

**Letter from the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops
in the United States**

**...And they shall call his name Immanuel,
which means, "God is with us."**

Matt. 1:23

Dear brothers and sisters,

Christmas is, for many, a season of preparation and of gratitude. Throughout December, Christians prepare to receive God into their homes and hearts, welcoming Him as a newborn child. The celebration also occasions gratitude for all the blessings we have received this past year. And gratitude in turn brings to mind those among us who lack these same blessings, those in need, those in distress and danger.

At **the Healing of the Wounds of the War in Ukraine Fund**, we are so grateful for all the support you have been offering. Your generosity this past year has allowed the Fund to distribute over **\$2.1 million to 92 projects**. We've been able to offer financial help to **twenty six rehabilitation programs** for patients traumatized by war, along with **two major prosthetic centers** — in a country with more than sixty thousand amputees. We have given support to the pastoral work of **seventy-two military chaplains**, provided assistance to **four shelters** for Internally Displaced Persons, aided **four hospitals**, distributed food packages for the hungry, and contributed to four religious orders in their care for the poor.

Your solidarity with suffering Ukraine is a gift of hope. Recent news tells of Russian forces now intensifying their bombing of civil infrastructures and so causing greater destruction and the deaths of innocent men, women and children. **During the frigid weather millions of Ukrainians are regularly deprived of electricity and heating.** As they are standing up to an axis of evil that now

includes Russia, Belarus, North Korea, and Iran, your support helps the people of Ukraine continue steadfast in faith, resilience, and sacrifice.

Christmas this year will find millions of Ukrainians in exile or internally displaced within their country, or having parents or children or loved ones taken away for the war effort or killed by the invaders. For all such Ukrainians, the hardship of that first Christmas in Bethlehem finds deep resonance. But so does the light and hope and courage brought by the One whose name is Immanuel — God with us. **For God is with us both in our sufferings and our joys, and He gives us more than we can ask or imagine** (cf. Eph. 3:20).

May this same God bless you a hundredfold in recompense for your continued generosity to Ukrainians in need!

Assuring you of our prayers, and wishing you and your loved ones a very blessed, holy, and merry Christmas, we remain,

Yours in Christ,

+BORYS GUDZIAK

Archbishop of Philadelphia
Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics
in the United States

+PAUL CHOMNYCKY, OSBM

Bishop of Stamford

+BENEDICT ALEKSIYCHUK

Bishop of St. Nicholas in Chicago

+ BOHDAN J. DANYLO

Bishop of St. Josaphat in Parma



Near the frontlines, a Ukrainian Catholic chaplain celebrates the Divine Liturgy, Donetsk region (the HWF supported 72 military chaplains).



The Sacrament of Confession is given to a soldier by Rev. Rostyslav Vysochan (UGCC priest).

Summer camp for children of IDPs and those in need, Caritas Drohobych (supported by the HWF).



Women and children of IDPs at a shelter run by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church near Lviv (supported by the HWF).



HEALING of WOUNDS of the war in Ukraine FUND

PRAY · INFORM · HELP

THE HEALING OF WOUNDS OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE FUND

Recap of Activities & Achievements in 2024

The Healing of Wounds of the War in

Ukraine Fund (HWF) is a continuation of the legacy of the Metropolia Humanitarian Aid Fund of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the US, which distributed over **\$7.2 million** since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. The HWF was established in 2024 by the four Ukrainian Catholic dioceses (eparchies) in the US.

THE FUND'S MISSION

The Healing of Wounds of the War in Ukraine Fund supports projects that address the **physical**, **emotional**, and **spiritual** consequences of the war waged against Ukraine. The Fund seeks to respond quickly to urgent needs of our beneficiaries showing our solidarity and Christian love to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

HWF Major Achievements in 2024



Archbishop Borys Gudziak greets Sashko from Kharkiv, who has learned to walk using his prosthetics at the "Superhumans" center in Lviv.

