



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Friends of Be an Angel

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Our Warehouse in L'viv  
On the outskirts of L'viv, we operate two distribution centers for humanitarian aid shipments around Ukraine.



# YOUR IMPACT.

# 1.3M

people who have received aid from us worldwide



# \$40.9M

total in-kind value of humanitarian aid acquired and distributed in frontline regions of Ukraine

# 870



tons of humanitarian aid organized and distributed in crisis zones

# 1,715



generators distributed in Ukraine during the energy crisis, providing tens of thousands of people with heat and power

# 4

HQs in Germany, USA, Moldova and Ukraine



# 6

countries of operation



# 23,500

people evacuated from frontline and crisis areas and brought to safety

# 47

children with life threatening diseases evacuated and provided treatment

# 3



emergency medical flights to evacuate critically injured people to safety

# >5,500

refugees fully supported from their initial registration up until their first employment opportunity

# 20



ambulances donated to hospitals

# INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

As I reflect on this past year, my heart is filled with profound gratitude, awe, and determination. The journey we have taken together as part of Friends of Be an Angel has been extraordinary. Each step, no matter how small, has been guided by one unwavering principle: the belief that no challenge is insurmountable when compassion and humanity lead the way.

What began as a call to action during one of the darkest moments in recent history has evolved into a movement of hope, resilience, and transformation. From the early days of evacuating families under siege to building sustainable programs for children and communities, every achievement we celebrate today is a testament to the power of collective action.

Thanks to your steadfast support, this year alone, we have been able to reach milestones that once seemed unimaginable. From delivering critical aid to frontline communities to providing lifesaving medical treatments for children with rare diseases, we have touched the lives of countless individuals who needed us the most. Yet, our mission is far from over.

The stories of the people we serve—families displaced, children fighting for a future, communities striving to rebuild amidst ruins—remind us daily of the importance of our work. They inspire us to do more, to reach further, and to ensure that every effort we make today builds a brighter tomorrow.

This annual report not only chronicles our collective accomplishments but also serves as a tribute to you—our donors, partners, and volunteers. Your generosity, empathy, and commitment are the lifeblood of our organization. Because of you, Friends of Be an Angel continues to be a beacon of hope for those who need it most.

As we look ahead, we are emboldened by the challenges yet to be met. Together, we will continue to provide aid, protect the vulnerable, and champion the rights of those affected by this ongoing crisis. Thank you for walking this path with us. Your belief in our mission transforms lives and creates ripples of change that extend far beyond what we can see.

With all my gratitude and hope for the future,



Anya Verkhovskaya



## Our Offices Be an Angel Global

Office 1



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Office 2



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Office 3



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Office 4



**Ukraine**  
be-an-angel.org/ukraine  
ukraine@be-an-angel.org

OUR TEAM:

**45 MEMBERS**

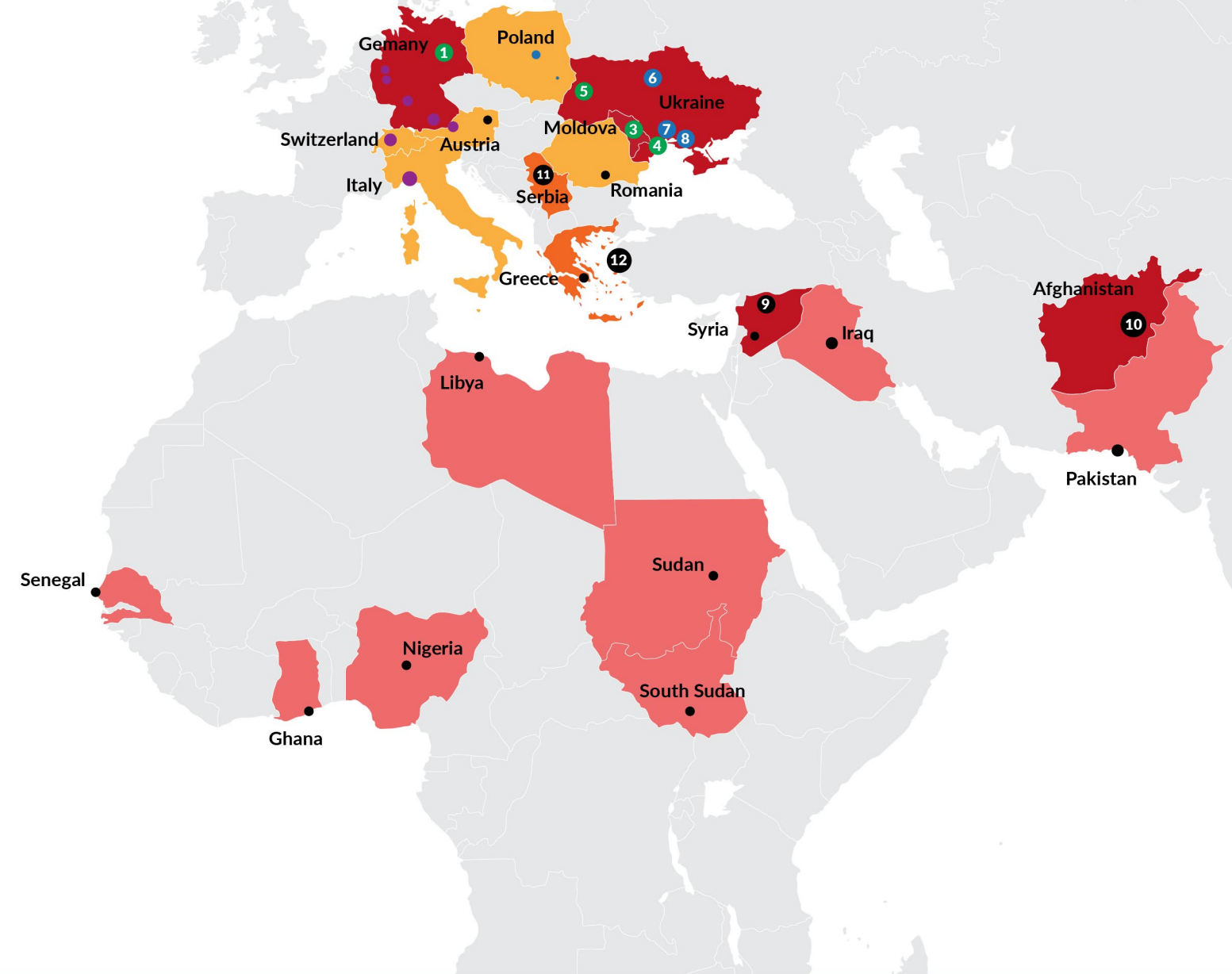
ACTIVE IN

**6 COUNTRIES**





United States of America



Countries in which we are currently active in



Countries in which we were active in before 2022



We work with partners in these countries to support people who have experienced displacement



In the years 2022-2023, we advised and supported refugees from these countries

#### Our Team on-the-ground

- ① Headquarters Germany (Berlin)
- ② Headquarters USA (Milwaukee)
- ③ Headquarters Moldova (Chişinău)
- ④ Headquarters Ukraine (Odesa)
- ⑤ Logistical Center (Lviv)

#### Operative Partner

- ⑥ Human Rights Office of Ukraine (Kyiv)
- ⑦ Center for Internally Displaced Persons (Kobleva)
- ⑧ Evacuation Center (Kherson)
- UNHCR Moldova (Chişinău)

#### Activities (Middle East)

- ⑨ Aleppo, Syria
- ⑩ Kabul, Afghanistan

#### Activities before 2022

- ⑪ Refugee Camp Belgrade
- ⑫ Refugee Camp Lesbos



Locations to which children with rare diseases have been evacuated to for treatment





## MILESTONES



### UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Be an Angel Ukraine signed a memorandum of understanding with Dmytro Lubinets, Ombudsman for the Ukrainian Parliament Commission for Human Rights. This important memorandum strengthens our ongoing efforts to promote and protect human rights in Ukraine, with a primary focus in protecting children.

