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Yana Zinkevych, Member of the Verkhovna Rada, hosted by International Center of Syracuse, in Syracuse, NY 2019. Read more about our alumna below.

WASHINGTON, DC - "Loving our countrymen is not always easy. We often fight, occasionally viciously, with one another over fundamental differences. Ukraine is no exception. Yet in the face of the incredible violence and shocking cruelty being perpetuated against their country, Ukrainians of all stripes have come together. They have shown unprecedented solidarity in this time of suffering. The following are just a few stories that demonstrate

the dedication everyday Ukrainians reveal when assisting their countrymen." ~Jane Sargus, Executive Director



Alumnus Andrii Zhupanyyn, current member of the Verkhovna Rada, hosted by Dacotah Territory International Visitor Program in Bismarck, ND 2021

VYNOHRADIV, UKRAINE - MP Andrii Zhupanyyn was recently featured by the Wall Street Journal, where he shared his story of setting up a volunteer aid hub in Vynohradiv, Zakarpattia region. Within three weeks, Zhupanyyn, MP **Roksolana Pidlasa**, and their teams moved some 300 tons of aid through Vynohradiv. Zhupanyyn and his team are in constant communication with diplomats from Romania and Hungary, charities, diaspora communities, and Ukrainian city mayors to coordinate the distribution of aid to the places of utmost need.

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Alumnus Ivan Fedorov (right) meets President Emmanuel Macron 2021

PARIS - Open World alumni, Members of Parliament **Alona Shkrum** (Batkivshchyna) and **Mariia Mezenteva** (Servant of the People) and Melitopol City Mayor **Ivan Fedorov** visited French president Emmanuel Macron at his residence in Paris, April 1. During the meeting, President Macron discussed ongoing French support for the Ukrainian people. President Macron also touched upon his efforts in helping to free Ivan Fedorov, who was abducted and held by

Russian military forces for four days in March. After the meeting, President Macron posted on his official social media account in the Ukrainian language for the first time.

Alumnus Ivan Fedorov hosted by Springfield Commission on International Visitors (also known as Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau) in Springfield, IL 2018

Alumna Alona Shkrum, Member of the Verkhovna Rada, hosted by International Center of the Capital Region in Albany, NY 2016

Alumna Mariia Mezenteva Member of the Verkhovna Rada, alumna hosted by Springfield Commission on International Visitors in Springfield, IL 2017

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Alumna Yana Zinkevych (center)

KYIV - Upon the full-scale russian invasion, MP **Yana Zinkevych** has returned to managing the work of the Hospitallers, a Ukrainian volunteer paramedic organization that has saved more than 3,000 lives since Russian invasions began in 2014. Zinkevych's primary work concerns the training and deploying of paramedics to the areas of military dislocation. Since the beginning of the second Russian invasion, Hospitallers, under her supervision, has employed 145 paramedics, including 33 mobile teams operating in Kyiv. They have also set up three trauma centers where anesthesiologists and surgeons work with the wounded. Additionally, they are conducting crash courses for paramedics so that they can be ready to operate in the field within four days of training.

Alumna Yana Zinkevych, Member of the Verkhovna Rada, hosted by International Center of Syracuse, in Syracuse, NY 2019



Alumna Olha Kachmar in Corvallis

Alumna Olha Kachmar, hosted by Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, OR 2018

Alumnus Vasyl Kachmar, hosted by Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, OR 2017



CORVALLIS, OREGON - The Corvallis Sister Cities Association set up a fund at a local bank to raise money for Ukraine. In one week, they raised over \$125,000 to support refugee efforts in the western city of Uzhgorod. They have now also set up a GoFundMe account to continue their fundraising efforts.

CSCA member and Open World program host, **Pete Bober** also participated in a Zoom meeting with Olha Kachmar and her husband Vasyl, who were both Open World delegates to Roseburg, OR in 2018. On their own, they have put together a program to provide medical supplies to an army battalion from Transcarpathia. Also on the call was Umpqua Community College employee **Jessica Richardson**, who is putting together a fundraising campaign to support Olha and Vasyl's efforts.



