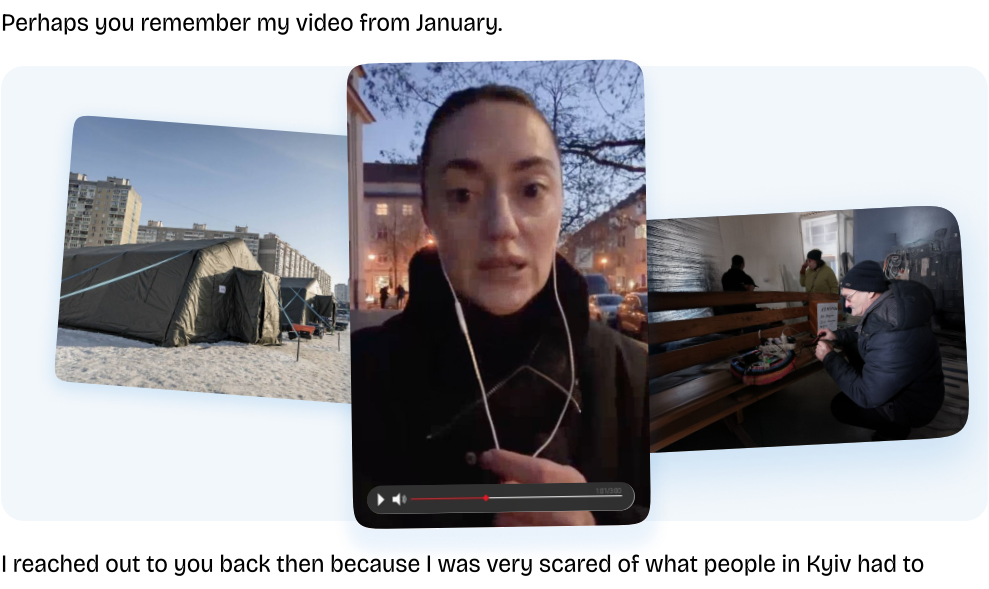
Ukraine2Power

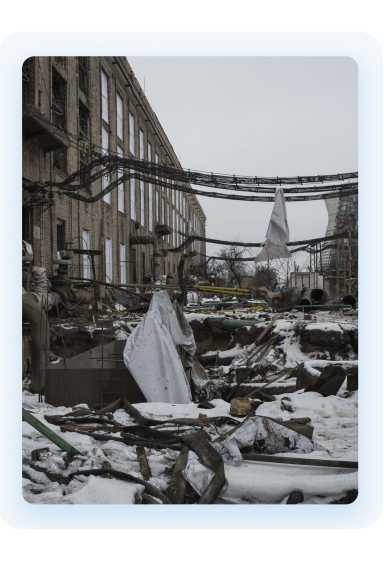
Hello, my dears! It's me, Nataliia

Perhaps you remember my video from January.



I reached out to you back then because I was very scared of what people in Kyiv had to endure during this winter of war.

Russian attacks had destroyed the energy supply. Homes became freezing cold, with no electricity, heating, or running water. Elevators stopped working, making it especially difficult for elderly people and those with health issues to leave their apartments.



I told you about the situation and asked for your help. You watched the video, shared it, and donated. Today, I want to show you what we've achieved together. Because I think many of you don't even realize how much of a difference we've made.

Thanks to you, we were able to

Distribute 6,200 warm packages

Equip 7 schools
with large battery storage systems and inverters, ensuring a reliable power supply during outages without relying on generators, for years to come.