### AWARDED BY THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament of Ukraine) has awarded the work of Friends of Be an Angel in the field of evacuation and emergency aid for the Ukrainian people during the full-scale invasion.

### DOCUMENTED RECOGNITIONS OF OUR ACTIVITIES BY:

- UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- State Emergency Services of Ukraine
- Ministry of Social Affairs of Ukraine
- Ministry of Health of Ukraine
- Ministry of Education of Ukraine
- Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova
- City Council of Philadelphia, USA
- Moldovan Government Crisis Unit

## IN THE NEWS

The trauma of living: When being killed is the preferred choice to being disfigured from battle

[Click here](#)

Freeing Freddie: Educational program aims to reduce PTSD for Ukraine's war-weary children

[Click here](#)

Milwaukee offers Ukrainian refugee family life-saving treatment for son's genetic condition

[Click here](#)

Reps from Milwaukee's sister cities gather for meet and greet at City Hall

[Click here](#)

Milwaukee donors cover cost of reconstructive surgery for American volunteer wounded in battle

[Click here](#)

Wisconsin volunteers sort and pack donated medical supplies for use in Ukraine's hospitals

[Click here](#)

Lviv warehouse serves as vital link in medical supply chain from Milwaukee to frontlines

[Click here](#)

Aid from Milwaukee is providing internally displaced people in Ukraine with food and clothing

[Click here](#)

Return to Ukraine: A trauma loop of travel from Milwaukee to a country still at war a year later

[Click here](#)

Being Friends of Angels: The Milwaukee nonprofit saving lives and offering hope in Ukraine

[Click here](#)

Sick children wait for overseas medical treatments as a new generation is born in Ukraine during war

[Click here](#)

Wisconsin Ukrainians host annual fundraising picnic to support homeland on 500th day of war

[Click here](#)

Advanced Wireless to donate 840 access points to rebuild Irpin's city-wide Wi-Fi network

[Click here](#)

Children of Irpin begin planning mural for Mitchell Airport to showcase Sister City friendship

[Click here](#)

Nikita Pirnach: Irpin student hopes to help his country after finishing education in Milwaukee

[Click here](#)



# HUMANITARIAN AID

THE FULL-SCALE INVASION HAS LEFT 17.6 MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED. EVERYTHING FROM CLOTHING TO MEDICINE HAS BECOME CRUCIAL TO SUPPORT THE MILLIONS OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE.

To alleviate the unbearable living conditions of the Ukrainian civilian population, Be an Angel has assembled and provided humanitarian aid to community centers, refugee camps, hospitals and camps for internally displaced persons.

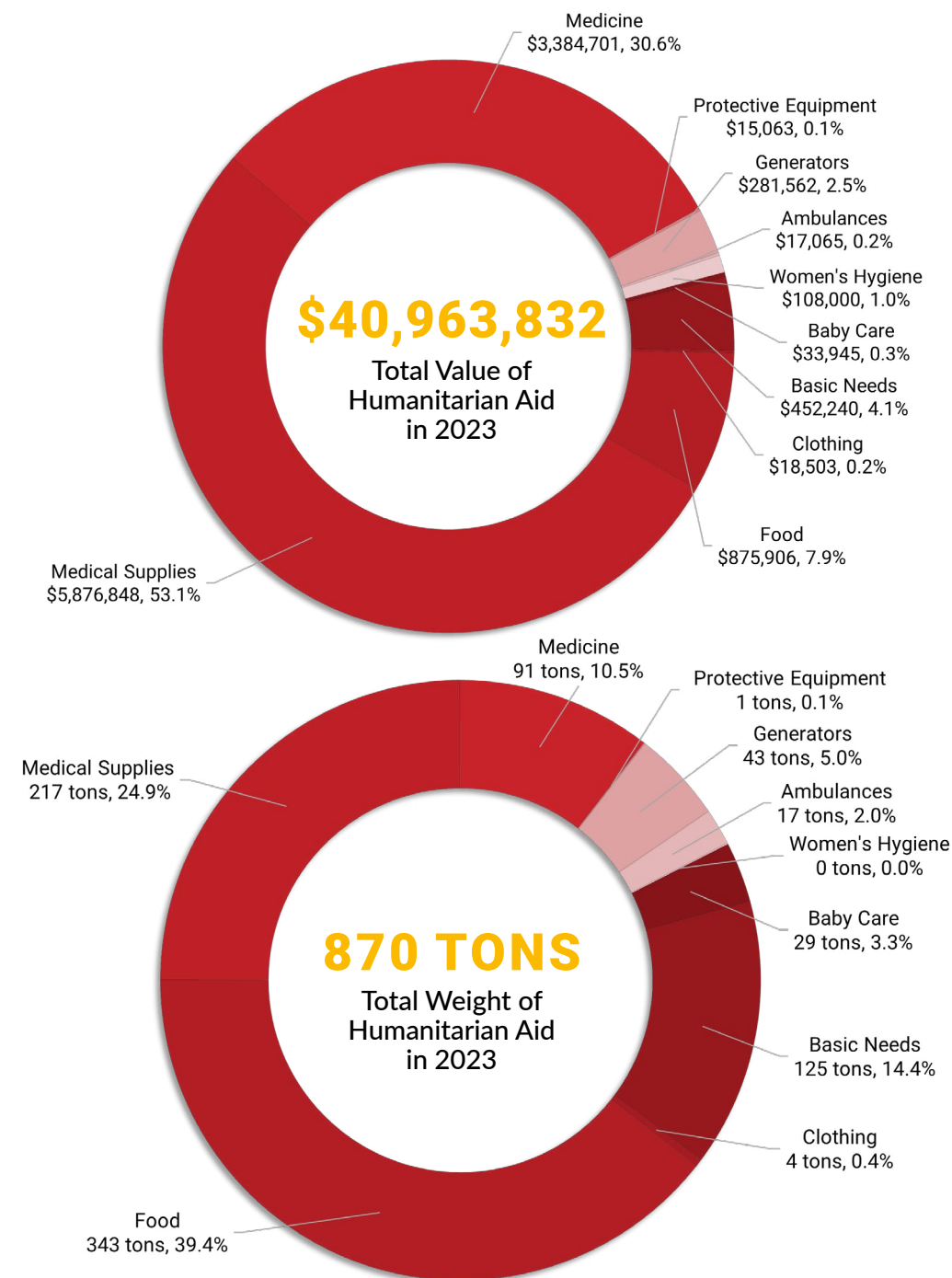
The military action in the country has left a trail of devastation on critical civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, power plants and water treatment facilities. The situation is complicated by the fact that roads and main transportation routes in many parts of the country are still mined, occupied or under attack, making the delivery of humanitarian aid extremely dangerous.

We operate two humanitarian hubs in Lviv. From these distribution points, we deliver relief supplies to regions in the immediate vicinity of the front line, directly to those in need.

**185 +**  
**SHIPMENTS**  
**COMPLETED**



Our volunteers traveled upriver in boats to provide humanitarian aid and rescue civilians trapped in their flooded homes in the Kherson region shortly after the destruction of the Kahovka Dam. Russian Federation snipers and artillery regularly attacked the rescue workers from the occupied territories on the other side of the river.



