

Ukrainian Crisis Centre - Welcome Hubs

Ukrainian Crisis Centre “UCC” Refugee Integration Initiative

Purpose:

Help integrate Ukrainian Refugees into their local communities in Ireland by creating places all around the country where refugees can come to find a helping hand and items that they need.

Why:

Ireland has accepted thousands of refugees, the calls for help are growing every day and the Ukrainian community in Ireland can't reach all these people in need. This is why we are asking local communities to support and help Ukrainians refugees settle into Ireland,

It takes a village to raise a child. Women arriving in Ireland lost their partners, villages, their entire support network. It is not only toys and buggies that they need to have some sense of normality. They will also need new connections, playdates, help to navigate Irish healthcare, transport, education and many other systems. If local communities can create a space where people will get this understanding and support, it will have an even bigger impact than material help (though that one is extremely important too).

Goals:

- Provide aid: clothing, toiletries, baby items, etc. on a regular basis.
- Provide a Community support network: meeting new people, networking with other refugees, etc.
- Provide information on community resources: GP, School information, activities around the area, navigating day-to-day.

How:

- Organize a group of volunteers from your community to create a network that can help with:
 - Clothing drives, organizing donations into usable and unusable. See suggestions for donations.
 - Establishing a hub - dedicate a space available at specific times so refugees can come and find what they need. Where they can meet a volunteer, have a cup of tea, and collect items that are available, and request items they may need.
 - Coffee mornings, organizing playdates, parents and toddler groups,
 - Create a directory of community services such as GP, Creche, schools, activities or groups around the area.

Implementation:

- Nominate a team within your community to stay in touch with the network UCC-Hubs. ie Sandyford, Howth, Swords, CityWest or by Eir Code: D18, D15, D4, etc.
 - Create a gmail account to use as a contact. UCCxxx@gmail.com This email address will be listed in the UCC website, it will give access to a google drive with all communications or info you may need, and will make you part of a google group where we can all learn and support each other.
- Build a database of volunteers in your area. Ask for help, from everyone: Churches, schools, GPs, Pharmacys, Councilmen/women, GAA clubs, Scouts, gather a list of volunteers
- Find a space to host regular meetings. E.g. Schools, Community centres, churches.
- Have a designated place to keep humanitarian aid, and agree on available hours during the week for people to come in.
- Run a donations drive to build your stock of humanitarian aid. Ideas on what your community may need and your space.
 - Donate what you will wear tomorrow*.
 - Luggage.
 - Baby items.
 - Scooters.
 - Buggies
 - Coats
- Volunteers will help to create and maintain a database with information of available GP's, potential schools, free activities for Refugees.
- Spread the word in your local community.
- Find places willing to organize free events for refugees or accept refugees to their classes.
- Accept gratitude and appreciation from every Ukrainian in the world
- Stay in touch with any feedback.

How Ukrainian Crisis Centre will support this initiative:

If your community accumulates too much humanitarian aid, UCC will collect it and direct it to other places in need (inside or outside of Ireland). In cases where the local community will not be able to satisfy some needs if many Ukrainians arrive, UCC will bring humanitarian aid from central warehouses to cover the gap.

Call to Action:

Evaluate this initiative

If you would like to join email us to: uccwelcomehub@gmail.com with your name, address, contact phone number.

Note: We don't know where refugees will be placed, if there are no refugees in your area your support can be used to help other communities.