

Two Ukrainian Families Need a Sponsor – An Opportunity for Hands-On Ministry

Two Ukrainian families each need a US sponsor to be able to stay temporarily in the United States under the United for Ukraine program (UforU). If you're a US citizen, could you help?

Pashchuk Family



Serhiy and Anna (“Ania”) Pashchuk with two daughters, who usually reside in Kyiv, are staying with parents in nearby Zdolbuniv (which is safer than Kyiv). The parents commute to Kyiv to work or work remotely when possible.

Ania Pashchuk was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She had surgery but because she received a very optimistic prognosis has returned to work part time. Her diagnosis played a key role in the family’s decision to consider applying for UforU on account of the good health insurance the program provides. She also wants to let their kids have normal school experience, without spending time in the bomb shelters or learning remotely as was the case for most of last winter.

The Pashchuks attend an Orthodox church in their hometown. Should they find a sponsor in the Washington, DC area, the family has some friends who would be willing to assist with paperwork and other logistics if needed. The Pashchuks have intermediate English abilities.

Plisko Family



Mykola and Olena Plisko and three children are from the Odessa region, which was massively bombed this past summer.

The Pliskos are active members of a local Baptist church in Odessa. Wherever they can find sponsorship in the US, they want to move eventually to be with best friends in the Philadelphia/East Greenville, PA area (that family also came to the US with the UforU program).

The Ukrainian family in the Philadelphia area would help the Pliskos find work and housing, and there is a Ukrainian church in the area as well.

The Pliskos have basic English abilities. Mykola is a professional construction contractor, and Olena is a music teacher.

Both males have driver's licenses and could start making money with Uber or take construction jobs. The mothers also work: Ania is involved in online marketing, Olena is a music teacher.

The two couples are very committed to their country, but recent circumstances have forced them to seek safety abroad. The families are ready to cover their flight tickets costs. Also both males also can legally leave Ukraine.

The expectation from potential sponsors would be to provide accommodation, food, and occasional help with transportation for the first 2-2 1/2 months while the families get all the paperwork to be temporary residents: work permits, social security numbers, health insurance, and US driver's licenses. In terms of housing, some sponsors have been willing to host a family in their own home for these few months while they help the sponsored family finding place to rent. Other sponsors have assisted from the beginning to help the family rent an apartment, so there are alternative ways to address the housing need.

To rent a place, a sponsor may be asked to co-sign the lease, as landlords often require income and credit history statements. Sometimes although one sponsor completes the UforU form and is designated the official sponsor, friends or fellow church members will gather as a team to help refugee families. Normally the UforU program tries to help with interpreters, but this ability to help varies with the region of the country where the sponsor lives. The friends of the Plisckos in East Greenville indicate there are numerous people in the local Ukrainian community who can help with interpreting.

United for Ukraine

The United for Ukraine program, announced by President Biden for Ukrainians over a year ago, and implemented by US Department of Homeland Security provides a pathway for displaced Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who are outside the United States to come to the United States and stay temporarily for up to two years. This program quickly grants Ukrainians a legal status, work permits, health insurance, and some benefits like food stamps. The process is straightforward, and the turnaround time for the application review not long. The potential sponsor must qualify, then the family receives visas and permission to travel to the US within a period of time after approval. The official website of the program is:

<https://www.dhs.gov/ukraine>

To volunteer as a sponsor for a family or ask questions, contact Nadiia Khomaziuk at 'nkhomaziuk@usubc.org'