2

major
prosthetic
centers in
Ukraine
supported

72

military
chaplains
received an
assistance

2

Catholic
hospitals
financed,
providing
medical
equipment
and renovation
assistance

4

Caritas
branches
working with
IDPs and
those in need
supported

2

heating
infrastructure
projects to help
in the winter time
financed

4

religious orders
providing comfort
to IDPs funded

2

hospitals
in Kyiv for
children
from
Okhmadyt's
hospital
attacked by
the russians

2,000+

food packages
distributed to those
in need

4

shelters for
241 IDPs
financed

7

summer camps that
served 173 children
of internally displaced
persons (IDPs)
supported

A national
conference on
mental health and
an educational
seminar for
psychologists
supported

26

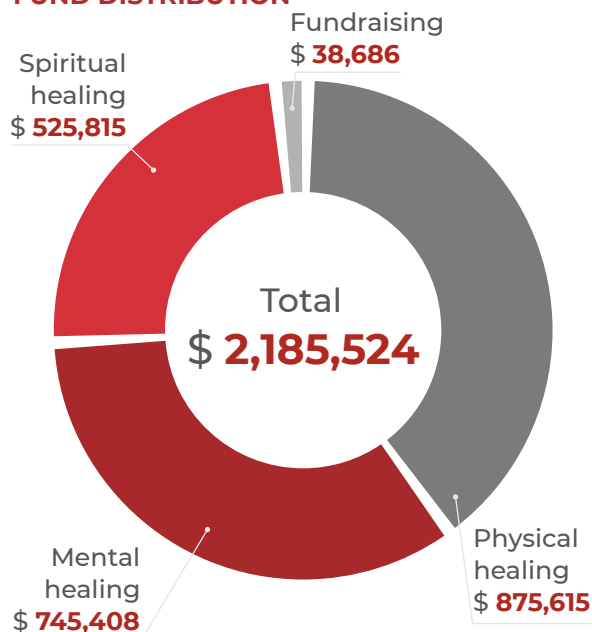
rehabilitation
centers and
programs
serving over
2,000 people
supported

Fund Financials Overview

FUND REVENUE

TOTAL Contributions **\$ 2,618,376**

FUND DISTRIBUTION



- Physical healing — 40%
- Mental healing — 34%
- Spiritual healing — 24%
- Fundraising — 2%

TOP 10 DONORS OF THE FUND

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston	\$ 803,874
Archdiocese of Boston	\$ 500,000
Archeparchy of Philadelphia Ukrainian Catholic (parishes)	\$ 282,810
Archeparchy of Philadelphia - Estate of Rev. Roman Mirchuk	\$ 223,167
Archdiocese of New York	\$ 100,000
Anonymous donor to match Fall 2024 Phila event donations	\$ 99,587
Charlie Walsh	\$ 50,200
Anonymous donor	\$ 50,000
Anonymous donor	\$ 29,020
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers	\$ 20,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,158,658



Fund's Leadership

Patrons

Cardinal **Blase J. Cupich** of Chicago
 Cardinal **Daniel N. DiNardo** of Galveston-Houston
 Cardinal **Timothy M. Dolan** of New York
 Cardinal **Wilton D. Gregory** of Washington
 Cardinal **Robert W. McElroy** of San Diego
 Cardinal **Sean P. O'Malley** of Boston
 Cardinal **Joseph William Tobin** of Newark

Bishop's Board

Metropolitan **Borys Gudziak** of the Philadelphia Archeparchy
 Bishop **Paul Patrick Chomnycky**, Eparch of the Stamford Eparchy
 Bishop **Benedict Aleksyichuk**, Eparch of the St. Nicholas Eparchy in Chicago
 Bishop **Bohdan Danylo**, Eparch of the St. Josaphat Eparchy in Parma

Program Board

Sister **Donna Markham**, OP, Ph.D — past president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA (2015-2023), Adrian Dominican sister and board-certified clinical psychologist
 Very Rev. Archpriest **Yaroslav Nalysnyk**, MD, DMin — pastor of the Christ the King parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston
 Rear Admiral **Boris D. Lushniak**, MD, MPH — Dean of the UMD School of Public Health, past U.S. deputy surgeon general (2010-15) and acting surgeon general (2013-14)



Please help us heal the wounds of the war in Ukraine
 215-627-0143
healingwoundsfund@ukrcatholic.org