



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
LEADERSHIP



COIL convenes international leaders in authentic dialogue with Congress

Weekly Dispatch No. 7

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Romanians welcome temporarily displaced Ukrainians at the border.

Courtesy of romania-insider.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. - "In this, the final issue of the Weekly Dispatch, we look at the regional effort to support Ukraine. I was struck by this touching video of a Polish priest leading his congregation in a rousing version of Chervona Kalyna (*Oi, u luzi chervona kalyna*), a patriotic Ukrainian march composed in 1914. The song has recently been made internationally famous by singer Andriy Khlyvnyuk, of the Ukrainian rock band Boombox.

The Polish (and Moldovan, and Romanian, and Hungarian, and Georgian!) people have been instrumental in the safe harbor of Ukrainians displaced by Russia's invasion of their country. To do its part, COIL is strengthening programming in Hungary and Moldova, and increasing capacity for programs in Poland and Romania." ~Jane Sargus, Executive Director



WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week COIL hosts three members of the Verkhovna Rada on Capitol Hill. All three members of the Parliament of Ukraine are alumni of the Open World program, and they represent the majority party and the opposition. The members are **Halyna Vasylchenko**, Non-partisan (Holos), **Andrii Zhupanyn** Non-partisan (Servant of the People Faction), and **Yaroslav Yurchyshyn** (Holos).

A highlight of the visit was a breakfast with the Congressional Ukraine Caucus. Members attending included Caucus Co-chairs, **Rep. Marcy Kaptur** (OH-9) and **Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick** (PA-1), **Rep. Michael Burgess** (TX-26), **Rep. Mickey Sherrill** (NJ-11), **Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks** (IA-2), and **Rep. Debbie Dingell** (MI-12).

During their visit to Washington, D.C., the delegation will discuss the current war that Russia is waging in Ukraine, appropriate responses to this aggression, and planning for a post-war Ukraine.





Senator Joni Ernst (IA) receives a sheet of Ukrainian stamps depicting the bravery of the Snake Island heroes from MP Andrii Zhupanyyn.



CHISINAU, MOLDOVA – Open World alumnus **Sergiu Gurau’s** Enterprise “Floare de Cireș Catering” (*Cherry Blossom Catering*), one of the largest social enterprises in Moldova, has been supporting refugees since the early days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The charitable catering organization provides training and employment to those with special needs and prepares hot meals for local seniors and school students. As Ukrainians displaced by war have flooded into Moldova, working hours have doubled, but the employees are proud to serve the war-torn Ukrainian people.

To date, Floare de Cireș Catering has provided more than 14,000 hot meals to refugee centers in the city of Ialoveni and Moldova’s capital, Chisinau.

Alumnus Sergiu Gurau from Chisinau, Moldova hosted by Greater Los Angeles Chapter of People to People International September in Granada Hills, CA 2013

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KUTAISI, GEORGIA - Open World alumnus **Akaki Saginadze** initiated the campaign, We Stand for U. Akaki and those involved with the campaign have been raising money and collecting medicines, food, and clothing for Ukrainians displaced in Kutaisi, as well as sending humanitarian aid to Ukraine. They have also been organizing events in Kutaisi to protest the war.

Alumnus Akaki Saginadze from Kutaisi, Georgia hosted by International Focus in Hendersonville, NC 2016



CHISINAU, MOLDOVA – The Institute for Rural Initiatives, which is run by two Open World program alumni, Executive Director **Tatiana Costev-Coșuleanu** and Deputy Director **Elena Țurcan**, has done its best to offer help to displaced Ukrainians in any way possible. With the support of the Global Fund for Children, they were able to allocate over 180,000 lei with which local partners covered a series of urgent needs, many of them not covered by state aid or international organizations. Thus, they were able to purchase fuel, firewood, two multifunctional copiers for printing out various paperwork needed by refugees, school supplies, books and games for children of Ukrainian refugees, as well as food, and hygiene products.

More than 3,500 people placed in 24 rural communities have benefited

from this aid so far. They have involved local youth as volunteers as well.

Alumna Tatiana Costev-Coşuleanu hosted by Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development in Toledo, OH 2019

Alumna Elena Țurcan hosted by Coalition for Innovative Development, Education, and Action in Appleton, WI 2013

CINCINNATI - "One organization raising money is the **Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership**, which, to date, has sent approximately \$84,000 to Red Cross Kharkiv. Herring says the organization will soon begin sending money to mayors of towns surrounding Kharkiv, as well."

Local Host Bob Herring of Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership

[Website Here](#)



KYIV - Taras Chmut (right) is the director of the **Come Back Alive Fund**. Launched in 2014, [Come Back Alive](#) became the biggest organization providing support to the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The organization uses funds to cover Ukraine's needs in real time. Taras is also the founder of the Militarnyi online media outlet, which provides information about Ukraine's resistance to the military aggression by the Russian Federation, processes and reforms in law enforcement agencies and the defense-industrial complex.

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BIG CANOE, GEORGIA - Local Open World program host **Bob Anderson** wrote a detailed article for his local paper about the status of Ukrainian alumni his Friendship Force International chapter have hosted in their community. FFI is a COIL national grantee. [READ MORE](#)



Local Host Bob Anderson of Friendship Force Big Canoe/North Georgia



BATUMI, GEORGIA - **Nanuka Diasamidze** and **Temur Kakabadze** participated in the Open World program in February on the theme “Inclusion, Diversity, and Equality”. Together with the Batumi Independent Living Center, they are in a close communication with Ukrainians with special needs or disabilities and started collecting money to help them.

Alumni Nana Diasamidze and Temur Kakabadze from Batumi, Georgia hosted by Tulsa Global Alliance in Tulsa, OK 2022

COIL | 101 Independence Avenue SE , Washington , DC 20540

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