

Dear All,

Many people have been asking us how they can help Ukraine and her people so I am providing some info to our friends, colleagues and family on a group that we feel is doing very good work. While there are many bonafide organizations doing important and effective humanitarian work, we have a personal connection to someone who is "on the ground" moving people and supplies quickly and efficiently. Below is info about his organization.

The Committee for Open Democracy (COD) a US-based 501(c)3, non-profit organization of the Internal Revenue Code, EIN 27-3930552, founded in 2010 to support democratic institutions, is activating a Crisis Intervention Fund to bring humanitarian, medical, and resettlement relief to victims of the war in Ukraine.

A description of the specialized project to help Ukraine can be reviewed by clicking on <http://www.helpukraine22.org> which will direct you to donate to "Operation Palyanytsya," the original humanitarian relief project administered and directed by COD. Donations can also be made directly through the COD website [www.committeeforopendemocracy.org](http://www.committeeforopendemocracy.org). Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services are provided in exchange for your financial donation.

The director of the COD is an American expat who has been living and working in Ukraine for more than 20 years. His name is Brian Mefford and his Ukrainian wife is an accomplished rheumatologist. Paul has known him for about 12 years and has been in contact with him almost daily since the war began, seeking help with individual evacuations and wider relief efforts. Currently Brian is working out of Warsaw but has teams still bringing people out of Ukraine.

The websites offer more info about this group. Attached is also a project description for "Help Ukraine" which lays out their mission of Rescue, Relief and Resupply. This NGO is a highly skilled group with "on the ground" knowledge and expertise that is making a difference quickly in places that require a faster response than a large humanitarian effort might be able to offer.

Following is a recent Facebook post by Brian Mefford:

"Many of you asked me what you can do to help Ukraine during Putin's invasion. I have put everything on hold to work on this humanitarian effort [www.helpukraine22.org](http://www.helpukraine22.org). There are many good organizations out there helping Ukraine. However, this is the one that I am working on. We focus on rescue, relief and resupply which means basically we assist with evacuations, shelter in/out of Ukraine, and resupply of medicines and humanitarian aid. What I like about this effort is that more than 95% of funds will go directly to help Ukrainians in need. Grateful to those of you who can donate, and if you are in the US, it is tax deductible. Ukraine will win but it needs your support. Thank you."

The people of Ukraine are living a nightmare that, on our worst day, none of us could ever imagine. We have relatives living in Lviv who have chosen not to leave. They are safe for the moment but that will likely change soon.

Paul also has business colleagues based in Kyiv, some who recently drove their families to the Polish border where Paul made arrangements to have them met and housed in an apartment we keep in

Warsaw. The men, unfortunately, have had to stay behind, but have managed to move their cyber operations out of the capitol to Western Ukraine. Another colleague opted to stay in Kiev but sent his 17 year old son by train to the border with Poland where we had him met and transported to one of our relatives in Krakow. Sadly, this boy may soon be orphaned.

Please share this info with your friends and contacts and thank you for your help!

Warmest regards,

Paul and Carole