

2022



New Beginnings

SAFE HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Greetings from the Genesis House

It has been a whole month since we came home. Undoubtedly, as many people say: "East or West – home is best". Everything is so usual to us here. We are happy to be home.



Genesis House Family back home

Nevertheless, we are very thankful to your team for the help you provided us during the evacuation. And hardly any words can express how grateful we are for the shelter and support we received from people in the Czech Republic. The summer is here, and so we are not bored. We have plenty of things to do since the winter is coming. The Lord blessed us with great crops this year, especially fruits. We picked a lot of cherries, apricots and plums. We are making jams out of them and drying them. Every day we pray and hope that Ukraine will withstand these hard times and we will be able to continue living at our

home, on our land. We are now getting ready for school. It will most likely be online classes. The children have recently had medical checks. There is a place in our village where we can volunteer to provide some help to our Armoured Forces. We went there several times to help with making masking nets since we wanted to be somehow helpful to the army. As Ukrainians, we are tremendously grateful to the United Kingdom for all the support you provide us. And, as dwellers of the Genesis House, we are thankful for your constant help. We pray to the Lord for you.



Dear Friends & Supporters

This year has certainly tested the resources of New Beginnings. The war in Ukraine was a shock to the world when Russia invaded in February. Since then we have watched in horror the devastation that Russia has inflicted on its civilian population. We also have been full of admiration for the way the Ukrainian people have defended their country and especially how President Zelensky has inspired his people and led from the front.

The war saw thousands of women and children leaving Ukraine to safety in Poland and other European countries. Our own foster family fled to Poland and then was helped by a New Beginnings supporter Ben Barden who took them to the Czech Republic and oversaw their accommodation and welfare. Our foster family has now returned to the Kyiv region as it seems relatively safe at the moment.

As you all know, the United Kingdom offered to take Ukrainian refugees and New Beginnings decided to help as many mothers and children as possible to come to Cumbria for safety. We have been very encouraged with messages of support from local people, financial donations and pledges of available accommodation for the refugees. The next step was to apply for visas to enter the country. Unfortunately, this process was so complex that many prospective host families and refugees seeking shelter just gave up. Fortunately our trustee Andrey Donskyy's wife Olesya was not daunted. As a Russian and Ukrainian language speaker she was a crucial link between refugees and UK hosts and spent hours and hours helping families to negotiate their applications successfully.

As a result, we have been able to welcome a number of families, found them places to stay and made them feel welcome and safe. This involved preparing and furnishing available accommodation kindly offered by our supporters, arranging flights and airport transfers, providing 'welcome packs' on arrival and so on. On arrival we provided them with food and other essential items such as SIM cards, broadband, helped them with applications for schools, GPs, Bank Accounts, arranged for English Lessons etc. All this involved a lot of hard work and would be impossible without our supporters. It is great to see those forced to flee the horrors of war now safe in our county and supporting each other. Here is some feedback from Ukrainians:



New Beginnings Members with meeting some of the Ukrainian families

Yuliia

We are happy to be here in Kendal. The most important thing for us is that our kids are in a safe place. They don't have to hide in the shelter after each air raid siren, they are not afraid of hearing airplanes, they can play outside, they can go to school. We got a lot of support from members of New Beginnings, they are our family here. Whatever you ask.... Whenever you ask... They are ready to help. We hope one day we will show to all our British friends our beautiful Ukraine.

Maria

When we arrived at Kendal we didn't know anyone, it was hard at first but it became easier. We met a lot of other Ukrainians through charity New Beginnings, A big Thanks to the Mhairi family that organizes a lot of activities for us and supports us. And Thanks to all people from New Beginnings who are trying their best to help us settle down in Kendal.

Marichka

I'm still settling in. I've started work part time. The work is interesting and I like my co-workers. I live in a very quiet and beautiful area. I can sleep at night without an air raid siren, I stopped panic when I could hear noise from the airplane. Now I can listen to bird songs in the morning and enjoy the sunset in the evening. But I am still worrying about my friends and relatives in Ukraine. First

I met all Ukrainians here in an international cafe at Parr Street Church. Afterwards, we have regular meetings in Outside In. Thanks Mhairi, Jone, Dolores for the organisation. Thank you for the English lessons that we started with Mhairi in the park and continued with professional teacher Alison. Mhairi. I am grateful to all the people who helped me in this long journey of mine and continue to help now.

Vira

England, like Poland for us, is a country to which we fled from the war! England is a very wonderful, picturesque and very hospitable country! It so happened that when we flew to England, we could no longer go to our sponsor. Thanks to the Lord, and "New Beginnings Charity" – we are here now! They did the impossible – in just one day they found a house and prepared it for us! They also provide us bicycles, clothes and everything we need! We thank the UK government and the county of Cumbria for all the privileges and financial support! Thanks to Kirkbie Kendal School for providing free lunches, help with things from well-wishers and a good reception for my children! Special attention was paid to my daughter at Heron Hill Primary School – every day she brought home packages with gifts, which everyone generously tried to give her, and businessman Gareth Parry, together with his wife, gave her an electronic tablet! I also thank the Lord for the sensitive employees of the Job Centre, who are always ready to help, and for the best neighbours in the world, who are always there and ready to support! I especially want to mention Mhairi Helme – member of the "New Beginning" charity, an ethnic Ukrainian woman who tries to help everyone she can, She organizes Outside-In meetings, picnics, activities for children, a trip to a football match in Liverpool, and even helps to book plane tickets! We simply have no words to express our gratitude for this!

