

Forward Together... News

A Publication of
Center for Disability Rights – CT

Special Edition on Ukraine Relief Efforts
April, 2022



The membership and staff of Center for Disability Rights, being distressed at the plight of Ukrainians with disabilities and Ukrainian soldiers who have been injured and become disabled, have sprung into action to do what we can to help.

After much research into what the organized disability community is doing, we partnered with the



Carl Harvey of Ukrainian-American Veterans Post 33 & Marc Anthony Gallucci of CDR

network of Ukrainian Churches and the Ukrainian Community here in CT to ensure that our assistance would reliably and quickly get on the ground in the Ukraine. Specifically, we are working with St Michael the Archangel Catholic Church at 569 George Street in New Haven and the Ukrainian-Americans Veterans Post 33 in Orange.

Center for Disability Rights has donated several wheelchairs, and many walkers and canes. In addition, we have made a cash donation to the Veteran's group and the fund being collected by the Knights of Columbus to support the Ukrainian relief efforts.

We are so pleased that we chose to work with these local partners because we found that our donations would be put on a truck to Philadelphia on a Thursday, and already, by Sunday, they were on the ground in Poland and getting over the border into Ukraine. Our donations are going to a children's hospital and a military hospital – both in western Ukraine. These hospitals are providing medical and rehabilitation care to thousands of people who have had to flee the battle areas.

There are 2.7 million people with disabilities in Ukraine, and many of them are stuck and being bombed out or starving to death. Many have fled and were not able to take their equipment, medicines, and other necessary things with them. They need our help.

CDR is still taking money donations for the relief effort. Your gift, however small or large, will make a big difference. Make your check payable to Center for Disability Rights. Write "Ukraine Relief" in the note. Drop your check off or mail to CDR, 369 Highland Street, West Haven, CT 06516

Ukrainians with Disabilities

Ukrainians with disabilities sheltering in the subway.



Ukrainians with Disabilities being rescued by Ukrainian Soldiers





Loading the Van

CDR Staff person Ryan McPhail helps load the rented U-Haul van with DME for the Ukraine

Unloading the Van
CDR Chief Advocate delivers the
donated medical equipment to
St Michael the Archangel
Ukrainian Catholic Church in
New Haven



Donated DME at St Michael's
CDR staff person Chris Zurcher
looks over the wheelchairs and
other donated medical
equipment that were collected
and prepared for shipment to the
Ukraine at St Michael's.



Fight for Right is a Ukrainian Disability Rights Organizations affiliated with the World Institute on Disability. It has been at the forefront of fighting for the rights of Ukrainians with disabilities to be included in the life of their communities. Because of Putin's invasion, it has had to switch its focus to rescuing people with disabilities and helping refugees with disabilities. As of this writing, FFR has rescued 503 trapped people with disabilities, and has 1601 more who have requested help leaving the war zone. <https://ffr.org.ua/>



World Institute on Disability

World Institute on Disability is the global arm of the US Independent Living movement of which CDR is a part. Founded in 1983 by Ed Roberts, Judy Heumann, and Joan Leon, it is currently lead by Marcie Roth. WID is funneling support to Fight for Right and other organizations. <https://wid.org/>



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