

UKRAINE

BUDAPEST - SUNDAY 24 APRIL 2022

So, I returned to Budapest on Monday hoping things might have changed a little; they have; for the worse; significantly. Today, we head into Ukraine with our next supply of food and aid; not easy because milk, oil and sugar is now rationed in Hungary.

I feel that I should open with an apology; but, I can't bring myself to. To cut to the chase, I please need 18,000,000 forints (£40,000) over the next eight weeks. How we will raise the money, I truly have no idea; will we raise the money; of course we will.

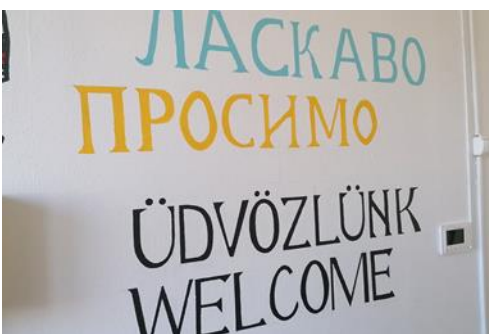
MAYBE, 400 PEOPLE EACH DONATING £100; JOB DONE

Yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting András Siewert, Co-Founder of Segítők Egyesület (Migration Aid in Hungary); another quite remarkable man on this quite incredible journey. Migration Aid is an entirely voluntary organisation; no-one, not even András, draws a single penny; in Budapest alone there are over 1,000 volunteers.

Since the start of the war, Migration Aid has established the Madridi Hostel here in Budapest housing around 300 Ukrainian refugees. The volunteers and the refugees live in complete harmony; it is a quite extraordinary achievement.

LEARNING WITHOUT BORDERS ('LWB') BY MIGRATION AID

And, so to their next project; and, how we can help ... a 'Day Care Centre' in Budapest run by Ukrainians, for Ukrainians in Ukrainian. On Thursday, I was invited to visit the project; it completely 'blew my mind'. I was asked if 'we' might possibly support it; the eyes pierced deep into my conscience; I said 'yes'; I couldn't say 'no'.



The 'Day Care Centre' is situated on the fifth floor of a building occupied by 'Obi' (the equivalent of B&Q); they have donated the space free of charge; the furniture is being donated, much of it by Ikea. The walls have been beautifully decorated by Ukrainian refugee artists (see photos). The centre opens this Tuesday, 26 April 2022.

Notwithstanding the enormity, I am humbled beyond words to have been asked; it is, of course, a massive statement about what our community has already delivered in Budapest (and, in Uzhhorod in Ukraine). I will have a representative role in some way; transparency is paramount.



The project runs from now until the end of school year in June with a Ukrainian headmistress and 14 refugee Ukrainian teachers; there will be eighty Ukrainian children; meals will be provided. The aim of the project is to ensure the children have a structured environment and that, hopefully, they return to their schools in Ukraine in September.

THIS IS A SHORT-TERM PROJECT DIRECTLY BENEFITTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

- ✚ Short term paid employment for 15 refugee Ukrainian teaching staff
- ✚ A structured 'learning' environment for 80 refugee Ukrainian children
- ✚ Proper meals and nourishment provided for Ukrainian children
- ✚ The hope that mothers will take part-time day jobs whilst the children learn

For sure, with the resolve and dedication of its people, Ukraine will rise again.



So, how can we raise the money; if this offends in any way, please disregard. It would be great, please, if you could publicise the project around your 'contacts list'. I am absolutely not asking anyone who has already donated to donate again; please don't. If, between us, we can find 400 people to each donate £100, job done.

People can now kindly donate at:

<https://gofund.me/05ca1544>

Alternatively, people can message me and I can provide bank details (Donating by bank transfer avoids GoFundMe commission charges)

nick.wormald1@googlemail.com

Thank you so much; this can be a truly magnificent project.