

INFORMATION ON SENDING RELIEF TO UKRAINE

UCHI Received the information below on 3.11.2022

Please review before collecting and/or shipping items to Ukraine for relief!

Dear Community Leaders:

This message is sent on behalf of the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia (UCFP) to inform organizations that have received grants from our Foundation about the status of efforts to deliver aid to Ukraine. We have confirmed with MEEST that this information continues to be accurate and up to date as of today, Friday March 11, 2022.

Here is the key information that Ukrainian-American Charities should consider as they plan further deliveries of aid to Ukraine and the special accounts opened to raise money for shipping costs.

1. **The Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia** has created a special account that will accept donations of funds to help pay for shipping costs of humanitarian aid. You may donate to this fund by contacting UKRFCU at 215-725-4430 or visiting our website at <https://ukrcfp.org>
2. In addition, **RAZOM** has partnered with MEEST in raising money to ship humanitarian aid. RAZOM, a nonprofit organization based in New York, designated a special account to collect donations for shipping of humanitarian aid with MEEST. <https://razomforukraine.org/partner-projects/humanitarian-shipments/>
3. **No more free shipping.** MEEST and Dnipro are no longer able to ship humanitarian aid to Ukraine without covering the costs they are incurring. This new information is reflected on the MEEST website (<https://us.meest.com/humanitarian-aid-packages-for-ukraine>)
4. **Deliveries to MEEST need to include the cost of shipping.** Unless an organization has made specific alternative arrangements, donations of aid delivered for shipment by MEEST must include a fee for shipping and delivery of the aid package. The fee charged by MEEST is noted on its website as \$2.30 per pound for shipping by air. MEEST stated that it is not making a profit at these shipping rates – they will only recover their costs.
5. **What to Send?** MEEST is in regular contact with the Ukrainian government and based on information from the government has identified key priorities for aid deliveries at this time. Refer to: <https://meest.com/uploads/elFinder/US/aid/PRIORITY-ITEMS-FOR-HUMANITARIAN-RELIEF.pdf> That information will be updated on the MEEST website.

6. **Don't wrap boxes and create accurate inventories of contents.** Shippers need to inspect and verify the contents of each package delivered to them for shipment. If you wrap the boxes, they will need to be opened to verify contents and confirm that no unsafe or prohibited items are in the package. Charities should reconsider the packing and taping of boxes and instead work to get an accurate inventory of items in each box.
7. **Cash donations are critical.** It is far more cost effective for individuals to make donations of money to charities than to buy items themselves. Pallet-sized wholesale purchases are most cost effective and with enough cash donations, charities can buy items in those quantities. Items purchased at stores like Costco, while a bargain for individual families are not cost effective given the enormous humanitarian need.
8. **For now, no Diapers or Clothing.** MEEST strongly discouraged donations of diapers, personal hygiene products, toiletries, or clothing at this time. These items will not be shipped by air. As opportunities arise, they will be shipped by boat.
9. **Ask donors to pay for shipping.** Charities that obtain large donations of medical supplies or other needed items e.g., from hospitals or manufacturers should request that the donors also cover the cost of shipping their donations to Ukraine.

MEEST needs donations to cover shipping costs. These donations will be used to pay for shipping bulk medical and other items that they have received to date and that did not include an allocation to cover shipping cost. Many Ukrainian-American Credit Unions and their charitable foundations have responded to this need. Individuals may want to make donations directly to these charitable foundations. Again, the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia is specifically collecting to cover humanitarian shipping cost. (UKRCFP.ORG)

Roman Petyk

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union