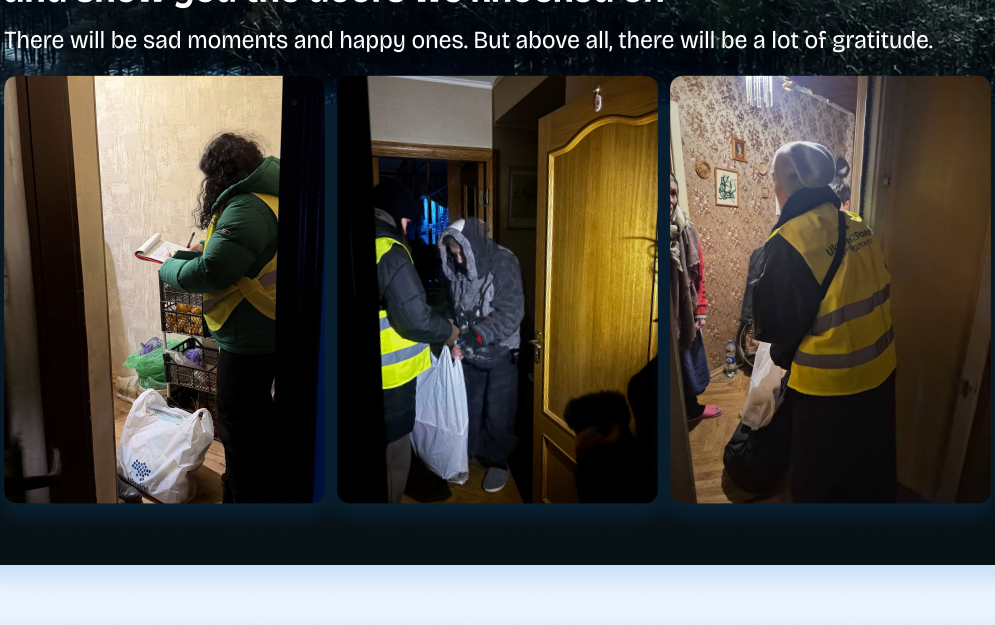
Acquire 90+ gas heaters
for social service centres and residential care facilities in the Kyiv region

Provide ~430 charging stations
for particularly vulnerable persons and families

+90 additional charging stations
currently being purchased

Today, I want to take you along and show you the doors we knocked on

There will be sad moments and happy ones. But above all, there will be a lot of gratitude.



When even your own home becomes cold

Perhaps it's hard to imagine what that kind of cold feels like after several days.
The constant cold and darkness exhaust you, draining your strength and motivation.

The situation was particularly bad on the left bank of the Dnipro, in neighborhoods filled with high-rise apartment buildings. Floor by floor, the buildings grew colder. Water froze in the pipes, causing them to burst. Parents wrapped their children in blankets and even set up tents inside their apartments to keep what little warmth they had.

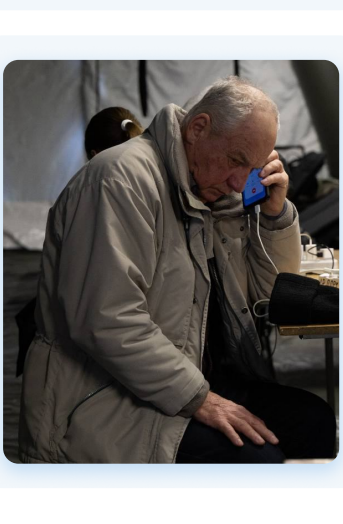
A tent in the middle of the children's room. It keeps the warmth a bit longer

Homemade 'high-tech' solutions to keep in a little warmth

At the "Points of Invincibility" (emergency warming and support centers) people could warm up and charge their phones. But with the elevators out of order, even getting downstairs was nearly impossible for many. And afterwards, they had to return to their freezing apartments.

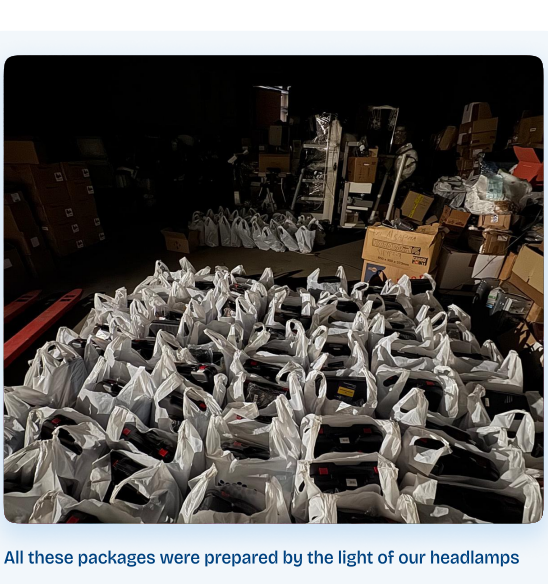
A "Point of Invincibility" is often just a large tent

Warmth, electricity, a few hours of relief from the cold — that's all this place can offer



