



United Way
British Columbia

Working with communities in BC's
Interior, Lower Mainland, Central
& Northern Vancouver Island

NEWS RELEASE

April 5, 2023

Displaced Ukrainians in need of housing *As war in Ukraine continues, more Ukrainians arriving in BC*

Central Office, Burnaby, BC – Last month, the world marked one year of Russia's war in Ukraine. During that first year, United Way British Columbia - working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver (United Way BC), welcomed displaced Ukrainians as they settled into their new homes and communities.

Strengthening vital connections, United Way BC, through a partnership with the Government of British Columbia, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies & Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA), has helped 530 British Columbians apply to become hosts to around 400 displaced Ukrainians over the past year. As the war continues and more Ukrainians come to BC seeking a safe place, the demand for housing (both short and long term) is ever present.

"We are so grateful to British Columbians who have opened their homes and spaces to Ukrainians but the need for a safe place has not abated. We are welcoming more and more Ukrainians into BC, and they all need somewhere to call home. Having a place to rest, to call their own, is vital to their ability to deal with their trauma and integrate into their new communities. We don't end our support at a year, we remain committed to helping those in need." – Kim Winchell, Provincial Director.

United Way BC's housing program places safety and security as a top priority. Applications are rigorously vetted to ensure the most suitable matches based on the individual and family needs of arriving Ukrainians. All types of housing are needed, from rooms to suites, and both short and long-term accommodations. The most important factor is that it is safe.

To help British Columbians learn more about what kind of housing is needed and how they can help, United Way BC is holding an Information Session on April 14, 2023. Perhaps you are leaving for the summer and have an apartment or house available, or you have extra room for someone who needs short-term accommodation – now is a chance to make a meaningful contribution to displaced Ukrainians arriving in our province. For more information on the session, please contact info-ukraine@uwbc.ca or register online via this link [here](#).

To volunteer and help Ukrainians, visit www.ivolunteer.ca

To contribute to United for Ukraine, visit: <https://donate.uwbc.ca/>

For support and resources, visit www.bc211.ca

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> > **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Please FAQs (click [here](#)) for more background information on United for Ukraine's housing needs or please visit www.uwbc.ca/ukraine.

About United Way British Columbia – working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland and Central & Northern Vancouver Island

United Way supports healthy, caring and inclusive communities by strengthening vital connections that support people in need. Representing the six regions of Central and Northern Vancouver Island, East Kootenay, Lower Mainland, Southern Interior, Thompson Nicola Cariboo, and Trail and District, our organization serves a population of more than 4 million people, with a focus on kids and youth, seniors, poverty, mental health and food security.

www.uwbc.ca

Interviews are available with a United Way BC spokesperson.

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