

## **Cornwall and Devon Sending Love to Ukraine - A personal account**

I have just returned from Warsaw in Poland having done a 3,000 mile round trip helping to deliver aid to Ukrainian refugees. 'Sending Love to Ukraine', started by Darren's Cars (our local Taxi firm from St Ann's Chapel), has now taken 30 vehicles over 3 trips delivering over 45 tons of much needed goods and materials to help the plight of the thousands of Ukrainians fleeing the war with Russia.

Working directly with small organisations in and around Warsaw enabled us to carry items specifically requested by people on the ground helping sites close to the border (as well as over it), with particular products that are so desperately needed at this particular moment. As priorities change for those in need, so do the donation requests going out all over Cornwall and Devon.

Our most recent trip took 13 packed vans with "Cornwall & Devon Sending Love to Ukraine" stickers prominently displayed. This was a testament to the many kind and generous folk from local schools, churches, charities, companies and, in the main, individuals, who raided pocket money boxes, pensions, holiday funds and goodness else what else to help provide donations to fill these vehicles.

Some of the most urgently needed items are medical supplies; toiletries and ladies sanitary ware; baby food, nappies, and cots; sleeping bags, mattresses and blankets; walking aids (incl. crutches, Zimmer frames, and wheel chairs), tinned and packet foods. We were also able to take some made up children's 'happy bags', which included writing materials for school etc, to help make life a little easier for the younger generation.

Most refugees are women or families with children, and the older generations. Younger men, and women, are staying behind to fight for their homes, land, and country, and sadly, a specific request for the next trip is body bags! Front-line medical supplies are also urgently needed, from surgical equipment and stretchers to tourniquets, surgical glue, IV equipment, trauma dressings and bandages, amongst many others.

We are already planning the next trip for the end of May and donations are now being received. If you've read this far I would ask you to search your hearts and give what you can - but please check the donation wish-list to ensure your potential gifts are a priority need. If you'd prefer to donate money (urgently needed for medical equipment, as well as ferry costs and fuel etc.), then there are collecting tins inside Stoke Climsland Post Office or on-line.

**<https://www.gofundme.com/f/cornwall-and-devon-sending-love-to-ukraine>**

or by BAC transfer to A/C Darren Tait's Cars, 20-50-40, 63140369, **Ref: Ukraine Appeal**

**Dave Crawley**

A separate document giving a list of items and pick up points is attached. Dave is willing to pick up items if necessary Tel: 01579 370856/07841 167933