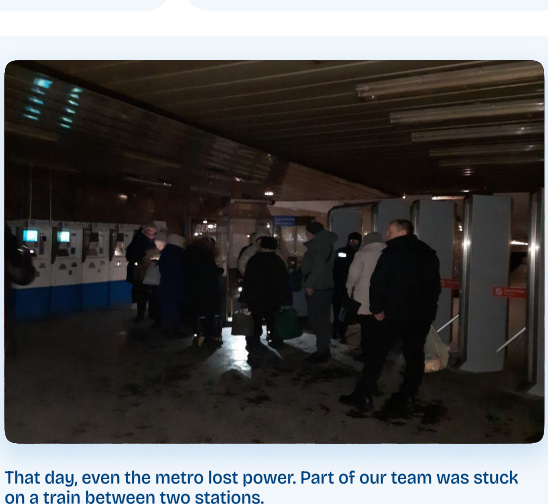
That's why we also brought help directly to people's homes, right to their doorsteps

Just two weeks after our call for donations, we distributed the first packages. While you were donating, we were buying supplies, packing, and planning deliveries. At first, we had neither electricity nor a generator in the warehouse, so we packed everything by the light of our headlamps. During my first trip, there was a massive attack. The metro lost power, and passengers had to be evacuated from trains. Navigation also stopped working. We had to gather our team from different parts of the city before we could start distributing the packages.



All these packages were prepared by the light of our headlamps

Packed and ready for the first distribution



That day, even the metro lost power. Part of our team was stuck on a train between two stations.

Depending on people's needs and what was available, the packages contained sleeping bags, thermoses, power banks, electric blankets, hand and body warmers, portable gas stoves with canisters, and first-aid kits.

Before we arrived, we listened

Before each trip, we spoke with building managers and local residents to understand what people needed. Who lived alone? Who could barely leave their apartment? This helped us put together packages based on people's individual needs.

For example, where there was no gas supply, we included portable gas stoves and canisters. We prioritized elderly people, those with health problems, families with children, people with disabilities, internally displaced people, and those affected by Russian attacks.

But we also helped young people who were freezing in their apartments and reached out to us for help.

Most of the items were purchased in Ukraine. Anything that wasn't available there or was cheaper in the EU, we bought abroad. Almost all the electric blankets and some of the power banks came from Germany. ROSSMANN also donated power banks, hand and body warmers, and first-aid kits.

We told people about you

Many asked where the help had come from. And we told them about you:

> "People in Germany were thinking of you. They donated to help you. We're just the messengers."

This touched them deeply. I want to pass on their heartfelt thanks to you.

What still stays with me

There is also something that happened in Teremky that I still find difficult to talk about.

In one apartment building, pipes had burst, leaving residents without electricity, heating, or a working sewage system. Before delivering the aid, our local contacts called residents to let them know we were coming.

One elderly woman didn't answer her phone or respond to the doorbell. She was later found dead in her apartment. The cold had made her condition worse.

We were able to help so many people, but we couldn't reach everyone in time. That is incredibly painful.

With the help of our partners, the warm packages also reached:

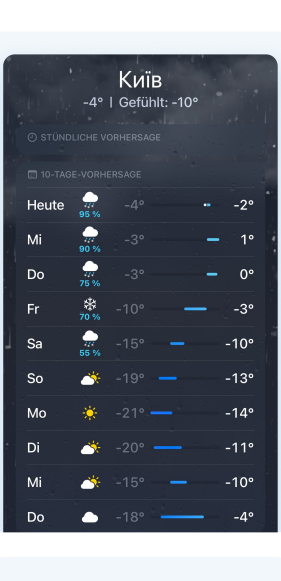
- People with hearing and visual impairments
- Families of children and young people with spinal muscular atrophy
- Employees of the inclusive bakery Good Bread from Good People
- Families affected by rare diseases
- Ukrainian railway employees living without electricity or heating at home

We organized the entire process ourselves: collecting donations, purchasing supplies, packing the kits, and delivering them to those in need.

This allowed us to respond quickly and hand over the supplies personally, directly to the people who needed them most.

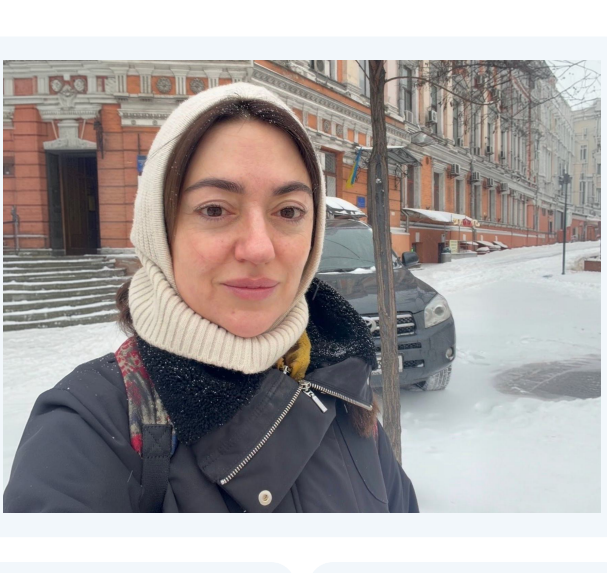
… and mountains of paperwork

Apparently, digitalization hasn't quite reached our corner of humanitarian work yet. Every single package required a signed receipt. In the freezing temperatures, even our pens stopped working.



