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REPORT from the Csilla von Boeselager Foundation

Successful aid bridge with in-kind and cash donations for people in need in Ukraine

Zaporizhia / Kyiv - Since the beginning of Russia's attack on Ukraine, the Csilla von Boeselager Foundation for Eastern European Aid has brought food, vehicles, medicines, shoes, power generators and cash donations of 680,000 Euros to Ukraine. This emerges from the current Ukraine Aid Report, just published by the aid organization based in Arnsberg-Vosswinkel in the Hochsauerland district. The Foundation thanks all donors for their generous donations, while soliciting further donations of money and goods for the people affected by the war.

The Foundation currently focuses on three areas. Firstly, the collection of pre-sorted in-kind donations for the people directly affected by the war, and the transport of these relief supplies to the crisis area. Secondly, the evacuation of sick, weak, disabled and elderly people from Ukraine. Thirdly, on maintaining its humanitarian projects in the country, some of which have been in existence for over 20 years. "We are currently sending several trucks with relief supplies to Ukraine every week," explains Raphael Hoensbroech, chairman of the foundation. „Our aid is mainly going to Transcarpathia, but it is also being divided into smaller tranches and forwarded to reach Kyiv, Zaporizhia and Mariupol." As requested by the project partners in Ukraine, this aid consists primarily of bandages, disinfectants and protein-rich food. According to Hoensbroech, a total of 126 tons of food and medical material have now reached the Foundation's three Ukrainian locations. „Unfortunately, we cannot process individual donations from citizens," says the managing director of the foundation, Valentina Hornkamp. „We concentrate on single-origin goods packed on Euro-standard pallets, since such large donations can best be redistributed by our local partners," she says.

When it comes to rescuing people from the war zone, the Csilla von Boeselager Stiftung Osteuropahilfe e.V. works together with the private initiative „EvacuAid Kyiv". "There is currently an incredible number of refugees who are taking their destiny into their own hands. Those who stay behind in Ukraine are mainly vulnerable people who they cannot flee without help. We use buses, with police protection and military-trained drivers, to get sick, weak, disabled and elderly people out of Ukraine. This is possible only thanks to our generous donors," reports the foundation's chairman, Raphael Hoensbroech. According to him, the rescue operations cost between 150 and 200 euros per person. By the end of April, the foundation, in cooperation with „EvacuAid Kyiv", had evacuated a total of more than 1,000 vulnerable people from Kyiv, taking them in buses to places such as Hoyerswerda, Munich, Salzburg, Castell (Lower Franconia) and Vienna.

The third focus of the foundation's Ukraine aid is the continuation of existing, successful humanitarian projects. „We have been supporting facilities in Ukraine for over 20 years where the poor, the homeless and street children can get food, clothing and a place to sleep," said Hoensbroech. There are three such locations: Beregovo (Beregszász), Zaporizhia in south-eastern Ukraine and Lviv (Lemberg). The soup kitchens run by the Albertine brothers in Zaporizhia and Lviv, for example, distribute 400 portions of soup, bread and sweetened tea daily to the poorest of the poor. Washrooms with showers are

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available, and donations of clothing are handed out. „Procuring foodstuffs has become a challenge, because supplies have dropped and prices have increased dramatically,” Hoensbroech said. A total of 133,000 Euros have been provided for the care of homeless people, street children and now also of internal refugees. Four vehicles have been provided – three purchased and one financed – for the transport of donations in kind and of volunteers from the EU countries to the Ukraine, efficiently and sustainably.

In the future, the Csilla von Boeselager Stiftung Osteuropahilfe e.V. will need pallets of single-variety donations, such as food or medicine, and in the medium term also logisticians and storage capacity or money for the purchase and rent of warehouses. In addition, money is needed for further evacuation trips and accommodation in Germany and Austria for groups of 60 or more people. For its humanitarian projects that have been in existence for years, the foundation asks for cash donations to enable it to continue its work and cover increased expenses, such as the overpriced petrol costs. In summary, Managing Director Valentina Hornkamp states: „The crisis will have consequences for years to come, which is why we also need money for reconstruction. As a long-term investment in our work, we would especially welcome endowments,” she says. A simple note “endowment” (in German: „Zustiftung”) on the transfer is enough to fulfill this purpose.

Donation oaccount

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<https://www.boeselager-osteuropahilfe.de/spenden/formular.php>

Background

The Csilla von Boeselager Foundation has been active in Eastern Europe with its volunteers, in-kind and cash donations since 1991 (its year of foundation). The humanitarian activity itself began as far back as 1987 in Hungary, through the activism of Csilla von Boeselager (+1994) who became known throughout Europe during the large-scale East German refugee crisis in the summer of 1989. Even after her death, the principle of the foundation remains that of personal support for self-help. This means that the foundation only supports local initiatives by local people for their own compatriots, and a close relationship with the volunteer sponsors of the projects guarantees that the money reaches the people of Ukraine without any detours. The sponsors are on site in Ukraine at least once a year, and are, especially now, in continuous direct contact with their projects.

The persons behind EvacuAid Kyiv are tax consultant Dr. Janine von Wolfersdorff (overall coordination), Adrian Rauko (safety and driver deployment), Dr. Bertram Kloss (logistics) and friends, in close cooperation with the Csilla von Boeselager Stiftung Osteuropahilfe e.V. and with the city of Kyiv.



Csilla von Boeselager Stiftung
Osteuropahilfe e.V.

Certified Member in Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband

Emergency aid for the Ukrainian people

They are waiting for a warm soup in front of our soup kitchen in Saporischja (south-eastern Ukraine). Inflation and hoarding/panic buying have increased the food prices tremendously. Please donate to our foundation to ensure that our honorary partners can continue distributing hot soup.

We have supported the Ukraine for 20 years now, and are currently active in three regions: Lviv, Berehove, and Saporischja (South-east, near Donetsk). Our project partners want to stay in the Ukraine to keep caring for the poorest of the poor, as well as for the refugees who are arriving. We also would like to support the refugees who are crossing the Polish and Hungarian borders each day.



Help us to help

Our mission is: helping non-denominational and unpolitical, personal and direct. Always with the aim to awaken civic engagement and support it to flourish.

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