

Ways to Support Ukrainian Refugees

Henry Posner III, chairman of ASLRRA member Iowa Interstate Railroad, Railroad Development Corporation (RDC) and Railroad Development Corporation-Deutschland, among other companies, recently participated in efforts to help Ukrainian refugees escaping Russian attacks on their country. On March 12, Posner served as a Russian translator for refugees traveling within Germany on an RDC-Deutschland train from the Polish-German border town Frankfurt/Oder to Hannover.

Like Posner, many Americans want to help the millions of people affected by this war. Posner offers the following suggestions for those looking to aid Ukrainian refugees:

1. **Provide more direct financial support.** In the short term, we encourage people to reach out to any Ukrainian friends or colleagues to see if you can provide direct financial support to smaller, trusted organizations or individuals in Ukraine who are able to get funds to those in need faster than the larger charities, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). For those looking to support larger organizations, we have provided a list of trusted partners below.
2. **Support remote work and employment of Ukrainians.** There will be long lasting effects and needs as a result of this war, so, while immediate financial support is critical, just as important will be the efforts to help Ukrainians rebuild their lives. Stable employment can be one of the most helpful factors for those who have been displaced. And many Ukrainians have both English language skills and technical skills – including railway-related skills.
3. **Contribute to a trusted NGO providing humanitarian response.** The following organizations are providing on-the-ground response:
 - a. [International Rescue Committee](#) is working in Ukraine with local partners in Lviv, Chernovtski, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Luhansk to provide emergency assistance to people displaced from their homes. They are also on the ground in Poland, working through partners to provide support to refugees, families hosting refugees, and government refugee reception centers on the Poland/Ukraine border.
 - b. [Save the Children](#) has a long-standing presence in Ukraine, including in conflict-impacted areas of Donetsk and Luhansk. Its current emergency response is helping to provide children and families impacted by the conflict with immediate aid, such as food, water, hygiene kits, psychosocial support and cash assistance.
 - c. [Americares](#) is working in both Ukraine and Poland to get medical supplies to people in need. The emergency response team on the ground in Poland is supporting health services for families affected by the crisis. Americares has 3 tons of critical medicine and medical supplies on the way to an organization working inside Ukraine, for hospitals and responders there.
4. Finally, **be kind to Russians.** This is not their war. This is [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's war.