



Browns' Clearwater West Lodge
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Saturday, April 9, 2022

Dear

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing you today on behalf of an initiative we are leading in response to the current Russian Occupation in Ukraine. We are currently mobilizing several community agencies, businesses and volunteers to assist in formulating a collective response from Northwestern Ontario, but we need your help!

As I write this, we are 45 days and counting into the armed conflict, with no end in sight. There is an estimated 4.4 million people that have sought safe haven in neighbouring countries and that number is growing daily. Women, children, elderly are flooding the borders of countries like Poland, Slovakia, Moldova and Hungary. From there, they are travelling further west to seek normality and peace. This is one of the largest humanitarian crises since World War II and it is continuing to grow by the minute!

Since the first shell hit the ground in Ukraine, our family has been discussing ways we can help and after night and day research, countless phone calls, sleepless nights and planning we decided that we would donate the use of one of the facilities that we have here at camp for the displaced Ukrainians to experience a softer landing here in Canada. We have a twenty-eight (28) bed facility that could house more, if needed, that we plan on dedicating to this initiative for as long as it takes. We have promised the first three (3) families employment at our tourism camp for the next 5 months and will assist them in finding full-time employment and housing once this term is complete.

Right now, at our airports all across Canada, Ukrainians are landing with passports, work-permits/visas and what few belongings they were able to grab in hand with no work, no housing and often without much English; some are even falling victim to scammers and human traffickers. Add this to the trauma that they have endured escaping the country and the days in-between, and the humanitarian crisis that we mentioned earlier that was unfolding overseas is now unfolding, unknowingly, in our own country. This is where our initiative steps in.

Our goal is to be able to provide a softer place to land for as many families as possible. Providing a place for children to reconnect and be children and for parents to decompress and plan their next steps with clarity and intention. We have partnered with several agencies in Atikokan and throughout Northwestern Ontario (Dryden, Thunder Bay, Fort Frances and Kenora) as well as medical professionals, early childhood educators, employment and immigration experts, spiritual leaders and community members who are all offering volunteer support to ensure that this initiative is safe and successful for all those involved. Once at Browns' families will have an opportunity to relax and gather themselves and strategically research jobs and communities both near and far for potential resettlement. We have national connections that are willing to help with not only job search but housing once the families decide which community is best for them. For some families the transition time here at Browns' may be as short as 7 or 10 days, others may need longer, and that's okay. Again, our goal is to provide a softer place for families to land and plan their next steps safely, strategically and with a clear mind.

While families are here, with the help of the safety network that we have woven together, their basic necessities will be met. They will have food and shelter, access to satellite internet, clean drinking water as well as an entire community of caring Canadians and Ukrainians who are supportive and want nothing more than for these families to find stability, once again.

Now, in order to do this, we are currently seeking monetary donations. Not only will we be helping with family's settlement plans once here, but there may also be times when we are called upon to assist with things like airfare to help evacuate a family from their current location (refugee camp, temporary housing or shelter in countries neighbouring Ukraine). We have already provided airfare to one family from Vienna to Winnipeg and will be arranging Toronto to Thunder Bay flights for a second family soon. Whereas we are donating the use of our facilities for as long as needed, there will also be basic cost differentials that need to be accounted for as well as being able to provide food and hygiene items and other incidentals to the family upon arrival. We currently have a goal of \$100,000.00 however given the magnitude of the crisis are hoping to, at minimum, double that amount to ensure sustainability for the foreseeable future.

As of today, we have numerous immigration professionals who have learned about our initiative and would like to work with us through the process. There are more than 50 families that we could immediately reach out to and assist; this is not even a drop in the bucket. We are hoping that you would consider donating to our initiative and help with the resettlement of our Ukrainian friends. Should you be interested in providing work and assisting with the search for housing for new employees, please provide that information with your donation. We would be more than happy to add your business profile, employee requirements as well as any other additional information you would like us to include. For donations of \$100.00 or more, we can provide a charitable tax receipt and have included the information below. If no receipt is required, we are also collecting online donations through the crowdfunding platform GiveSendGo. A link below has been provided and will take you directly to our campaign.

We appreciate your time and thank you very much for considering this request.

Kind Regards,



Aniela-Jane Hannaford & Family
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Donations of \$100.00 or more to Atikokan Stands with Ukraine are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Simply make the cheque out or send an e-transfer to the Atikokan Community Fellowship Church or atikokanCF@gmail.com which is set up for auto deposit. If returning a cheque, please include the form below. If forwarding an e-transfer, please indicate that your donation is designated for Atikokan Stands with Ukraine and include your name, address and email and phone number. A PDF receipt will then be emailed to you.

Atikokan Stands with Ukraine

Donation Form

Name of Business or Individual Donating: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

If no receipt is required, you can donate directly to our initiative through GiveSendGo:

https://givesendgo.com/G337B?utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR3GMtmi65_J3njgehM8_iAMTavVXuJ4qcCom91JFrO7D-5m1xvBvRBEw7U

*Thank you for supporting this grassroots initiative!
Our family, volunteers and fellow businesses thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*