

Shelter Kits for Local Shelters in Ukraine

Summary:

Our project aimed to send medical resources to local shelters in Irpin, Ukraine. Throughout the process, we were directly in contact with the Ukrainian Red Cross and had several zoom meetings to organise the supplies and shipping logistics. Ultimately, the Ukrainian Red Cross asked us to send hygienic supplies instead of first aid kits, because there were legal issues with sending medications and medical products. Therefore, we chose to send items including toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, cleaning supplies, deodorant and diapers. We packaged 6 boxes full of supplies and emailed the Red Cross to confirm a shipping destination. Before this, we had negotiated a deal with the Norwegian Postal Services to acquire free shipping to Ukraine, since we were sending humanitarian aid. The Ukrainian Red Cross emailed us after the collapse of the Kakhovka Dam, which was breached on June 6th and flooded cities, impacting 40,000 people caught in the flood zones. We were instructed to send our boxes to the local Red Cross branch in Kryvyi Rih. We sent the boxes immediately through the Norwegian Postal Services and received photos a few weeks later of the women and children who had received our supplies. We have since been in contact with the Red Cross and hope to continue the initiative of sending humanitarian aid through future generations at UWC RCN.

Overview and Detail:

It was amazing to see the difference we had made in the photos sent to us by the Ukrainian Red Cross. We could see the relief and gratitude on the faces of the women and children who now had access to basic humanitarian supplies and hygienic products. We made a difference in the lives of civilians who were impacted by the flooding and who lost their homes and all of their personal belongings. We helped them retain a sense of human dignity through the crisis, as they were provided with the necessary resources to be clean. We successfully completed our project by sending 6 boxes of aid, 60x38x39cm, fully packed with supplies. We are incredibly proud of what we accomplished, because it was not an easy process. We faced many legal issues regarding medical products and had to be flexible in order to shift our focus to other supplies. We struggled at first to get in contact with the Red Cross, and we were refused assistance by the Norwegian Red Cross. We faced issues with the postal services and were unsure whether we would face additional postal charges. However, as a team we worked through all of the challenges and we are incredibly proud of the way our work paid off.

Our project has enduring success as future generations of UWC RCN students are continuing initiatives for Ukraine, through fundraisers and awareness building campaigns. We have given them the contact information of the person in the Ukrainian Red Cross and they are now able to continue sending humanitarian aid to the areas of most need. Our project established the connection between our school and the Red Cross and therefore it means that future students only need to do fundraising initiatives and not struggle with the same logistics we did. The project made a difference in Valeria and my lives because we saw that hardwork and dedication paid off to make a real difference. Because we received photos of the women and children we helped, it made the project seem very real and gave us an immense sense of fulfilment. We spent \$900 of our money on buying supplies and saved \$100 for shipping fees- however after we negotiated free shipping we spent the rest of the money on buying final supplies and boxes for shipping. We had a few dollars left over at the end and donated this directly through the Ukrainian Red Cross's webpage. If we were to run the project again, we would know much more about which products we could and could not send. I think we would have cooperated directly with the Red Cross and simply asked them what they needed most, and then bought this. We would have spent all of our money completely on supplies right away, had we known shipping was free.

Photos:



