

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING

Amid recovery from two hectic years of a global pandemic and restrictions, 2022 shifts our focus to a war that goes against everything we've learned not to take for granted over the past couple of years.

The past two years have shown us the value of human lives and the importance of defending our autonomy, independence, and human rights. Historically, wars have been global issues that impact the countries at war and those that aid with resources, politics, regulations, and overall assistance.

We've seen how the Canadian government has begun to create new visa opportunities to provide a safe place for those in need. Since Canadian efforts can't restore peace or return what many have lost, at least they are offering support by opening their borders to provide a safe and supportive environment.

As of March 2022, the government of Canada made available the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel for individuals fleeing Ukraine. Many are now settling in Canada.

Rainhouse wanted to support Ukrainians fleeing the war and help to provide stability after such a traumatic experience. We decided not only to donate to the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Victoria but also to directly find a family in need of financial assistance to settle in Canada.

We had the wonderful opportunity to meet Liuba, who immigrated to Canada over eight years ago. When the war started, and she saw her family in danger, her instinct led her to do everything to bring them to Canada, including getting into debt. Only her parents and younger nephew were able to make the trip. Liuba's sister and older nephew, now 18, had to stay because he is required for military service to fight for his country.



Liuba shared she is relieved to finally have both of her parents safe in Victoria but is struggling with the financial burden of expensive airline tickets, and providing food and accommodation for three more people with only one income. To alleviate her burden, we helped her cover part of the debt from bringing her family to Canada, and we are looking for ways to continue to help.

Similar to Liuba, many Ukrainians are helping their families come to Canada, and financial support to cover these unforeseeable expenses is one of the many ways we can help. The Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Victoria is the best resource to introduce you to the Ukrainian community, and you can contribute with donations, volunteering, or simply getting their take-out dinners.



We are happy to have contributed to this family's journey to Victoria. We want to encourage you to open up to your community, meet newcomers and make them feel at home in these uncertain times.

WANT TO HELP?

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