

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

& TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

The daily reports of death and destruction in Ukraine evoke a righteous anger in many, and a desire to do something to help ease the suffering. At a meeting held in March, Bethel Pastor Tim Gibbs, MP Marilyn Gladu and Dr Cassandra Taylor highlighted local connections in Ukraine, and the opportunity to assist families fleeing the war to relocate in Lambton County.

Trinity's experience bringing refugees to Canada is that the process is slow and tedious, but in a remarkable change of pace, the Canadian Government has lowered the bar to expedite resettlement of this unprecedented wave of displaced people. Trinity's Rev Canon Vicars Hodge's heart was touched and he brought the need to the Parish Council, and then by email survey to the congregation. The result was an overwhelming desire for Trinity to contribute financially, and two families offered to share their homes.

Although the Canadian Government has allowed Ukrainians to stay and work for three years, the financial obligation is to be borne by local sponsors. The Trinity coordinating team estimates that \$35,000 will be needed to house, feed and support two families for the first year. "We have \$25,000 promised, and two church members, the Stephens & Kernohan's have offered to open their homes to host families. An appeal for a microwave and fridge to set up a basement kitchen was met overnight, and we hope to have the first family, a mother and two pre-teen boys arrive early June". Rachel Phillips who handles the administration remarked about the cooperation she has received, "Marilyn Galdu's office has been very helpful, and Johnathan Verroen a local Sarnia man on the ground in Ukraine has been amazing, making contacts and facilitating biometrics and paperwork".

"The real work will begin once the families arrive, and we will be looking for volunteers to drive, assist our families navigate Canadian systems and integrate into society, and also help meet our financial goals". We have a list of 10 people willing to help but we can use more to lighten the load for everyone. If you would like to be involved, contact Trinity Church 519 542 9261, or email trinity@trinitysarnia.org. To make a financial contribution send an e-transfer to trinity@trinitysarnia.org or through PayPal on our website, or drop a cheque off at 1194, Murphy Rd, Sarnia. All donations will be issued a tax receipt.



"We can't stop the war, but we can make a difference in the lives of some of those impacted", was the sense after talking with Archie and Rachel, and living out Trinity's Mission "To bring Christ's healing to a hurting world"

Mike Tanner

Beside is Natalia and family. This family will be hosted by John & Missy Stephen's they arrive in Toronto on June 1st where John will pick them up to bring them to their home. The husband is staying behind in Ukraine. Please keep these families in your prayers. Thank you John & Missy for graciously opening your home to this beautiful family!