Київ
-4° | Gefühlt: -10°
STÜNDLICHE VORHERSAGE
10-TAGE-VORHERSAGE

Heute	95 %	-4°	-2°
Mi	90 %	-3°	1°
Do	75 %	-3°	0°
Fr	70 %	-10°	-3°
Sa	55 %	-15°	-10°
So		-19°	-13°
Mo		-21°	-14°
Di		-20°	-11°
Mi		-15°	-10°
Do		-18°	-4°



Today, we have thick folders full of documents showing exactly where your support went.

Light for children. A safe place for the community

Seven schools, better prepared for many winters to come.

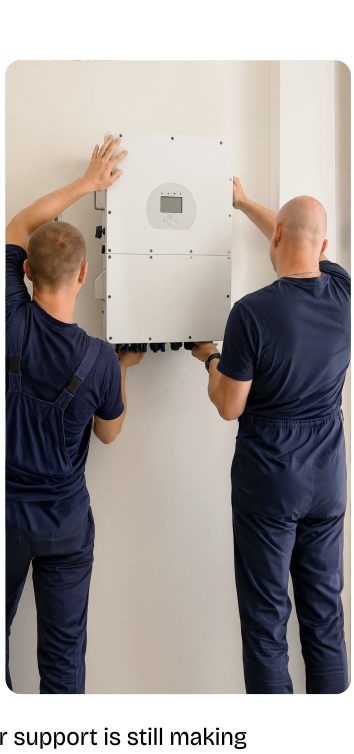
The large residential neighborhood of Troieshchyna, in Kyiv's Desnianskyi district on the left bank of the Dnipro River, was particularly badly affected.

Schools suddenly had to become emergency warming centers. Alongside their teaching duties, teachers had to organize shelter and supplies for people staying at the schools. Entire families spent the night there.

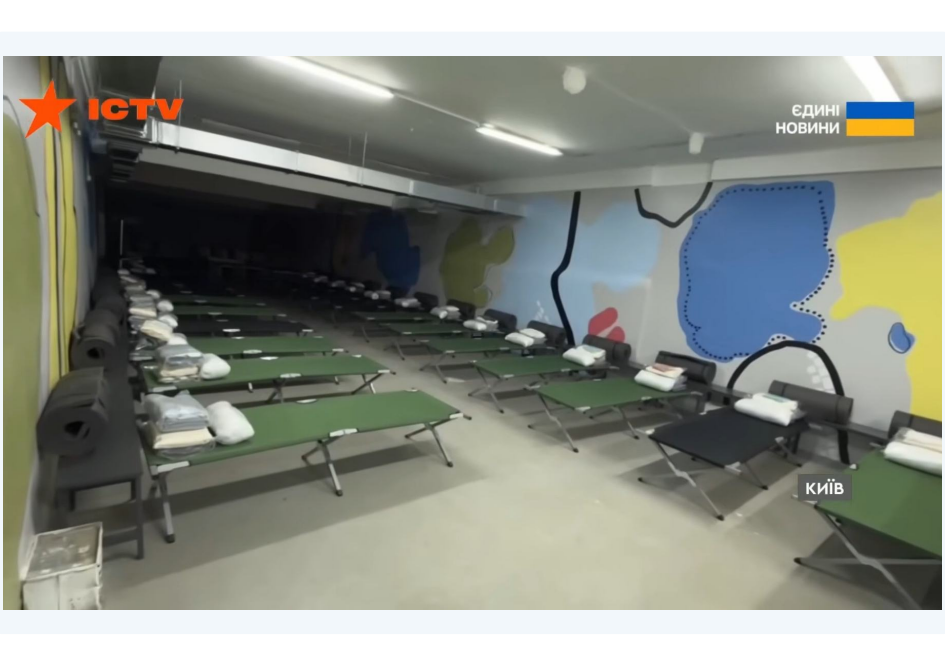
Generators needed constant refueling and maintenance.