Through our extensive network on the ground, we use a large information network to quickly identify critical areas that need support. Our dedicated teams maintain constant contact with hospitals, centers for the internally displaced, emergency services and various stakeholders to quickly assess what is needed and where. This flexible approach allows us to respond efficiently and adapt to the ever-changing needs across the country.

In addition, we apply our intersectional aid principles to focus particularly on vulnerable populations such as single mothers, people with disabilities, the chronically ill and the elderly. Thanks to the support of Nova Posta, the Ukrainian postal service, we send out between 4,000 and 5,000 customized aid packages every month, responding to the specific requests and needs of these individuals.



# EMERGENCY POWER

## PROVISION OF 1.715 GENERATOREN FOR UKRAINE



### FORMATION OF A COALITION OF 42 ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY

In the fall of 2022, the armed forces of the Russian Federation carried out targeted missile attacks on critical infrastructure in Ukraine, resulting in one of the worst humanitarian disasters since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. The collapse of the power grid left millions of innocent Ukrainian civilians without water, heat and electricity during the coldest months of the year.

In anticipation of these attacks, Be an Angel launched a preemptive action by building a coalition of 42 organizations, charities and donors to provide 1,715 generators to the Ukrainian people.

In a short space of time, more than 17 million people across Ukraine were without electricity and heating. Generators were in extremely high demand, which led to skyrocketing market prices in a global economy that was already suffering from high inflation. Generators were sold out in many large cities. Even in Germany, many businesses had created a waiting list for emergency power generators.

To overcome these challenges, our US team devised an alternative solution: to order large quantities directly from the manufacturers. This allowed us to not only provide a large amount of 1,715 generators, but also purchase them at wholesale prices.

There was just one catch: a large advance payment had to be made, which was beyond our budget. The solution? We joined forces with 42 organizations to cover the down payment. Thanks to our partners in Ukraine, most of the generators could be delivered free of charge to frontline areas.

The generators were delivered to hospitals, emergency shelters, bomb shelters, community centers, kindergartens and other facilities. This pragmatism enabled us to avoid market prices, which had risen by up to 80%. This strategy allowed us to save a total of 1.2 million euros in additional costs.

	<b>x1.192</b>	2,5 kW Output
	<b>x223</b>	8,5 kW Output
	<b>x152</b>	12 kW Output
	<b>x76</b>	17 kW Output
	<b>x20</b>	11 kW Output
	<b>x72</b>	8,2 kW Output
	<b>x20</b>	14 kW Output
	<b>x14</b>	8,0 kW Output
	<b>x1</b>	40 kW Output

### THE RESULT

Number of Organizations in our Coalition:

**42**

Number of Generators supplied

**1.715**

Total Market Value of the Generators at the Time of Crisis

**€ 2,2m**

Total Additional Costs Avoided

**€ 1,2m**

### Distributed to:

489 Rescue centers  
478 Emergency shelters  
238 Families in need  
218 Community centers  
150 Hospitals  
80 Warming stations  
34 Schools  
15 Orphanages  
13 Churches & Synagogues





### List of Organizations and Charities within the Coalition

1019.ch  
Agir Ensemble pour L'Ukraine  
American Friends of Anatevka  
Berlin to Borders  
Blau-Gelbes Kreuz Deutsch-  
Briggs & Stratton  
Ukrainischer Verein e.V  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Josaphat  
Create an Impact Charitable Foundation  
Daar Foundation  
Democratic Youth Initiative  
Federation of Jewish Communities of Ukraine

GNL Group  
Historically-Cultural Center Uman  
House of Ukraine  
ICF Veronius  
Landbell Group  
Liberty Ukraine Foundation  
LNOB Civilfleet Support e.V  
Mountain Seed Foundation  
Naoula Holdings Sp Zoo  
Ogala Kreuzberg e.V.  
Olha Samoilenko Foundation  
Project Aid & Rescue  
Project Keshar  
Protéger. Sauvegarder. Développer  
Rotary Club International

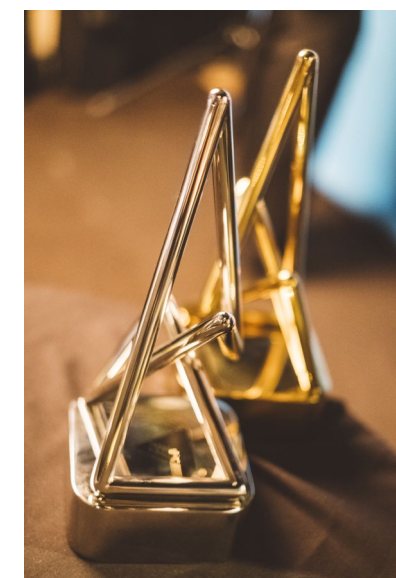
Rotary Club Lviv - Leopold  
Rotary Club Milwaukee  
The Small Projects Fund  
Ukraine Freedom Project  
Ukraine TrustChain  
Ukrainian Medical Association of North America  
Vadym Melnychenko Foundation  
Vilni Liudy  
White Stork Operation  
Women's Movement for the Future  
World of Connections  
Yellow Blue Bus - Israel4Ukraine



Board Advisor Dr. Douglas Davis with local Volunteer Misha at our logistical warehouse in L'viv.



Director Anya Verkhovskaya receiving a grant of \$100,000 from the Rotary Club of Milwaukee



Friends of Be an Angel has been awarded the Gold Award at the 3rd Annual Anthem Award in the category Humanitarian Action & Services: Partnership & Collaboration. In addition to winning gold, we have also been awarded the Community Action Award in the same category.



# EVACUATIONS

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 marked a dramatic escalation of an eight-year conflict that was largely confined to the east of the country. This triggered a massive humanitarian crisis. Millions were forced to leave Ukraine and seek refuge in Europe and the United States. By the end of 2022, around 7.9 million people had fled Ukraine and sought refuge in Europe.



Evacuation  
from Mykolaiv -  
frontline city summer  
2022

On March 4, 2022, Andreas Tölke, founder of Be an Angel, arrived in Moldova with a team of three people, marking a new chapter for our organization. The operations launched with chartered buses to evacuate refugees from the south of Ukraine, first bringing them to Moldova and then subsequently to Germany. By August, the team made the choice to fully relocate to Moldova, and later to Odesa, to coordinate the evacuations full-time.

Thanks to years of relationships and experience with the local institutions and authorities, Be an Angel was able well-equipped to bring Ukrainian refugees to Germany. In cooperation with the local state authorities, Be an Angel not only provided

evacuation, but assisted them through the initial registration process, provided accommodation and ensured prompt emergency medical care.

The abolition of the Königstein Key (a regulation for the distribution of the federal funding) presented the team with major challenges: The nationwide, centralized Federal Office for Migration (BamF) was no longer responsible for the reporting of capacities of each state. This was now coordinated by each individual state authorities, meaning the Be an Angel team had to request each capacity for arriving refugees individually from each federal state in order to ensure proper reception.

**22.500+**  
REFUGEES EVACUATED

**208**  
BUSES

**85**  
PATIENTS EVACUATED  
WITH MEDICAL  
TRANSPORT

In Ukraine, a Be an Angel network was established in the following months with headquarters in Odesa, Ukraine and Chişinău, Moldova.

A system was implemented together with the regional administration of Mykolaiv and Zaporizhia oblast, cities under siege and heavy bombardment. The local administration would assist us with passenger lists and coordinate evacuation points, while we provided the transportation and refugee support infrastructure.

