



# UKRAINE CHILDREN'S ACTION PROJECT

*On the Ground, Hands-on, Transparent...*

*Progress in 2022 and Plans for 2023*

**January 2023**

With thanks to the thousands of UCAP supporters who joined us in 2022 to provide life changing programs, services and essential humanitarian equipment to Ukraine's displaced and refugee children, we have prepared this report of where we are and where we're going.

## **Progress in 2022: First Projects!**

### **1. On-line Training for Teachers: Addressing the Impact of Trauma on Refugee and Displaced Students**

After visits to schools in Warsaw and Lviv, and conversations with teachers and principals, UCAP realized that traumatized Ukrainian children were showing up in classrooms with teachers who did not have the training to respond effectively. It was determined that there was a need for materials and training for Polish and Ukrainian educators on the provision of "trauma-informed" school-based approaches to support Ukrainian students who continue to experience the stress and trauma of dislocation and uncertainty.

As a result, UCAP engaged the distance learning team at Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness to develop an interactive on-line course for teachers. Working with the UCAP team, a course called "**The Impact of Trauma and How it Affects Behavior and Learning: What Teachers Should Know**" was developed and narrated in Ukrainian and Polish. The course was reviewed by trauma experts and educators in the US, Ukraine and Poland and will be hosted by Warsaw and Lviv Departments of Educations and available to thousands of teachers across both countries.

## 2. Mental Health and Resiliency support

- Recovery Camps

The main goal of Recovery Camps is the psycho-emotional rehabilitation of children and mothers of Ukraine who suffered from the war.

The format of the work is family one-day and multi-day camps. The program is formed and conducted by psychologists, animators, coaches, artists, trainers of sports schools, specialists in art therapy, artists and other interesting personalities. This approach is almost the only one that allows not only to provide psychological first aid in an unobtrusive way, but also to carry out systematic work with mothers and children on psychological support.

- Mental Health Services for Ukrainian refugee children in schools in Warsaw, Poland

Working with the Warsaw Department of Education, UCAP has committed funds to support the training of school psychologists in interventions that address trauma symptoms in students.

## 3. Education and Youth

- Computer Tablets for Displaced 5<sup>th</sup> graders

Working with Nataliya Pipa, member of the Education Committee of the Ukraine Parliament, UCAP has purchased hundreds of computer tablets and distributed them to 5<sup>th</sup> grade displaced children (and children of fallen soldiers) in the Lviv region so they can access the New Ukrainian textbooks and curriculum as well as have consistent access to on-line learning.

- Summer Camps for Ukrainian refugee children

Three dozen Ukrainian youth were able to participate in 14-day sleepaway summer camps with Polish youth to interact with their host community and begin to learn Polish language

## 4. Child Health Programs

- Requested Pediatric Subspecialty Training

Special programs include a Pediatric Expert Exchange Program connecting the Lviv Children's hospital and the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in New York. UCAP is also supporting special advanced training of Ukraine pediatric subspecialists and surgeons in Poland and pediatric services in Lviv's state-of-the-art expanded Rehabilitation Center, "Unbroken", to meet the growing need for such services for critically injured children.

## 5. Urgent Winter Humanitarian Needs

Russia's brutality, the attacks on civilian and child-oriented targets and the deliberate winter attacks on energy, heating and water infrastructure clearly classify as war crimes. But they may already reflect genocidal aims and crimes against humanity. Responding to these issues, UCAP is deeply engaged and has funded the following to date:

- Winter boots, hundreds of pairs, for IDPs and Orphans
- 115 Wood-burning Stoves
- 200 Generators – Invincibility Centers
- 50 Generators – for Lviv Kindergartens, in collaboration with AFT

## 6. Continue to Raise Awareness – Media Coverage

<https://irwinredlener.org/posts>

<https://irwinredlener.org/ukraine-childrens-action-project>

## **2023 Goal: Raise and spend \$3 million.**

With the brutal war continuing and the destruction of the Ukrainian infrastructure unabated, UCAP will continue, expand, or develop support for:

- 1) **Programs and services that address mental health and resiliency support for children;**
- 2) **Ways to improve access to education and youth development programs that enhance continuity and quality – for refugee and displaced children;**
- 3) **Urgent humanitarian needs that focus on infrastructure including more generators, charging stations and school buses in communities impacted by conflict;**
- 4) **“Future Ready” program for Ukrainian orphans which will provide comprehensive support and guidance about future opportunities for vulnerable youth impacted by the war;**
- 5) **Child health programs that provide medical and rehabilitation programs for children via long-term relationships between Ukraine and American pediatric colleagues;**
- 6) **Establishment of one or more UCAP “multicenters” in Ukraine to provide facilities accessible to Ukraine children and youth;**
- 7) **Establishment of new center to begin long-term recovery planning for Ukraine's children; and,**
- 8) **Continued public outreach via all media about the plight of children who have been affected by the war.**

**\*Ukraine Children’s Action Project was established in partnership with the Entertainment Industry Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, EIN #95-1655609**

### ***U-CAP’s Advisors***

- UCAP takes the role of organizational advisement seriously. Those who agree to participate as an advisor will be regularly looked to for advice and counsel. Simultaneously, their participation will reinforce the seriousness and credibility of UCAPS philanthropic intentions. Here are the current members of the advisory board:
  - **Joan Baez**, singer, portrait artist, social activist and philanthropist
  - **John Cusack**, actor, screen writer and social activist
  - **Michael Keaton**, actor
  - **Harold Koplewicz, MD, PhD**, founding president, the Child Mind Institute
  - **Brad Paisley**, singer/songwriter
  - **Jeffrey Sachs**, University professor, Columbia University
  - **Paul Simon**, singer/songwriter
  - **Timothy Snyder**, author, social commentator & professor, Yale University
  - **Rafal Trzaskowski**, Mayor of Warsaw, Poland
  - **Nicolle Wallace**, anchor, MSNBC’s Deadline White House
  - **Randi Weingarten**, president, the American Federation of Teachers,

### ***UCAP founders***

#### **Irwin Redlener, M.D.**

- Pediatrician. public health expert, program creator, president emeritus/ co-founder Children’s Health Fund, founding director Columbia University’s National Center for Disaster Preparedness, lead designer and concept designer of Children’s Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center  
[Irwinredlener.org](http://Irwinredlener.org)

#### **Karen Redlener, M.S.**

- Co-founder & former executive director of Children’s Health Fund and executive director of Community Pediatrics of Montefiore Medical Center, with expertise in child health and development, as well as significant experience in program management and financial administration. Former member, NYC Board of Health

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