

District 5080's Response to Ukraine

Tuesday, May 3, 2022



On 5 March 2022, John Germ, Rotary Foundation Chair, distributed a message to Rotary Clubs and Districts announcing Rotary International support for relief efforts in Ukraine and the surrounding areas. The message was posted to your District 5080 website. As part of this message, Mr. Germ announced that regular rules regarding contributions to the Rotary Foundation Disaster Relief would be suspended until 30 April 2022 and, instead of contributions being unrestricted and used for any disaster related relief effort, all funds contributed until this date would be restricted for use by Rotary Districts and Clubs in Ukraine and the surrounding areas.

Your District took immediate action to provide support to the people of Ukraine.

During the District Leadership meeting on 16 March, your district leaders agreed to support Bill Dunwoody, District Rotary Foundation Chair, and Lynn O'Connor, District Governor in their decision to transfer \$25,000 in unallocated District Designated Funds (DDF) to the Rotary Disaster Relief Fund. In addition, the District Leadership agreed to contribute unused, allocated District Block Grant funds to ShelterBox in support of their efforts to provide aid to Ukrainian refugees. These unused funds include funds left over from unallocated Express Grants, funds returned to the District for incomplete District Grants, and funds that had been set aside for a Pan-District Grant. The total amount being sent to ShelterBox is still in flux due to last-minute returns of unused District and Express Grant funds, but it is expected that the total amount that will be available for the Shelterbox grant will be approximately \$15,500 USD.

On 19 March, PDG Doreen Kelsey, inquired about the potential of our District applying for a grant of Rotary Disaster Relief Funds to support a project being supported by a Returning Peace Corps Volunteer and managed by the Rotary Club of Dubno, Ukraine. DRFC Bill Dunwoody and DG Lynn O'Connor agreed to support this grant application and began the process of applying for and submitting this application to the Rotary Foundation. To make a very long story short, the grant was approved and the funds are on their way to the District 5080 Foundation Grants bank account. From there, the funds will be wired to the bank account of the Rotary Club of Dubno to be used for the support of Ukrainian refugees in Western Ukraine.

We have heard reports of many clubs and individual Rotarians contributing generously to this important effort. We appreciate each and every one of you and we are thankful that our District is made up of so many People of Action willing to work so hard to spread peace and understanding and to make the world a better place for all.