



# Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

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## Amazing Results from the Ukrainian Refugee Support!

Over the months since the start of the war in Ukraine, we have all been blown away by the generosity of our CARITAS family who have donated to the fund for the Little Servant Sisters serving the refugees. The funds raised have exceeded our initial expectations and have enabled the Sisters to provide so much support to the Ukrainian people.

**Thanks to your incredibly generous assistance, we have raised \$98,031 to help the efforts of the Sisters in Poland and Ukraine!** The Sisters are so grateful for the support they have received. Our friend Sr. Philomena tells us that the funds are being “distributed to our Sisters in their works of mercy for the local people, refugees, and injured soldiers in Russian-invaded Ukraine, and also for the all-around welcome to the refugee mothers with their children and some elderly and sick persons at our various religious houses in Poland, in our

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**FOLLOW US HERE TO SEE WHAT OUR KIDS ARE UP TO!**



*The Sisters welcome a refugee family.*

four Provinces of Przemysl, Krakow, Tarnow, and Lodz. Our Sisters in the USA have already sent some 400 parcels with adult and children's needs, first-aid items, and medicines, plus the necessary funds, which are much appreciated in the cause of the devastated needy. We pray that there may be peace in Ukraine and in all human hearts."

**We are now so close to reaching our goal of raising \$100,000 for these vital relief efforts.** We are confident that our CARITAS Family will get us over the finish line and help us share God's love in a tangible way with the suffering people of Ukraine.

If you would like to help us reach our goal of aid to the Sisters, please click here to donate, and may God bless you for your love and support.

[HELP THE UKRAINIAN  
REFUGEES NOW](#)

## CARITAS Friends Lend a Hand

In addition to monetary support, we were all blessed by the example of some CARITAS friends who decided they needed to do more than give financially. Vicky Hack and her daughters Nyomi and Vanessa, and Patrick Barton, a father of three, traveled to Poland to volunteer with the Sisters and do what they could for the refugees.



*Vicky, Nyomi and Vanessa (R) smile with a Ukrainian family*

Vicky's daughter Nyomi, who has formed a great love for Poland and its history, approached her mother with the request that they might go over to Poland to help the children suffering there. She and her sister Vanessa purchased and filled 100 backpacks with essential toiletries and comfort items such as stuffed animals,

*(Cont. on page 3)*

desk lamps, notebooks, and art supplies. The girls even put together google slide presentations in Ukrainian so that they'd be able to teach the children how to put together their craft projects.

Vicki and the girls travelled to Poland and distributed these backpacks to refugee children as a way to personally show them love and care. They visited the Poland/Ukraine border, spent time at the train station to meet incoming refugees, and played with families and children who were staying with the Sisters.



*A carload of supplies.*



*Vanessa holds a baby at the orphanage.*

Patrick Barton had been watching video after video of refugees arriving in Poland with no place to go. Finally, he decided he had to do something to help. After gathering donations from his friends, he departed for Poland with no clear ideas other than to find some other volunteering Americans and hand out cash to needy refugees so that they could at least be able to go to a hotel!

A priest connected him to the Little Sisters and he began to assist them as they took in Ukrainians and cared for them while they determined their next steps. The Sisters would go down to the

station to meet the trains from Ukraine, and there they would seek out those who looked like they didn't have a plan, and bring them back to their convent. At the time that Patrick was there, about 300-400 Ukrainians were arriving on each train.

He found that the Polish people were incredibly supportive and generous to the refugees, keeping the station clean and organized and assisting with finding the people a place to go. He also tells us that Eastern Europeans are a very self-reliant people: when he offered monetary assistance to those who obviously needed it, many would say "oh no, please give it to someone else."

*(Cont. on page 4)*



[Click here to watch a video of Patrick and Sr. Dagmara in the news!](#)

At the time of Patrick's visit, the Sisters had taken in 1300 people since the start of the war. They give them a place to stay for a couple of days to rest, regain their footing and figure out how they will get to a permanent place. Many refugees departed for countries in Western Europe if they had family there; the Sisters would help place those with no family

connections with local families willing to take them in. Some people with no options in other countries have decided to go back to Ukraine, since they would rather be homeless there than in a foreign country.

Patrick told us how jarring it was to see that there were no men among the refugees – only women and children. This is because men under the age of 60 were not allowed to leave the country, but had to stay behind to fight. So the refugees were all forced to travel without fathers and brothers to assist them, all the while worrying about what was happening to their loved ones defending Ukraine.

