

Newsletter 1 - February 24th 2023 (20th volume!)

Camp Ukraine 2023 & Working Hands 2023



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Dear reader!!

When you have a new (email) address or when you do not want to receive the newsletter anymore, please let us know.

Urgent request: when you transfer money as a gift could you please include your address and postal code to facilitate our administration!

Situation in Ukraine

Exactly one year ago today Russia invaded Ukraine. Their expectation was that Ukraine could be conquered within a short time. That didn't happen. Meanwhile, millions fled their homes, partly abroad, partly to western Ukraine. There are tens of thousands of casualties on both sides. Hundreds of thousands of homes have been destroyed. Almost daily there are dozens of cruise missile and drone attacks on power plants, residential homes, etc. Throughout the whole country people are urged to go to the nearest shelter for protection during air alerts. The men are in the trenches, while women and children are on the run. It is a complete tragedy!

Since the beginning of the war the 'aid for Ukraine' cooperation between the foundations 'working group De Ruyter', 'Hands & Feet' and Oekroe, has sent extra relief transports to Ukraine. The relief consists of food, beds, mattresses etc. Through the many years of our charity work in Ukraine, a very reliable network has been established in the country. In the context of aid this is very important.

Warm socks action foundation Oekroe

A few ladies from the Oekroe community, started the Warm Socks Action last November. The reactions have been overwhelming. We did receive socks from Rijnsburg, Katwijk, Valkenburg, Rouveen (1,700 pairs), Eerbeek, Schipluiden and from several primary schools in larger Katwijk!

Until today we did receive 10,000 pairs of socks, of which some 6,000 pairs have already been transported to Ukraine, as far away as Mykolajev, Kherson and Kharkiv!

There is more info and photos on the back of this Newsletter.

Introduction of Leanneke Guijt-Klaassen

My name is Leanneke. All the twenty-five years of my life I have lived in Katwijk. I married Tom in 2020 and 7 months ago I became Lukas' mum. Until recently I enjoyed working in the mental health care sector. However, with the arrival of our son, I decided to quit my job. This created the opportunity to do some work within Foundation Oekroe. Since 2017 I have been involved in Oekroe. I joined the children's summer camps twice and I had the pleasure to travel to Shepetivka. I will be mainly involved in social media communication for Oekroe. I am looking forward to it! See you!

Camp Ukraine 2023

We are fully engaged in the preparations. A group of volunteers is prepared to go to Ukraine when the situation would be safe this summer. If not, several summer camps will be organized by our partners which we will support financially. As proven during recent years this would be a good alternative. As a result, also refugee children will get a good, time of relaxation at a summer camp, during which they will also hear about the Love of the Lord God! We do need is prayer as well as financial support!

Working Hands

Until today there we no reports that any of our 20 projects have suffered from the war. However, the damage to residential buildings, hospitals, schools, and infrastructure is enormous. The buildings we have renovated are often used to host refugees. We are currently contemplating, with our Ukrainian (construction) partners, what to do when this terrible war would be over. The assessment being made right now is that the demand for aid in terms of construction will be enormous. Houses, schools, hospitals etc. Within our limited possibilities we as Foundation Oekroe, together with our partners, would like to respond to requests for support to literally rebuild the country as soon as this possibility arises.

Will you continue to help us/them with prayer and finances? And remember: Giving will only make you richer! Where we can, we continue to help. Will you help us? Hopefully we will soon be able to go to Ukraine again ourselves! That too will give them heartfelt support!

*Camp Ukraine 2022 and Working Hands 2022 activities of Foundation Oekroe at Rijnsburg
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Warm Socks Action!

The reactions to the Warm Socks Action (WSA) are overwhelming!



Upon the 'call to action' in our newsletter of 11 November for Warm Socks, we received many positive reactions! People in Rouveen started collecting socks immediately! From this municipality many young people and some older people joined Camp Ukraine Rouveen during recent years. In Schipluiden (near the city of Delft), a large action has been initiated in which the whole village participated, and which is still ongoing. In Eerbeek and Loenen (in the east of The Netherlands) people also started collecting socks. From Eerbeek we also received a lot of wool, including real spun sheep's wool, which we passed on to knitting groups in Schipluiden. Many schools in Katwijk, Rijnsburg and Valkenburg participated and are still participating! In short, it is heart-warming to see how many people are committed to help young and old Ukrainians to get warm feet during these most difficult times!

The socks go to Ukraine with transports of Foundation 'working group De Ruyter'. The socks are handed over just across the Hungarian-Ukrainian border. Ukrainian transporters bring the socks deeper into Ukraine.

The response to the WSA has been heart-warming! *"Because of the socks, which we get from you, we have warm feet again. And as a result, we also get a little warm inside again! Thanks be to the Lord that people think of us, pray for us and in this way, give us a boost!"* We also received money for the socks action. Those donations have been used to buy socks at the street market. The market vendor added a lot of socks for free: *"for the poor people there!"* he said. Flabbergasting, isn't it? By the way, socks, hats, and scarves, as well as money and prayer, are still very much needed! **Thank you!**

