



# Hungarian American Coalition

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## Hungarian American Coalition Donates \$20,000 to Aid Hungarian and Ukrainian Refugees

Washington, DC – The Hungarian American Coalition contributed \$20,000 in humanitarian assistance to four organizations on the ground at the Ukrainian Hungarian border. The donations were made to assist Hungarian and Ukrainian refugees escaping war-torn Ukraine. The donation originated from a Facebook fundraiser HAC created last week as news of the invasion emerged. To date, more than 330 people have donated more than \$33,000. The Coalition will announce the next tranche of funding shortly.



*A volunteer interpreter of the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service holds a baby in her arms while the baby's mother and other refugees, who have been on the road for days, are resting at the Tiszabecs border crossing to Hungary. Photo courtesy: Hungarian Maltese Charity Service*

We have all seen the harrowing pictures of the Russian invasion and ensuing war in Ukraine. These images are all too familiar for Hungarian Americans and draw eerie parallels to the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, when so many of our parents and grandparents were forced to flee Soviet occupation. We fear that is not the only similarity, as a humanitarian and refugee crisis looms at the border.

The Coalition issued a statement condemning the Russian invasion in Ukraine that is available at our website at the following link: <https://hacusa.org/hungarian-american-coalition-statement-on-russian-invasion-of-ukraine/>

Due to these tragic events, it is our responsibility to help Ukrainians and Hungarians (150,000 Hungarians live in Western Ukraine) who are stranded in Ukraine or escaping to

Hungary. Our goal is to work with partner organizations that are established in-country and on-the-ground to deliver immediate aid to those in need.

The Coalition's Executive Committee made donations to four organizations: \$10,000 will be donated to the work of the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service (Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat); \$5,000 will go to support Hungarian Interchurch Aid (Ökumenikus Segélyszervezet); \$2,500 will be given to local governments in the Subcarpathia region of Hungary; and \$2,500 will be provided to support the work of the Carpathian Foundation, the Coalition's member organization.

The [Hungarian Maltese Charity Service](#) launched a comprehensive humanitarian aid program in response to the crisis. The staff of the charity is constantly present at the Beregsurány assistance point on the Ukrainian-Hungarian border and at the Keleti Railway Station in Budapest. Families fleeing the war are assisted by the staff and volunteers of the Charity Service with food, tea, blankets, information and internet access, as well as transportation arrangements, with increased attention to the most vulnerable groups. More information on their activities is available here: <https://adomanyozz.hu/program/ukrajna>

[Hungarian Interchurch Aid](#) is providing immediate assistance to those who have been forced to leave everything behind and is launching a comprehensive relief program to support them. They have strengthened their center in Berehovo, which can support tens of thousands of IDP's arriving in the region if needed, and they set up a coordination center in Lviv as well. They are continuing to supply durable food and hygiene supplies from Hungary in response to the current shortage of goods in Transcarpathia and they set up an assistance point near the Beregsurány-Astyria border crossing on the Ukrainian side, where they provide food, tea, blankets and hygiene items to refugees who have been waiting for hours. More information on their activities is available here: <https://segelyszervezet.hu/en/campaigns/war-in-ukraine/>

Supported local governments are in cities bordering Ukraine and their cooperation to help people in need is an initiative led by Sándor Filep, Mayor of Vásárosnamény and Attila Tilki, MP in charge of the region.

The [Carpathian Foundation](#) runs its programs to fulfill the following main objectives: to support local development initiatives of NGOs and communities; to support disadvantaged rural areas and vulnerable groups; to raise social awareness and to support disadvantaged youth. They have direct links to East Slovakia and Subcarpathia through their offices in Košice, Slovakia and Uzhhorod, Ukraine and are in constant contact with them to learn more about immediate needs in Subcarpathia. They are committed to allocate funds to the following initiatives: specific material donations to Subcarpathia; assist to receive and help women, children and especially the Roma at the border; and guaranteeing the safety, well-being and education of children in refugee camps or in the settlements where they are placed.

The Coalition continues to raise funds to aid Hungarian and Ukrainian refugees and encourages its members and supporters to consider helping this worthy cause. Our fundraiser campaign is available at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/1060779347987875/4907940085960551/>

If you are more comfortable to help on other platforms, you can support this cause via PayPal indicating 'Aid to Hungarian and Ukrainian refugees' (click [here](#)); or you are welcome to send your tax-deductible donations via check to our mailing address:

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The Hungarian American Coalition will pass on 100% of all donations to our partner organizations and provide a 501(c)(3) receipt for your records.