

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us in our efforts to help the Ukrainians coming to Canada to escape the crisis in their country.

Much has happened in the past two weeks. Families are now arriving and will continue to arrive in large numbers in the upcoming weeks and months. Efforts have expanded and The Carr St. Gospel Church is working in collaboration with churches from various denominations throughout the GTA to put our Christian faith into action and support our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. It is our desire that through our united effort, we will have greater impact, and God will be glorified. Please direct all future correspondence to Christians Supporting Ukraine at x4ukraine@gmail.com.

1. **Volunteer**

We greatly need additional volunteers to join us in supporting the Ukrainian community. Some of the different volunteering opportunities include:

- Sorting donations
- Reviewing resumes and providing feedback
- Moving furniture
- Helping with administration and logistics
- Airport pick-up and delivering donations to people at the airport
- Russian/Ukrainian translation
- Web/IT assistance

For a description of the volunteer opportunities, go to <https://www.churchtoronto.com/volunteering.html> and email us with the area you'd like to volunteer as the subject title.

2. **Donate**

Financially

Special immigration measures have taken place to allow Ukrainians to enter as temporary residents with open work permits, but many are arriving with very little and require financial support to help them while they get settled. The Carr St. Gospel Church is collecting monetary donations to help house, feed and meet the immediate needs of the families. Go to <https://www.churchtoronto.com/index.html> for more information or contact Pastor Alex at pastor@churchtoronto.com. Charitable tax receipts will be provided.

Drop-offs @ The Carr St. Gospel Church (24 Carr St)

We will resume collecting donations at 24 Carr St this Saturday April 16th from 11 AM to 1 PM and every Friday from 7:30 – 9:30 PM (except Good Friday).

For a list of items we are looking for, go to <https://www.churchtoronto.com/give-items.html>. The list will be updated regularly, depending on the need.

We kindly ask that you send photos of any furniture donations to Bohdan at help@churchtoronto.com along with your contact, the closest major intersection and range of dates of availability for pick-up. The photos will be uploaded to <https://www.churchtoronto.com/get-help.html> for easy viewing (personal information will not be shared). Ukrainians seeking help can fill out the church request form on the same link.

3. **Housing**

Securing housing continue to be the most challenging issue. The government initiative to provide emergency housing in Ontario is not yet in place and families need housing now. We ask that you prayerfully consider providing immediate short-term (1-4 weeks), medium-term (1-6 months) and long-term housing on a lease (1 year+). Securing housing, even if only for a month, provides an address which allows the families to process government documents, access services, enroll their children in local schools, and gain some stability. Without it, their ability to resettle is impeded. Many of the families arriving in Canada come from middle-class, educated backgrounds and had successful or promising careers prior to the invasion.

If you are considering housing one of the families, please email your contact and information on the housing available – short/medium/long-term, available date, major intersection, city, number of bedrooms/washrooms, unit type (house/condo/basement/room), shared/private, preferred maximum number of occupants, furnished/unfurnished and monthly rent. We will try to match you with a family that best suits you. For people considering renting out housing on a lease, we can forward the contact information of a suitable family so that you can ask questions, discuss options, and see if it is something you would like to pursue.

We are also looking for volunteers specifically to be tasked to help find housing for the families. The duties will range from assisting with the online housing search to spearheading creative housing possibilities.

4. **Pray**

We believe that prayer is powerful, and we ask everyone to intercede on behalf of Ukraine. Please pray individually and collectively with your small groups and church. Please pray for the following things:

1. An end to the conflict
2. The safety and protection of the people of Ukraine
3. For God to redeem this situation by drawing people to Him
4. For wisdom and discernment for decision makers (leaders and authorities in various spheres of influence, e.g., government, economy, media) and that they would make decisions that are good for the people they represent
5. For opening of corridors so people can evacuate, and humanitarian aid can enter
6. For the church – for believers to be strengthened in their faith
7. For many to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ
8. Please pray for the leadership of this volunteer movement – for protection from the enemy, wisdom, discernment, the renewal of the Holy Spirit, sustained intimate personal relationship with Christ, and for us to be vessels of God's love and glory.

5. **“Sponsor” a Family**

Once the Ukrainians arrive, many things need to be done to help the families get settled, often before they can even begin finding employment and housing. Please consider having your small group or church “sponsor” a family. Some of the things the families may need some help doing in the first few days to month are:

- Get a cell phone and phone plan
- Get internet set up
- Open a bank account
- Apply for Ontario Driver's license, SIN
- Explore public education options for children, contact school board
- Learn the basic orientation to life in Canada (how to use public transit, shopping for groceries, navigating around the neighbourhood)
- Find the closest public library, community centre and/or recreation centre
- Find a family doctor or closest walk-in clinic
- Find out about counselling and mental health services in the community, if needed

And sometimes all that is needed is a friend showing love and compassion. Contact us if you would like to walk alongside a family on their journey.



(Volunteers helping sort through donations. A big thank you to everyone who joined! It was a beautiful picture of Christians working in unity as the body of Christ.)

Thank you for enduring a very long update. Much is happening. We ask for your patience while we gather more Christian volunteers to join in the effort.

In Christ,
Christians Supporting Ukraine on behalf of The Carr St. Gospel Church