Olga

This year is so volatile and stressful for Ukrainian people. Our life was very nice and peaceful before the 24th of February. In one morning everything changed. On the third day of war we had to flee. My daughter and I have made a big trip during this time. Now my life becomes better and better with every day. I'm very thankful to the family that sheltered us at first. But I have also met another family here "New beginning". We would like to thank them for helping us in the times of need. When our family was facing the toughest times they were close to us. We are very blessed to meet so many friends here. They are wonderful. We are glad that the Lord brought them into our life! With deepest gratitude and warmest wishes.



Oksana and two little daughters Sofiyka (10 years old) and Anna (4 years old) left their home in Kherson on the day the war began, February 24. They woke up at 5 in the morning from terrible explosions and a large number of helicopters dropping shells on the ground. They did not understand at all what to do, where to run, it seemed to them that it was not real, that it was not the reality of the 21st century. Oksana tells: "I remember that my hands and feet went numb, my oldest child started vomiting out of fear, so that nothing I did would help. It was very loud, the apartment building shook as if it was made of wood and was about to collapse. At some point, it was impossible to bear it and we grabbed the children and ran out of the apartment in whatever we were in and went without knowing where."

Now our family is in Kyiv. We were welcomed by good people, they gave us clothes, food, a room, and local doctors provided us with medical care, because we were all sick. I pray to the Almighty God every day and thank him for life, for the people whom the Lord sends to us. Every morning I wake up and ask God to save our city, my mother, who stayed behind in Kherson, all the people, children, our defenders, Ukraine.

I believe with all my heart that good will definitely defeat this evil. We really want to go home and hope that we will have somewhere to return to. The day will come and our country will again see a peaceful sky!"

New Beginnings was fortunate in getting to know Mhairi Helme, a local veterinary and councillor. She can only be described as a human dynamo – Mhairi worked with New Beginnings to settle our Ukrainian families and integrate them into the community. She arranged English lessons funded by New Beginnings, trips out to the Lakes and sports classes for the children – the list is endless and she is now a valued member of New Beginnings.

As you can see we are busy helping the refugees in UK, however our work in Ukraine carries on. Our main responsibility is the welfare of the Genesis House family but Pastor Ivan – our Ukrainian Trustee and his team are also helping in the hospitals, getting food and medicines to the housebound and supporting displaced Ukrainians who have fled to Kyiv from the worst affected areas. Many escaped in the clothes they were wearing and New Beginnings is supporting them with a monthly donation to buy food, clothes etc. We are fortunate that we are able to get monies into Kyiv to support these families.

We, at New Beginnings were pleased to help Burton Church of England school to build an outdoor prayer centre which was felt would help both staff and pupils have a quiet place after the effects of Covid which is still felt by both teachers and pupils.

Letter from Burton School Head Teacher

Dear Pat,

I am writing to wholeheartedly thank you and 'New Beginnings' for the financial support to fund our new outdoor reflection area.

As a Church of England School, whilst all classrooms have a quiet space for reflection and contemplation our outdoors are often busier and faster paced. Our new reflection area allows for a quiet space outside, making the most of our wonderful surroundings, for our children and staff to reflect, relax and, if they wish, offer prayer.

This new addition provides an invaluable space to help both reflection and mental wellbeing. Without the kind donation from 'New Beginnings' this facility would have taken much longer to fund raise for and install

On behalf of myself, children and staff, a huge thank you!

I attach some photos for your interest and hope, once we are able to arrange it, that you may be able to attend and formally open the space for us.

With the very best of wishes,

*Richard Wilson
Head Teacher*



Outdoor Reflection Area

Please Support our Work

Visit our website to find out how you can help:

www.newbeginningscharity.org.uk

Or donate through our JustGiving:

www.justgiving.com/newbeginnings-safehomes

Thanks

New Beginnings has to thank the many individuals, churches, schools and organisations who have supported us in our efforts to help Ukraine at this disastrous time. If I named everyone we would need a much bigger newsletter.

You can read more about our work on our website. Please continue to support our charity and I would like to reassure you that every penny donated will be spent to help the families here and in Ukraine as we have done for the past twenty-one years. I would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to all our regular supporters who have been on this journey with us all over the years.

God bless you and keep helping us to continue this work.

Pat.

Trustees:

Pat Harrison MBE, Paul Smith, Andrey Donsky, Alexander Donskoy, Ivan Bespalov, David Miles, Graham Dawson

Patrons:

The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC, The Hon. Mr Justice Turner, Martin Bell OBE, RT Rev James Newcombe Lord Bishop of Carlisle
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