Patrick says, "I've got a wife and three kids. I couldn't imagine dropping them off at the border and going back to fight. A lot of Ukrainians don't have the financial resources to support themselves in this crisis, and if the places were reversed, I hope someone would help my family. This was certainly an eye opening experience for me, so I hope someday to be able to bring my family on a mission trip to another country to teach important it is to help someone else in need."

We were honored to speak to Vicki and Patrick about their experiences in Ukraine, and we're still working to raise money to help the Sisters give aid to the refugees. As always, please continue to keep them in your prayers!



*A Sister greets a Ukrainian girl at the train station.*

# Photos from Poland

Our friend Vicky kindly shared photos taken during her family's trip to Poland. We hope you enjoy getting a little taste of what their visit with the Sisters was like!



The girls play with the kids at the Home for Disable Children.



Vicky gets a photo with the Sisters.



Sister at the wheel!!



Nyomi and Vanessa at one of the Sisters' convents.



Ukrainian children receive drawings made for them by kids in the US



The girls greet newly arrived refugee children at the train station.



Waiting for the train to arrive from Ukraine.

## Spotlight on Children in Need

*These children have devoted sponsors who wish to support them due to the urgent need of their situations, but are unable to commit to the full boarding school sponsorship in the long term. We are therefore looking for additional donors to support each child at the half level of \$60/month.*

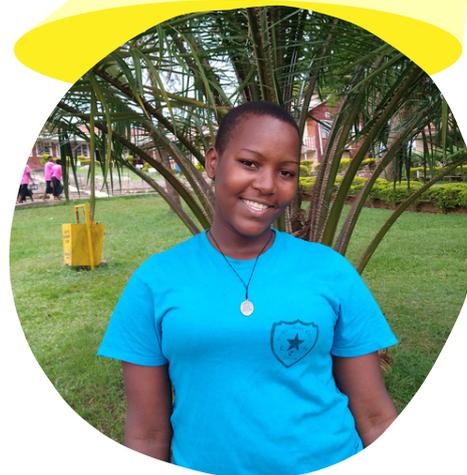
Betty and her family have lived through some difficult times. For a while, she had to live with her uncle because her parents were unable to take care of her. But she has been able to live with her mother while attending day school through sponsorship for a number of years.

Betty's mother was unemployed and had no job training, so she earned their living by taking care of a small house and piece of land in Nkokonjeru, growing food for them to eat. Unfortunately, in April of 2022, their landlord moved back to his property and Betty and her mother were forced to leave. Thankfully another Good Samaritan gave them a room to live in, but it was 150km away from Betty's school!

There are no day schools in this remote village, so the only way Betty can continue her education is to attend a boarding school. Her faithful sponsor has agreed to increase his sponsorship but cannot commit to the full amount.

Kezia has had a lot of losses in her life. Her father died in December of 2014 of HIV/AIDS. He left four children to be cared for by a sickly mother due to the same disease. She could not pay rent, educate or feed her children due to her condition, but thankfully CARITAS found a sponsor to ease her burden and put her children in day school.

Sadly, in April of 2022, Kezia's mother also passed (Cont. on page 7)



[Betty Nambi, 18](#)



[Kezia Nakato, 17](#)



away after months of increased sickness and now her daughter has no one to provide for her. She no longer has a place to stay and the only way all her needs can be met is through a boarding school education.

Kezia's previous sponsor agreed to lovingly support her as needed for a boarding school sponsorship but asked us to find another sponsor to help him with the costs. As always, she will be getting a Catholic education and will be well taken care of by the sisters who run the boarding school.

Tragically, both of Aaron's parents died of HIV, one after the other. His mother died a few days after giving birth to him, so he was taken to a home for young children where he lived until the age of 6. He then went to live with his uncle, who has taken on the responsibility of caring for his siblings' children. This man lost 6 of his siblings to HIV, and is now raising their children alone: 12 in all, plus 1 of his own!

Aaron's uncle makes very little money and it's a great struggle to support all of his nieces and nephews in school. Aaron will need a sponsorship if he is going to be able to finish his education. He is an active boy who hopes to become a doctor when he grows up.



[Aaron Mulabi, 10](#)



*Please visit Betty, Kezia and Aaron's profiles on our website if you are interested in sponsoring them for \$60/month!*



## **Are you looking for ways to make a bigger impact with your giving to CARITAS this year?**

Talk to your employer about whether they have an **Employee Match Program**, and ask them to match your gift to CARITAS in 2022!

We also accept donations of financial securities and shares of stock! Call us at (414) 260-9115 if you wish to donate stock to CARITAS.