The Be an Angel team has conducted evacuations along the front line beyond Kharkiv, up to 40 kilometers from the border with the Russian Federation. Several evacuations were in close proximity to rocket attacks. The team has put their lives in danger several times for these evacuations.



The buses were chartered in Chişinău, driven into Ukraine, and used to evacuate civilians. The passengers were accommodated in emergency shelters in Moldova before departing for Germany.

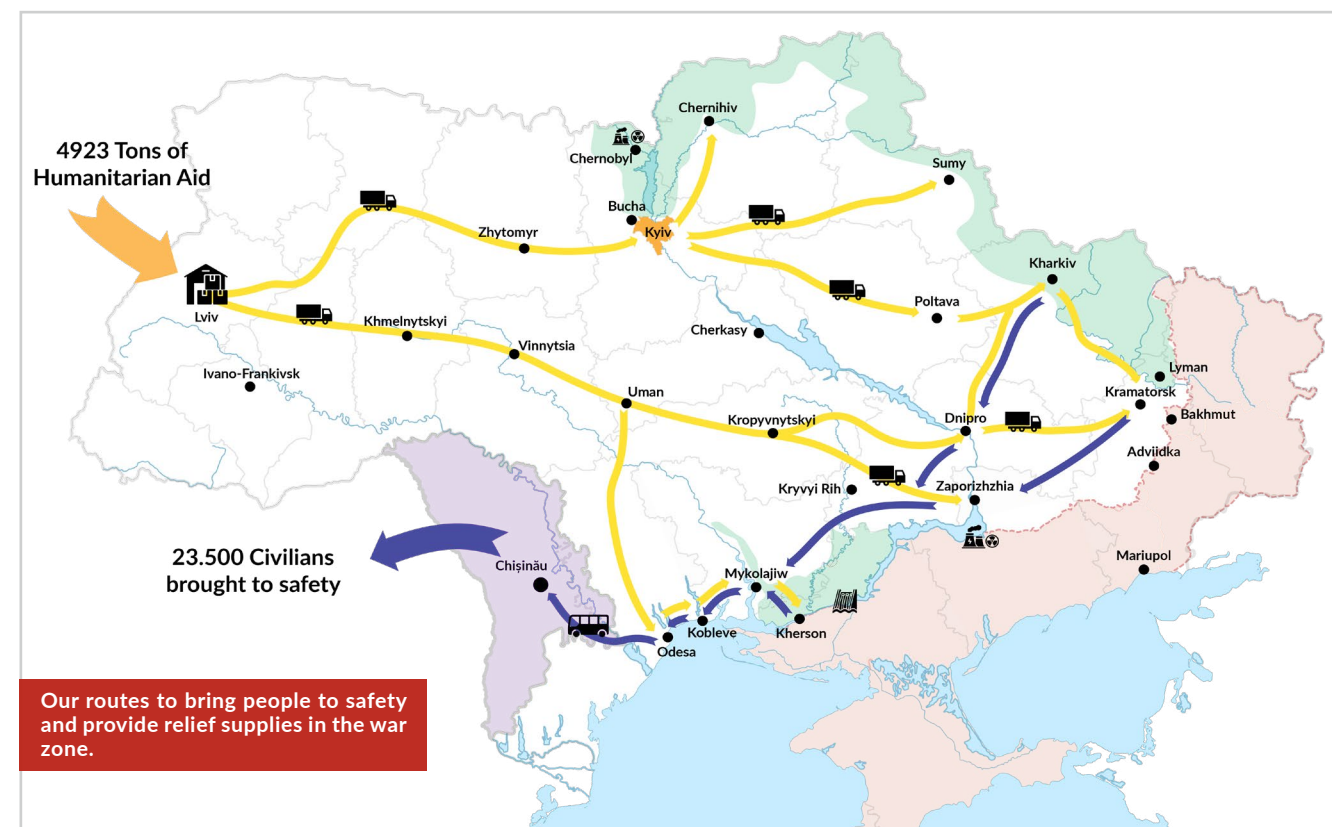
In Germany, a local team coordinated accommodation and lodging for the people. Every refugee received individual care, essential medical treatments, and assurance of a personal contact, especially during the first days after arrival. Many Ukrainians had never been abroad and did not speak any foreign languages. We generally evacuate elderly people and women with children - many of whom are often traumatized. Three teams in three countries coordinated activities seven days a week, up to twelve hours a day. The most intense group evacuation involved around 260 people, who were gathered from southern Ukraine to the capital of Moldova and, after a short recovery period, continued their journey to three different German cities in four buses.

Since March 4, 2022, our team, confirmed by the crisis management committee of the Moldovan government, has evacuated 22,500 civilians from front-line regions and brought them to safety in the European Union and the United States.

A fundamental commitment we have made as an organization is to avoid placing the refugees in our care into large halls or camps with inappropriate accommodation. This is demonstrated by the fact that none of our bus evacuations have been sent to Berlin, where this is often the case for their accommodation. As a Berlin-based aid organization, we are aware of the over-crowding situation and struggles of the capital via our persistent communication with all relevant authorities.

Our efforts to provide not only humane transport, but also the best possible accommodation and support upon arrival, have been recognized and awarded by the German government, the Odesa City Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova. Be an Angel has voluntarily committed to working according to the principles of the UNHCR.

Furthermore, we proactively cooperate with the crisis management committees in Germany and Moldova to ensure appropriate transport conditions and the safety of the evacuees. Our participation in regular action meetings is a testament to our commitment to the safety and well-being of those affected by crises in the region.



## A REFUGE FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

### MISSION: KOBLEVO

The Mykolaiv region, once a thriving industrial hub located along the coast of the Black Sea, has now become a refuge for people displaced both within the region and from the neighboring Kherson county. By the end of May, the region had taken in around 190,000 displaced persons.

The community of Koblevo, situated between the cities of Odesa and Mykolaiv, has taken in about 1,465 civilians who were evacuated from areas affected by heavy fighting and occupation. Although the area serves as a refuge, the situation remains precarious, as residents are constantly threatened by airstrikes due to the near proximity of an active frontline.

Since March 2023, Be an Angel has been providing humanitarian aid at a shelter for internally displaced persons in Koblevo. This shelter currently hosts about 242 people, including 151 children. Since

signing a cooperation agreement in the summer of 2023, our efforts have focused on providing cost-effective support, primarily in the form of food and hygiene products. The emphasis remains on a balanced diet, particularly for the more vulnerable members of the community. Through continuous and careful communication with the shelter administration, we ensure that basic needs in the designated areas of support are adequately met.

Our Be an Angel team, together with local representatives, conducts regular visits to the shelter to monitor compliance with the agreed cooperation protocols. Ongoing dialogue with the residents allows for continuous reassessment of their immediate needs and fosters a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing conditions on-site.



# MEDICAL EVACUATIONS FOR CHILDREN

## IN COOPERATION WITH THE OMBUDSMAN OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The past two years of war have had an immense impact on the Ukrainian healthcare system. Hospitals are suffering from a considerable shortage of doctors, medicine and treatment places. Doctors and nurses are sent on rotation to front line hospitals to help manage with the high number of casualties. This has led to a shortage of staff in many medical centers across the country. In some regions of Ukraine, the healthcare system has been reduced to strictly emergency care. People with chronic illnesses or disabilities are thus often neglected, or even forgotten altogether.

