It was impossible to calmly take him away from the water. It is so beautiful that a rivulet flows near the base. We went there every day, enjoyed its beauty and soothing noise.”

“More than a year since my beloved husband died in the war. There is pain in the soul, memories. I was looking for any opportunity to somehow distract my daughters from sadness and memories of their father. Therefore, the trip to the Carpathians provided an opportunity to leave home, where everything reminds me of my husband. We gladly accepted the offer and set off on a journey. It's as if I'm in another world for a week.”

“My son M is growing up without a father, I am constantly working to provide him with everything he needs, so we do not have money for travel. And the offer from the CF was very timely. I was very tired physically and mentally from constant worries and fears for the child and from hard work. I didn't imagine that our country was so beautiful. I enjoyed every minute, breathing in the clean mountain air and thanking the Lord for the incredible gift. We are very grateful!”

“My son (severe form of epilepsy) has been waiting for this trip for a long time, counting the days, making lists. Every day we admired the beauty of rushing rivers and mountain streams, snow-capped tops of spruces and sun-drenched meadows. We are very pleased with our trip, the emotions received, communication with nature and animals. We thank the Lord that He created such incredible greatness and beauty.”

In March our contact reported: “I will be sending more sleeping bags to the Kharkiv region. It is under constant bombardment and for over a week there has been no electricity or heat, save a few hours a day. The enemy intentionally destroyed the largest Hydro Station in the Kharkiv region.”

Our partner in prison ministry reports: “We are so excited that

God's word has such power that it can change the minds and hearts of people – even those that the law has incarcerated. We can see changes in women's character and their behavior (which the administration testifies to). God has given us the opportunity to go into these prisons, we are organizing events. The 'beauty salon' will happen again before Easter. At times like these, the women become more open, and these moments bring us closer together and we can share. We are constantly bringing medicine, glasses, shoes, and some groceries. The minors need tablets to study online (high school).”



The Art Therapy classes are vital to these traumatized children

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This ministry partner invests much in children and youth and the training of leaders: *"Thanks be to the Lord; we understand the time in which we live. God blesses all efforts and now touches people's hearts in a special way. We invest a lot of our time and resources in working with teenagers and young people. We believe that we will see good results."*

MF funded this well: *"We have a well with enough water. We need to install a big filter because there are some things in the water which are not ok to use. It is good clean water, but it is very hard and contains some minerals which are unhealthy. We have plans to install filters. We need this well. It is important in war time when it is no electricity like now when Russians destroyed a lot of our electric stations."*

From a publisher who prints some of the books we translated in the past: *"We live in a very difficult time. Only one positive thing that I can see in this war is that people became closer to God. Because He is the only hope that we have. You cannot rely any more on yourself, country or anything else, only on God."*

REFLECTIONS ON TRAVEL: A few months back I had the opportunity to travel to Ukraine and spend some valuable time with our many partners in various parts of the country. This was my 5th trip back to this part of the world since the war began.

During my first few trips I witnessed a people full of hope and willing to do whatever it takes to support their country during this time of war. I was extremely pleased to see how our partners have been reaching out in many ways to help people traumatized and devastated by this war.



Together with our Ukrainian partners and your help, Masters Foundation has been able to provide food and housing to displaced people fleeing from hot war zones. We have also provided sleeping bags and wood stoves for warmth, hot meals for the hungry, and warm clothing for children whose parent was lost or injured fighting in the war. During every ministry opportunity, the hope of the gospel was shared with everyone in need.

But, on this last trip, I found that the mood this time was very different. Everywhere we travelled we heard sirens warning of possible incoming missiles and drones. People weren't as optimistic of the future and something I noticed with our partners is that they were getting weary. But despite all these obstacles, the work continues.

We did a last-minute outreach in the city of S, not far from the Russian border. We promised those that came a food parcel at the end of the short outreach service. Expecting a response of 50 to 100 people, close to 400 came out to the service. Of those over 100 gave their lives to the Lord during the altar call. People are not only in need of material help but more than ever they are recognizing that their hope is not in man for getting through this difficult time but more importantly, in God.

I ask that you continue pray for our partners in Ukraine. Today the needs are greater than ever, both financially and spiritually. Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support. Without your continued support none of this would be possible.
– Walt (ministry liaison)



To our US partners, please note that you can donate to MF through <https://friendsgc.com/the-masters-foundation/>