

TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE



tatest.org

Newsletter, June 2022



Members of Risti Church arranged welcoming picnic for Ukraine refugees.

PARTNERING WITH



formerly EEMN
SONetwork.org

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Ukraine Refugees Whom We Have Helped

We are very thankful to all people and congregations who have donated Ukraine refugees through Tartu Academy of Theology. Until now **we have received \$51,328 to the Ukraine fund**. We are cooperating with the Estonian Lutheran Church congregations and because of this, your donations reach different locations in Estonia where refugees are hosted. Pastors and church members are not only offering them housing, they are helping them also to settle in this new country, to overcome the bureaucratic obstacles and to solve the economic problems.

Although the battles in Ukraine take place approximately 1,000 miles from Estonia we are facing new challenges

here. Since the end of February, Estonia has faced an unprecedented influx of refugees, mostly women and children. **Estonia has hosted around 45,000 refugees over a couple of months.** The shortage of housing is enormous and hundreds of refugees are still forced to live on empty cruise ships or other temporary places.

In this newsletter I'm sharing some of the stories of families who have been helped with your donation.

God bless you,
Pastor Siimon Haamer
President of TAT

The Family Staying at Home of Hope's Guest Apartment

Since the middle of March, we have hosted a family including parents and two children (5 months and 6 years old). At the end of April Oleksandr, the father, was called back to Ukraine to join military forces. Jana and the two children are, of course, still with us and we take care of their daily needs. She isn't able to go to work because the younger child is only 5 months old. Returning would be dangerous because their home is located next to the military base and Russians randomly attack the military bases in Ukraine. Unfortunately, their missiles don't hit only military objects.

In the middle of June, together with Spiritual Orphans Network missionaries, we hosted a youth Bible camp. Arina, the older child of these refugees, took part in the camp. Although she couldn't understand the language she very much enjoyed the company of other kids and even asked another Ukraine girl to join our camp.



6 years old Arina (on the left) and another Ukraine girl Tanya (on the right) enjoying youth Bible camp in the middle of June.

If you would like to give your support for Ukraine refugees

and to all additional activities that we are running in this extreme situation, you can use options below.

CHECKS

Charity Lutheran Church
120 Aspen Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503, U.S.A.
Designation "TAT Ukraine"

ELECTRONICAL

Go to www.charitylutheran.org/give and follow the steps. Choose from the "Fund" dropdown list "Tartu Academy of Theology" and then choose the sub fund "Ukraine".

We are very thankful if you'll keep in mind our other needs as well. In order to help Ukraine people we need to keep Home of Hope running.

More giving options are available at tatest.org/give.

Christian Outreach in Estonia for GENERATIONS TO COME

The Lutheran Church in Risti

After the outbreak of the war, the congregation in Risti made a decision to take care of 2-3 Ukrainian families and accommodate them in an old school building owned by the congregation. During the first weeks of March, volunteers renovated some rooms and furnished them with all that is needed for those who arrive with empty hands. In the middle of March, the first families arrived. Now they have already four families there and they are making preparations to host even more people.

Ljudmilla comes from Kalynvka with two kids – Ruslan (14) and Alexandra (6). She has found a job in the local cafeteria. Alexandra goes to the local kindergarten, Ruslan continues his studies online but hopefully, he can continue his education in Tallinn this autumn.

Nastja comes from a village near Vinnitsa with her two kids – Sanja (9) and Darja (6). She has found work in a local industry of electronics and both kids attend the local school and kindergarten.

The most difficult is the situation with Anush who arrived in the middle of June. She and her son Vardan have been in Estonia since March living and working in different places. On June 15 Anush had to go through a difficult eye surgery and due to that she cannot work anymore. So she also lost the room they got from her employee. Right now she is in a pretty desperate situation, almost blind, not able to take care of herself and her son. This is a real challenge for members of Risti church to help them on daily basis.

On June 20th arrived Aljona with her 13-year-old daughter Julia. They are just in the beginning of the accomodation process.



As the school building dates from 1929 the old ovens are no longer functioning. As winters are cold in Estonia they need to repair those stoves. We have helped the Risti congregation to cover the costs of these refugees and are also supporting the renovation of the old and broken stoves so that they could host more people who are escaping because of the war.

The Lutheran Church in Kadrina

The Lutheran congregation in the small town of Kadrina in northeast Estonia has a small guesthouse where they have been hosting a family of Ukrainian refugees since March: a younger lady with a daughter (7 years old) and her mother-in-law with two adopted girls (16 and 17 years old). The husband of the older lady, a pensioner, joined them a month later. They come from Zheltye Vody (Yellow Waters) which is located in southeast Ukraine. The local people have helped them adapt to their life. They have found part-time jobs and try to learn the Estonian language.

We have provided funds to cover their housing costs for three months but it seems they need to stay there for a longer period of time. We are planning to continue helping them.



Bicycles for Refugees

We have also provided funds for the Bicycle Project launched by one Lutheran congregation in Tallinn (the Capital of Estonia).

The goal of this project is to get bicycles for Ukrainian children who are refugees in Estonia. People are donating

used bicycles. Others are repairing the ones that need refurbishing. Some new bicycles are provided through different companies that are either making donations or covering part of the cost of the bicycles.

We have helped to get bicycles to about 10 children.

CONNECT WITH US...

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