In July 2022, our team was requested by Iryna Suslova, the Human Rights Officer for Children of the Ukrainian Ombudsman's Office, to support families with young children suffering from illnesses that cannot be treated in Ukraine. This led to the establishment of a new department within our organization that focuses specifically on one challenge: what can we do to save this child? To date, we have been able to give 43 children a new chance at a life without disability. In particular, we have specialized in treatment options for children with spinal muscular atrophy.



### 01. THE PROBLEM

The mortality rate of infants suffering from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) has risen to over 80% in Ukraine. The reason for this is that the life-saving medication is simply not available in Ukraine. In addition, there is no statutory health insurance in Ukraine as there is in Germany.

### 02. OUR SOLUTION

We find and secure treatment options for the family abroad. Once we have confirmation, we arrange a medical evacuation to ensure a safe passage for the child and their family. In addition, we assist the family with registration, individual counseling, housing search and job search.

### 03. THE RESULT

**43 children** medically evacuated and treated

## WHAT WE OFFER:

- Comprehensive case management that ensures we address individual needs and circumstances every step of the way.
- Full assistance with the registration and application for a visa/asylum for the destination country
- Identifying available treatment centers, booking appointments and guiding you through the treatment process.
- Organization of a medical evacuation, including the coordination of an ambulance with the necessary specialist personnel and equipment
- Support with finding accommodation, organizing transport and a translator for medical appointments and much more.







## A Family's Journey: Saving Sasha

In the face of unimaginable challenges, the story of Oleksandr “Sasha” Kutarenko and his family embodies resilience, hope, and the profound impact of compassionate care. Born on September 21, 2021, in Ukraine, Sasha's life was profoundly altered not only by the onset of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) but also by the devastation of war. Through our Rare Disease Program, Sasha's story became one of survival, renewed possibilities, and a brighter future.

Sasha's early milestones were overshadowed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which disrupted every aspect of daily life. At 13 months old, Sasha began losing his ability to walk, and after months of advocacy from his mother Lesia, he was diagnosed with SMA—a degenerative genetic condition that progressively weakens the muscles, ultimately threatening basic functions like breathing and movement.

In a war-torn Ukraine, the healthcare infrastructure was stretched thin. The family's chance to participate in a life-saving gene therapy lottery for SMA was dashed as flights delivering treatments were grounded. Faced with an uncertain future, Sasha's parents, Lesia and Ruslan, turned to the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program, determined to find care for their son abroad.

With support from our Rare Disease Program and the Friends of Be an Angel, the Kutarenko family arrived in Milwaukee in May 2023. They faced immense challenges: obtaining travel visas during martial law, preserving Sasha's daily medication under strict temperature controls during a grueling multi-leg journey, and overcoming language barriers in an unfamiliar country. Their arrival in Milwaukee marked a turning point. Within days, Sasha received his first medical evaluation at the Milwaukee Campus of Children's Wisconsin.

### Building a Path to Recovery

Sasha's treatment journey involves ongoing rehabilitation to regain lost muscle tone and motor skills. His daily regimen includes specialized therapy and verticalization techniques to support his physical development. The innovative therapies available here provide the family with hope that Sasha may recover abilities once thought impossible.

The family continues to navigate the complexities of SMA care, balancing at-home therapies with advanced treatments made possible by community support and cutting-edge medical resources.

### A Call to Action

Sasha's story underscores the critical importance of accessible care for children with rare diseases, particularly in the context of global crises. Without intervention, children with SMA face insurmountable odds. In Sasha's case, the cost of life-saving medication is staggering—up to \$2,500,000 in the first year alone, followed by annual costs of \$375,000. In Ukraine, the state provides only a fraction of what is needed for families like the Kutarenkos.

Your support helps ensure that families like Sasha's receive the care and hope they deserve. Together, we can bridge the gap for children battling rare diseases, providing them with a chance to thrive despite the odds.

Lesia's words resonate with all of us:

*“SMA takes away the simple joys of childhood from Sasha. Without treatment, children cannot even breathe on their own. But thanks to your program, Sasha now has a chance at life.”*

As we reflect on this year, Sasha's journey serves as a testament to the power of compassion and the difference we can make when we come together. Thank you for standing with us and the families we serve. Together, we are changing lives.







## SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

In 2023, Friends of Be an Angel continued to champion the vital sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Irpin, Ukraine, bringing Milwaukee's commitment to humanitarian support and cross-cultural understanding into the international spotlight. This partnership, forged in 2018 and further deepened during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, reflects a profound connection that transcends geographical boundaries. Friends of Be an Angel, headquartered in Milwaukee, played a crucial role in connecting these two cities, organizing impactful events, supporting humanitarian aid efforts, and fostering an enduring bond of solidarity. Through cultural exchange, delegation visits, and lifesaving support initiatives, the Milwaukee-Irpin

Sister City relationship has become a beacon of hope and resilience during a challenging time. Throughout the year, Milwaukee's city leadership actively engaged with their counterparts in Irpin, building on years of collaboration and shared goals. A key milestone was the third virtual meeting on June 27, 2023, between Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Irpin Mayor Oleksandr Markushin, facilitated by Friends of Be an Angel. This discussion underscored Milwaukee's unwavering support for Irpin, with Mayor Johnson praising Irpin's resilience amid the ongoing conflict. Mayor Markushin expressed gratitude for Milwaukee's consistent backing, which was especially meaningful as Irpin faced significant reconstruction challenges.

Additionally, Friends of Be an Angel facilitated an important delegation visit between Irpin and Syracuse, NY, resulting in another formalized sister city relationship. This broadened Irpin's support network in the United States, fostering additional partnerships and securing more resources for Ukraine's recovery efforts. Additionally, Friends of Be an Angel facilitated an important delegation visit between Irpin and Syracuse, NY, resulting in another formalized sister city relationship. This broadened Irpin's support network in the United States, fostering additional partnerships and securing more resources for Ukraine's recovery efforts. In 2023, Friends of Be an Angel organized events that brought Ukrainian traditions and

stories to Milwaukee, fostering empathy and understanding. The highlight was Milwaukee's Ukrainian Independence Day celebration on August 24, where Friends of Be an Angel collaborated with city officials to raise the Ukrainian flag at City Hall. This event included a recorded message from Mayor Johnson to Irpin, reaffirming Milwaukee's solidarity. Director Anya Verkhovskaya also spoke, urging Milwaukeeans to continue supporting Irpin through various relief efforts. Additionally, Friends of Be an Angel donated 100 Ukrainian children's books to Milwaukee's Public Library, bridging a gap between young readers and Ukrainian culture.





The Milwaukee-Irpin relationship has extended beyond cultural ties, with Friends of Be an Angel directly involved in lifesaving humanitarian aid. When 20-month-old Oleksandr “Sasha” Kutarenko, diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, arrived in Milwaukee under the Uniting for Ukraine program, Friends of Be an Angel mobilized resources to provide him with medical care at Children’s Wisconsin. This effort, representing the compassion and solidarity of Milwaukee’s community, brought Sasha hope for a brighter future, underscoring the tangible impact of this sister city relationship.

In a broader effort to support Ukraine’s population amidst infrastructural destruction, Milwaukee’s business community, led by the Rotary Club and Friends of Be an Angel, coordinated a campaign to deliver over 1,715 generators to critical facilities across Ukraine. These generators brought heat and electricity to over 0,000 people, a lifeline during the harsh winter months, and the project was recognized with a prestigious Gold Award at the Anthem Awards for Humanitarian Action & Services. This initiative highlighted Milwaukee’s critical role in supporting Ukraine’s resilience and demonstrated the power of community action.