Thanks to you, we equipped seven schools with
battery storage systems and hybrid inverters.

A sustainable solution for years to come.
Just a few hours of grid electricity are enough to recharge the batteries. When the power goes out, the systems automatically take over the electricity supply. During an ordinary school day, the transition can be so seamless that hardly anyone notices.



The beds from last winter are still ready to be used. And your support is still making a difference. These systems will serve the schools for many years to come.



Electricity that saves lives

Thanks to your donations, we were able to purchase and distribute
426 portable power stations

Most of them went to families with seriously ill children and adults who depend on electrically powered medical equipment. These families already face enormous challenges in everyday life, even without the war. When the electricity goes out, essential medical devices stop working.

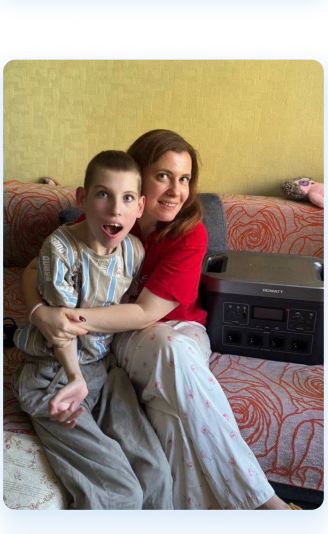
For these families, electricity isn't about comfort. It's about survival. And that's no exaggeration.

Yaroslav, 12

One night, Yaroslav could barely breathe. His mother, Olena, reached for his nebulizer, but without electricity, she couldn't switch it on.

The ambulance arrived about 20 minutes later. By then, his condition had already deteriorated significantly.

Today, Olena can use the nebulizer even during a power outage. She was moved to tears when she received the power station.



Tymur, 13

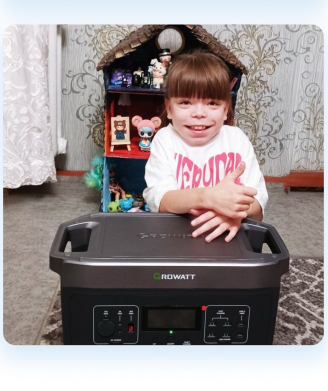
For Tymur, a boy with autism whose family fled Zaporizhzhia, predictable routines are especially important.

A sudden blackout can trigger a severe crisis.

Thanks to the power station, the lights and internet can stay on. Tymur can continue studying online, and his mother no longer has to go to a supermarket just to charge her phone.

She described what this means to her:

> "You can wake up in the morning again without being afraid of what the day will bring."



Olga

Name changed for privacy reasons

Olga has severe asthma.

When her family was left without electricity for up to 38 hours, her mother had to take her to a supermarket so she could use her nebulizer. But the journey exposed Olga to the cold, which could itself trigger an asthma attack.

Now, she can receive her treatment at home, even during a blackout.

For me, these power stations are a shield against the hardships of a winter at war.

It is thanks to you that we have been able to give people this protection

Gas heaters and an unexpected change of plans

We purchased gas heaters in the Netherlands for people with serious medical conditions, at just one-third of the price they would have cost in Ukraine at the time.

Although we had checked the models in advance, the mandatory safety inspection after delivery revealed that the heaters were not suitable for use in apartments, only in larger spaces.

We had to change our plans.

More than 90 heaters were delivered to ten social service centers and residential care facilities in the Kyiv region, serving more than 2,000 people.