KYIV - "We, Ukrainians, are like bees.

We work, grumble, build our honeycombs, make our own unique delicacy...

We don't particularly love each other, but we each do our part.
Stubbornly. Carefully.

But when someone disturbs our hive... we, the bees, turn into a huge single stream and start whipping this intruder. Unanimously.
Ruthlessly. Because it is our hive. Our truth.

Do not dip into our honey.

Envy us from afar that you cannot build a hive like this yourself.

We are on the wave of a sudden unification - we will build even better.
And we will export not only honey, a raw resource, but also science -
how to build honeycombs and unite the bees in a powerful stream.
And this, you know, dear bees, is the way it should be."

**Alumna from Kyiv, hosted by the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy in
Salt Lake City, UT 2022**



**Alumnus hosted by Rotary
Club of West Springfield in
West Springfield, MA 2009**



KYIV - "Yesterday near Chernihiv, while performing a combat mission to rescue civilians, my comrade - a fighter in the territorial defense forces, was killed.

Another fighter and friend was injured.

Another incredible ray of light was killed there, too, whose logistic business saved hundreds of Ukrainians during the war. In the most dangerous missions, he always sat alone.

A beautiful girl died together with them.

It was a great honor to serve with them.
Friends, see you in a better world.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. John 10:28"



TOLEDO - "I know people are maybe waiting for a more detailed report from my recent trip. I'm honestly still processing many things. It was a very emotional experience, and I was pretty raw already. I'm using this week to try to regroup mentally and continue our efforts soon. I can say for sure, this trip was not the completion of any program or initiative, but really just a start. Thanks for your patience.

Tonight we were able to distribute about half the care packages. We first stopped by the apartment of a family from Kryvyi Rih. The children were very excited to receive the bags. The next stop was the train station where we were able to give the rest of the bags that were prepared. It was both heartbreaking and heartwarming. The children were so excited. The stuffed animals that Ana collected from BGSU were a big hit, too. As we were leaving we even saw some of the children playing with some of the Play-doh (TM) and other things. With Joanna and Grzegorz's advice on some of the items, it was the right call to include some healthier items and school supplies. It didn't seem right to take a bunch of pictures, but there was a family that was so happy, they were happy to take a quick photo."

Local Host Bill Hilt, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership in Toledo, OH



Local Host Tamara Denysenko (2nd from the right), Rochester Global Connections in Rochester, NY

ROCHESTER - Thank you to the Town of Irondequoit leadership for standing together with our Irondequoit and Greater Rochester Ukrainian community in support of the millions of men, women and children of Ukraine who are defending, and dying in Ukraine in an invasion and war waged on freedom, democracy and territorial integrity of Ukraine



ODESA - "Today my son is 6 years old, and he is as a refugee in neighboring Romania (where they were very well received, thank you very much). I think his next birthday will be celebrated at home, with his whole family in Ukraine, but it will be in a very different country - the fight for independence, sovereignty, freedom and the right to choose to be part of the civilized world will transform Ukraine and our people. We have understood the true price of having our own opinion and state.

Today the Russian aggressor continues to bomb our cities, rape and kill civilians. But Ukraine will endure, and every day brings us closer the hour of our victory.

We continue to be engaged in supplying the military, the territorial military defense and humanitarian support. Thank you very much for your participation, thanks to you we can do more!

What we managed to do in the last days for military personnel in the combat zone (I do not specify the division and units on purpose):

- Tactical offloads
- Materials for camouflage nets
- Gasoline for the military in Mykolaiv

For the military and civilians in the rear:

- Water for humanitarian needs, refugees, orphanages
- Radios to the defense of Belgorod-Dnistrovsk, Fontanka, and Podolsky district
- Purchase of a minibus - anti-diversion unit in Belgorod-Dnistrovsk (this is already the fifth vehicle purchased and donated for defense needs)
- Uniforms (pants, jackets, hats, etc.) for a unit in Balta

- Medications to Podolsk

Thanks a lot to the international community of our friends, your help and support is very important! Please keep it up. Glory to Ukraine!"

Facilitator from Odesa

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