#### Supporting Education and Digital Connectivity in Irpin

Education is essential for the future of any community, and Friends of Be an Angel, in collaboration with Milwaukee businesses, has contributed to Irpin’s educational resilience. Advanced Wireless, Inc. (AWI) donated 840 Wi-Fi access points to Irpin, ensuring that students and teachers have access to digital resources in schools and bomb shelters. With the support of Friends of Be an Angel, AWI provided additional training to ensure these devices were successfully implemented. This \$2 million initiative exemplifies

how the Milwaukee-Irpin relationship extends beyond immediate humanitarian needs to include long-term support for educational infrastructure, helping to nurture future leaders amid the hardships of war.

#### Art and Legacy: The Irpin Mural Project

In July 2023, Irpin announced an inspirational mural to be displayed at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, symbolizing the strength and unity between the two cities. Inspired by murals in Irpin, this project aims to replace a Soviet-era mural and celebrate Milwaukee’s partnership with Irpin. Designed with artwork from Irpin’s children, this mural reflects the resilience of Ukraine’s youth and Milwaukee’s commitment to standing by them. This initiative, supported by Friends of Be an Angel, has also opened doors for additional creative exchanges, such as the potential for Milwaukee artists to showcase their work in Irpin and support for sports facilities in the war-torn city.

#### Strengthening the Bond: A Future of Shared Hope

Friends of Be an Angel has been integral to the Milwaukee-Irpin Sister City relationship, using its platform to bring the cities closer together through mutual support and shared values. The organization’s dedication to fostering cultural exchanges, providing humanitarian aid, and supporting educational initiatives has established Milwaukee as a vital partner in Ukraine’s ongoing recovery. The Milwaukee-Irpin partnership exemplifies the impact of community-driven, cross-cultural collaboration, with each event and initiative symbolizing a commitment to resilience, hope, and solidarity. As Friends of Be an Angel continues its mission, it inspires Milwaukee to remain a steadfast friend to Irpin, reminding us that even in challenging times, international partnerships can be a force for positive change and healing.

## NEW PROGRAMS:

### “FREEING FREDDIE”: A CURRICULUM FOR EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL LEARNING (ESL) FOR TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN

Children are often the silent victims of war, with the war in Ukraine being no exception. An entire generation of young people is constantly exposed to violence, terror, loss and heartbreak, resulting in an immense pressure on the psychological health of children. Families, many of whom have had to flee their homes, are now exposed to poverty, displacement and lack of access to basic needs such as healthcare and education. The UNHCR estimates that over 1.5 million Ukrainians are currently at risk of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems.



#### OUR SOLUTION

To empower children to learn how to deal with these emotions, we have partnered with Free the Mind Co, a company that provides an emotional and social learning (ESL) curriculum for schools in the US and Israel. The program is called “Freeing Freddie the Dream Weaver”, and is an online educational program for children that teaches social and emotional learning and well-being. It is ideal for Ukrainian children who have difficulty coping with their daily situations. Freeing Freddie offers children the opportunity to learn about emotions and interact with teachers and classmates, no matter where they are.



#### PROGRESS REPORT

In 2023, we began preparations for the pilot project in cooperation with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science, as well as the Ombudsman Office of Human Rights. As part of this pilot project 1,000 Ukrainian students will be introduced to this digital ESL program. Teachers will be provided with dozens of hours of activities and course material, including online games, exercises and reflection activities. By providing Freeing Freddie as a digital format, students displaced in different locations across the country can participate.



#### FUNDING GOALS

##### \$ 92,000 PILOT PROGRAM

The pilot program will start with 1,000 children between the ages of 5 and 13.

##### \$ 60,000 IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the program in digital form for adaptation to the Ukrainian education system.

##### \$ 10,000 TRANSLATION

Translation of the material and voice recordings into Ukrainian.

##### \$ 500 ACCREDITATION

We have received approval from the Ministry of Education to introduce this program into the Ukrainian school system.



## PARTNERING FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



In a significant step toward safeguarding the rights and well-being of children affected by the war in Ukraine, our organization signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights. This partnership strengthens our shared commitment to addressing the challenges faced by children and families during the ongoing conflict and in the process of post-war recovery.

The signing ceremony, held at the Ombudsman's Office, highlighted the critical issues impacting children's rights in Ukraine. Commissioner Dmytro Lubinets provided an overview of his institution's structure and the immense challenges it faces in responding to Russia's full-scale armed aggression. The memorandum formalizes a collaborative effort to protect children's rights during martial law and in the rebuilding period, in alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This partnership lays the foundation for joint actions aimed at addressing the needs of children and families affected by the war. It fosters the organization and execution of joint events to raise

awareness, mutual exchange of vital information to support the Ombudsman's reports, and direct cooperation to provide assistance to children and families impacted by the aggression. Furthermore, it includes the development of initiatives focused on legal education, mental health support, and advocacy programs for children's rights.

The memorandum marks a crucial step forward in creating impactful programs and delivering the support needed to rebuild lives and protect the most vulnerable. Commissioner Lubinets reaffirmed the shared commitment to this cause by emphasizing, "We work together with Ukrainian children!"

This partnership underscores our dedication to fostering meaningful collaborations that create lasting change for children and their families, providing hope and support in even the most challenging circumstances. Together, we are working to ensure a brighter and more secure future for every child.

## TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

### ONE YEAR OF OPERATIONS ON-THE-GROUND / NOW ON A SOLID FOOTING

The last two years have invoked a massive transformation for our organization. Our scope of operations has expanded globally. The team has grown in size and our responsibilities have multiplied. It has been a learning process that we have embraced wholeheartedly. In this section, we would like to share with our readers some of our internal transformation processes.

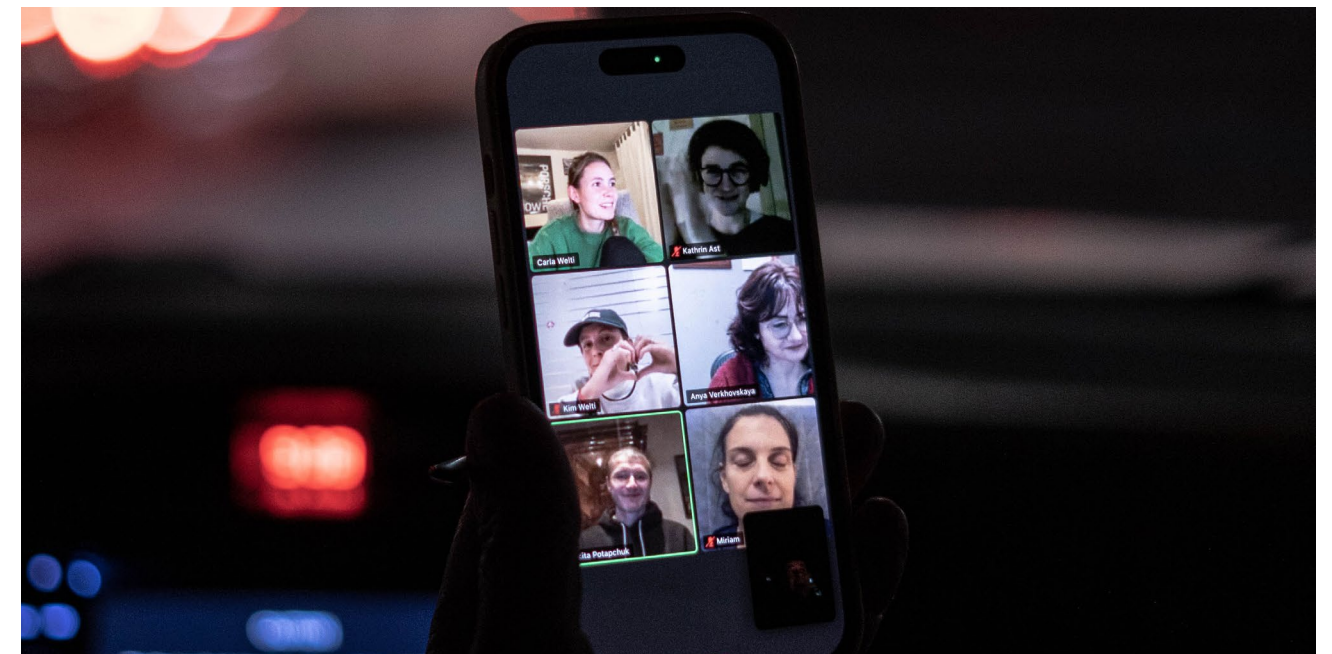
We are proud to announce that we have opened three additional headquarters with teams in the United States, Moldova and Ukraine. To our great fortune, these teams integrated through friends and partners, all with a common goal: to help those fleeing conflict.