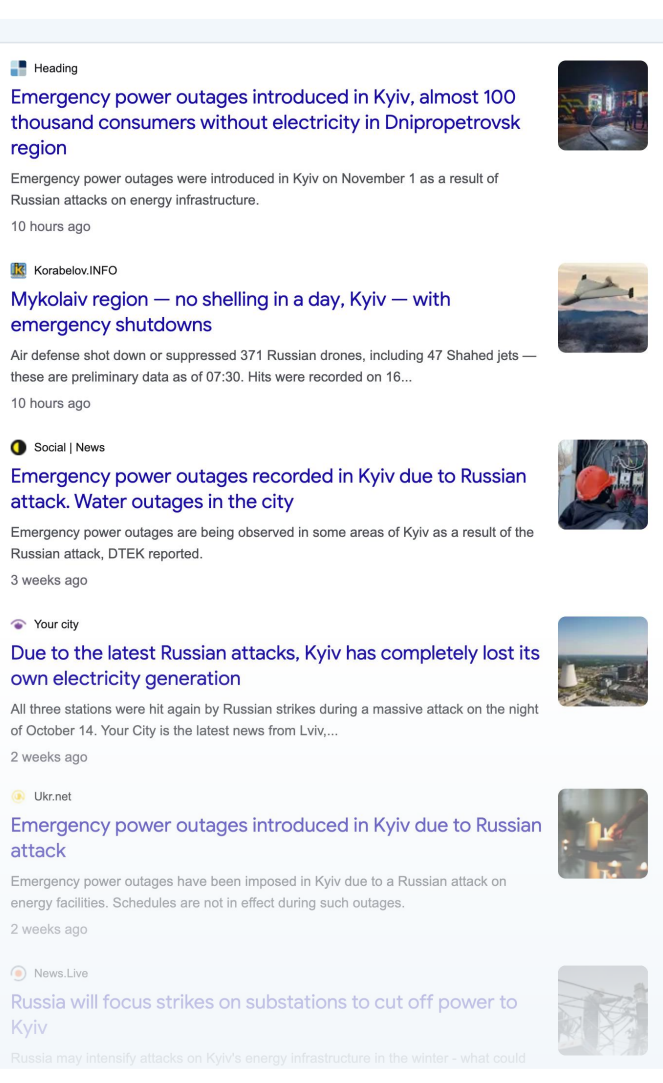
We also purchased gas cylinders locally in Kyiv. The staff at these facilities know how to operate the heaters safely.

An autumn of uncertainty

Last winter was a major challenge for us. It was the first time we had taken on a humanitarian project of this kind.

One thing has now become clear:
We will be needed again this winter.

The freezing temperatures haven't arrived yet. The prolonged power outages already have. In October alone, there were nearly 200 Russian attacks on energy facilities, including infrastructure supplying water.



Heading
Emergency power outages introduced in Kyiv, almost 100 thousand consumers without electricity in Dnipropetrovsk region
Emergency power outages were introduced in Kyiv on November 1 as a result of Russian attacks on energy infrastructure.
10 hours ago

Korabelov.INFO
Mykolaiv region — no shelling in a day, Kyiv — with emergency shutdowns
Air defense shot down or suppressed 371 Russian drones, including 47 Shahed jets — these are preliminary data as of 07:30. Hits were recorded on 16...
10 hours ago

Social | News
Emergency power outages recorded in Kyiv due to Russian attack. Water outages in the city
Emergency power outages are being observed in some areas of Kyiv as a result of the Russian attack, DTEK reported.
3 weeks ago

Your city
Due to the latest Russian attacks, Kyiv has completely lost its own electricity generation
All three stations were hit again by Russian strikes during a massive attack on the night of October 14. Your City is the latest news from Lviv,...
2 weeks ago

Ukr.net
Emergency power outages introduced in Kyiv due to Russian attack
Emergency power outages have been imposed in Kyiv due to a Russian attack on energy facilities. Schedules are not in effect during such outages.
2 weeks ago

News.Live
Russia will focus strikes on substations to cut off power to Kyiv

Data centers and warehouses have been hit. Supply chains have been disrupted. Humanitarian warehouses have also been attacked, destroying tons of aid belonging to major Ukrainian and international organizations.

In Kyiv, daily power cuts are already lasting up to eight hours. Kyiv city authorities are advising residents who have somewhere else to stay to temporarily leave the city.

But not everyone can leave. And not everyone wants to.

We are preparing for an extremely difficult winter

The global situation is frightening, sometimes almost absurd. Many people have grown tired of hearing about the war. People in Ukraine are exhausted, too. But what choice do they have if they don't want to live under Russian rule?

**They have no choice but to endure.
And we will continue to stand by their side.
We will keep looking after one another, especially when times are at their hardest.**

We are not powerless

The thousands of people who donated, wrote to us, and shared information and videos have shown us that. Your solidarity gives us strength.

Thanks to you, warmth, light, and support are reaching people in need.

If you'd like to keep helping, we hope you'll continue this journey with us.

With love and gratitude, Nataliia

Donation recipient	WE AID gGmbH
IBAN	DE52 3702 0500 0001 8388 01
BIC	BFSWDE33XXX
Payment reference	Ukraine2Power

This story is far from over, and we would love to continue sharing it with you. If you would like to receive updates from us in the future, sign up for our newsletter.

Sign Up Now

Thank you to our partners and friends 💙

WE AID gGmbH
For providing administrative support and managing the donation process

Help for Ukraine
For being there and lending a hand from day one

This email is sent on behalf of WE AID gGmbH.