To optimize our communication while maintaining high security standards, we developed our own intranet called HimmelNet. We use it for internal file sharing, communication and project management. HimmelNet is protected with industry-standard security regulations, including multi-factor authentication on all our devices, high levels of encryption and data compartmentalization for

project and task management, which allows us to coordinate a large number of tasks simultaneously. We also implemented automation in various areas of our work, including assisted verification of our finances, logistics and humanitarian aid, as well as information on our evacuations.

In addition to our usual communication practices, we developed a new website and expanded our social media activities to provide as much public information about our work and projects as possible. We are working with various ambassadors to our mission and marketing agencies to support us in this monumental task. The website is currently undergoing another transformation process, which will be completed by summer 2024.

As we continue to grow, we are also improving our reporting and documentation standards. We look forward to being able to provide our supporters with even more detailed information about our activities.



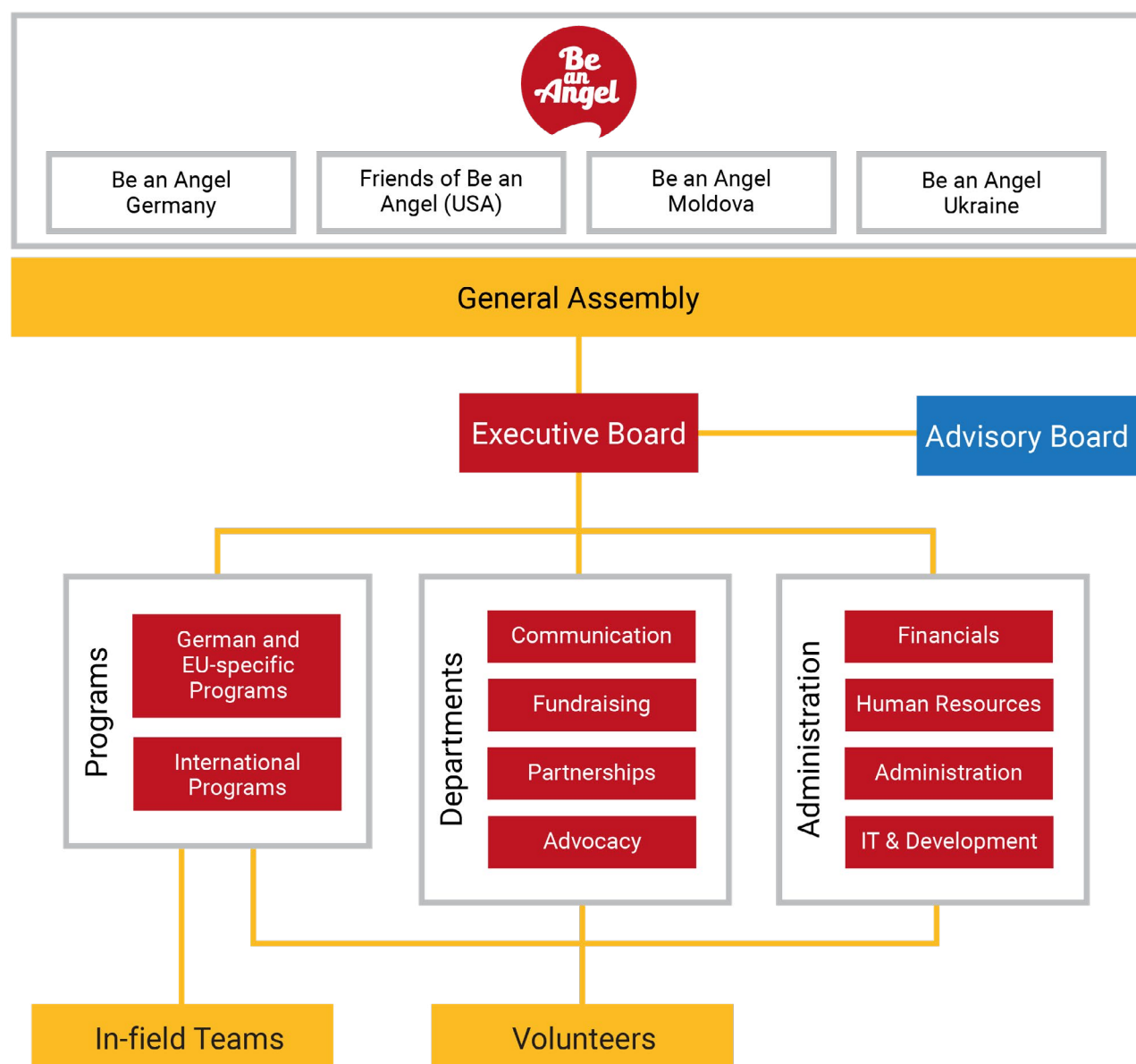


# GOVERNANCE

## STRUCTURE

Be an Angel e.V. was founded with the statute of organization dated 04.07.2007 (last amended by resolution dated 31.08.2016) and is a registered association. The association has its registered office in Stuttgart and is registered with the district court of Charlottenburg in the register of associations under the number VR28072B. The association's financial year is the calendar year. Andreas Tölke and Ulrike Lessig have been members of the Board of Directors since 2016 and, in addition to our

organization in Germany, we are also registered in the United States, Moldova and Ukraine. In the USA, we are registered as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the state of Wisconsin under the name Friends of Be an Angel (EIN: 88-2154500). In Ukraine, we are registered as a charity organization under the name БО БФ "БІ ЕН ЕНЖЕЛ-УКРАЇНА" (Be an Angel Ukraine) with the registration number 44796674.



# PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS

## HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

The purpose of the organization is to aid people subject to persecution for political, racial or religious reasons, refugees, displaced persons, migrants, and victims of war.

Our projects are based on international quality standards and codes. In emergency aid, we are committed to the principles of the Do No Harm approach, the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and the Core Humanitarian Standards, a set of rules for quality assurance in humanitarian aid. This requires the development, distribution and regular re-assessment of the Core Humanitarian Standards. We also follow the basic rules for project implementation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the project standards of the European Union.

We work in countries suffering from war, violence and protracted conflicts. We are committed to the humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions so that people in need in such regions can approach us safely. We use the following standards to work safely and consistently: impartiality, independence and neutrality.



### Impartiality

Assistance must be provided according to the needs of those affected, without discrimination. There must be no ethnic, political, economic or other forms of preferential treatment.

### Independence

Our work is independent of politically imposed guidelines, armed groups or state funding. Participants involved in the conflict may interpret any dependence as partisanship, therefore our clients' trust in our work is rooted on this independence. Our guidelines on accepting donations ensure that we do not accept donations from companies/industries and their respective foundations whose core activities are in direct conflict with the objectives of our humanitarian work or could in any way restrict our ability to provide humanitarian aid.

### Neutrality

In order to be accepted by all parties to the conflict, it is important that we are not perceived as part of any political faction and do not take sides publicly. We always strive to act in the spirit of impartiality and neutrality to offer help to all people in conflict areas. However, this is not always possible if individual parties to the conflict do not accept our help. Sometimes, for these reasons, we cannot help everywhere where people need help. The basic prerequisite for our humanitarian aid is always independence from the political aims of any party to the conflict.



FINANCIALS

	Total
Revenue	
Contributed income	1,128,036.51
Corporate & Foundation Grants	402,656.76
Donations directed by individuals	201,981.80
Grants from Other Organizations	409,337.03
In-kind donations	40,580,867.17
Total Contributed Income	42,711,047.27
Services	4,130.00
Unapplied Cash Payment Revenue	32.82
Total Revenue	\$ 42,715,210.09
Expenditures	
Advertising & Marketing	6,593.18
Social Media	559.52
Total Advertising & Marketing	7,152.70
Awards & Grants to Others	2,324,254.63
Contract & Professional Fees	
Fundraising Fees	27,845.66
Legal Fees	1,124.00
Professional Fees	15,000.00
Total Contract & Professional Fees	43,969.66
Occupancy	
Rent	250
Total Occupancy	250
Office Expenses	
Bank Fees & Service Charges	-544.76
Memberships & subscriptions	286.50
Office supplies	1,129.24
Printing & Photocopying	641.70
Software & Apps	1,287.00
Shipping & postage	15,970.96
Software & apps	1,287.00
Total Office	18,770.64
Total Travel	8,500.57
Total Supplies	17.56
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,403,632.46
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 40,311,577.63
Other Expenditures	
In-kind Expenses	40,580,867.17
Vehicle Expenses	
Parking & Tolls	2.50
Vehicle Gas & fuel	2,801.78
Vehicle insurance	1,797.00
Vehicle registration	284.50
Total Vehicle Expenses	4,885.78
Total Other Expenditures	40,585.752.95
Net Other Revenue	-40,585.752.95
Net Revenue	\$ -274,175.32

IN-KIND DONORS

List of organizations that have provided us with in-kind donations.

Organization	Country	In-Kind Total
IDA Foundation	Netherlands	\$ 35,410,129
Others		\$ 8,164,129
Ukrainian Medical Association of North America	USA	\$ 3,815,273
Feed the Children	USA	\$ 3,774,729
MedGlobal	USA	\$ 2,846,523
Advanced Wireless Communications	USA	\$ 2,000,000
Cluster SOS Ucraina	Spain	\$ 1,887,509
LYV Life, Inc.	Germany	\$ 1,062,454
Police Commission of Los Angeles	USA	\$ 1,009,100
World of Connections Program	USA	\$ 583,292
Fundación Enfermería de Navarra	Spain	\$ 465,850
La Asociación Elvira por Ucrania	Spain	\$ 431,179
Fundacja HUB SOS-UA	Poland	\$ 414,850
Water Mission	USA	\$ 376,647
Ayuda Contenedores	Spain	\$ 351,104
Airlink	USA	\$ 350,000
Briggs & Stratton	USA	\$ 250,000
Asociación Unidos Con Ucrania	Spain	\$ 243,579
Operation White Stork	USA	\$ 228,616
Milwaukee Fire Department	USA	\$ 200,000
Google	USA	\$ 160,000
Spendenbrücke Ukraine	Germany	\$ 150,000
Class Experts Group, LLC	USA	\$ 150,000
Yale School of Medicine	USA	\$ 150,000
The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center	USA	\$ 150,000
Lions Germany	Germany	\$ 109,650
Rotary Club of Global Impact	USA	\$ 99,611
Roads of Success	USA	\$ 93,580
The UPS Foundation	USA	\$ 90,000
Istituto Dermopatico dell’Immacolata	Italy	\$ 86,961
Leleka Foundation	USA	\$ 85,500
Help Heroes of Ukraine	USA	\$ 80,000
Gift to the World	USA	\$ 60,000
Hope UA	Ukraine	\$ 57,705
Hello Fresh	Germany	\$ 50,000
B.E. International	USA	\$ 50,000
Help Free Ukraine	USA	\$ 33,000
Microsoft	USA	\$ 20,000
Einhorn Products GmbH	Germany	\$ 13,750
AspenAid Inc	USA	\$ 12,000
Casa di Cura Città di Parma SpA	Italy	\$ 3,699

Total: \$ 65,570,4212



## FUTURE OUTLOOKS

As we reflect on our journey, we recognize the countless challenges we have faced, the invaluable lessons we have learned, and the myriad problems we have resolved. Today, we stand stronger and more prepared than ever to press forward with our mission, determined to provide unwavering support to those in need in Ukraine. Our commitment remains unshaken, and our vision for a brighter future for all drives us forward.



### MAINTAINING HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS

Throughout the duration of the war, the demand for humanitarian aid has only grown more pressing. Each passing day witnesses a surge in the number of displaced individuals, aggravated by the deteriorating economic situation in Ukraine. It is of utmost importance that we persist in our mission to provide essential humanitarian aid to those who depend on it for survival.



### FOCUSING OUR RESCUE EFFORTS

With the frontlines stabilizing in recent months and a decrease in the number of evacuees, we find it necessary to adjust our operations. Our focus now centers on prioritizing the evacuation of high-risk medical patients who require urgent care. This strategic shift allows us to allocate our resources effectively and continue our mission to provide critical assistance where it is needed most.



### EXPANDING THE RARE DISEASE PROGRAM

Our dedicated team includes specialists with experience in evacuating children with rare diseases, such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Leveraging their expertise and insights, we are now expanding our operations to accommodate a greater number of patients simultaneously. This strategic expansion enables us to make a greater impact in the lives of those facing these challenging medical conditions.



### LAUNCHING THE MENTAL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM

In partnership with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education, we are launching a pilot project in schools across Ukraine. Presently, we are in the seeding and translation phase, with great aspirations for a full-scale launch anticipated in the early months of 2024. This collaborative effort holds the promise of positively impacting the educational landscape and shaping a brighter future for the youth of Ukraine.



### ADVOCACY THROUGH OUR SISTER CITIES

Our commitment to serve as the official sponsor between the city of Milwaukee and the city of Irpin remains steadfast. Together, we aim to facilitate a rich intercultural exchange between these two cities while also directing our efforts towards the critical task of reconstruction and providing relief to the war-torn city of Irpin.

Memorial in front of the house of 24 children killed by precision missiles of the Russian Federation in the city of Uman (Ukraine).







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[info@be-an-angel.org](mailto:info@be-an-angel.org)

## 📍 Friends of Be an Angel

11520 N Port Washing Rd #215  
Mequon, WI 53092 USA



Phone: +1 414-628-3826



[www.friendsofbeanangel.org](http://www.friendsofbeanangel.org)  
[contact@friendsofbeanangel.org](mailto:contact@friendsofbeanangel.org)

## 📍 Be an Angel Moldova

Chişinău, Moldova



Phone: +380 48 708 0234



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