

A photograph of two young women standing outdoors in front of green foliage. They are wearing traditional Ukrainian embroidered clothing. The woman on the left is smiling and wearing a white blouse with colorful geometric embroidery on the sleeves and neckline, a wide brown belt, and a patterned skirt. She has a red headscarf with colorful embroidery. The woman on the right is looking slightly to the side and wearing a similar white blouse with embroidery, a wide brown belt, and a patterned skirt. She has a headband with red flowers and a small veil. The background is a dense wall of green leaves and some small white flowers.

LAST BELL MINISTRIES

# *IMPACT REPORT*

2021 - 2022

## *OUR MISSION*

LOVING AND RESTORING  
ORPHANAGE GRADUATES  
TOWARD LIFE AND COMMUNITY.

## *OUR VISION*

THE END OF THE GENERATIONAL  
ORPHANAGE CYCLE IN  
ZHYTOMYR, UKRAINE.



# DEAR FRIENDS OF LAST BELL,

February 2022 brought Ukraine into each of our living rooms. I watched in horror as the evil of war fell upon people so dear to me. Long, difficult days turned into a year of air raid sirens and winter days without electricity.

If you receive our newsletters, you’ve read the stories about our staff serving in wartime. You’ve followed our families as they found safe havens in other countries. You’ve seen our staff leave comfort behind, bringing fearful moms and kids to safety. You’ve watched our Shelter taking in families who’ve fled for their lives, and our Restoration Project repairing broken walls. You’ve stood with our staff as they held open the Day Center doors to our teenagers for showers, cooking, games, prayer, and counseling, not knowing if the building would stand another night.

Our staff has also absorbed the new needs of wartime. They’re trust-builders, re-wiring joy and hope. In the new emergency of indefinite war, they help our youth in Zhytomyr see they still have a future.

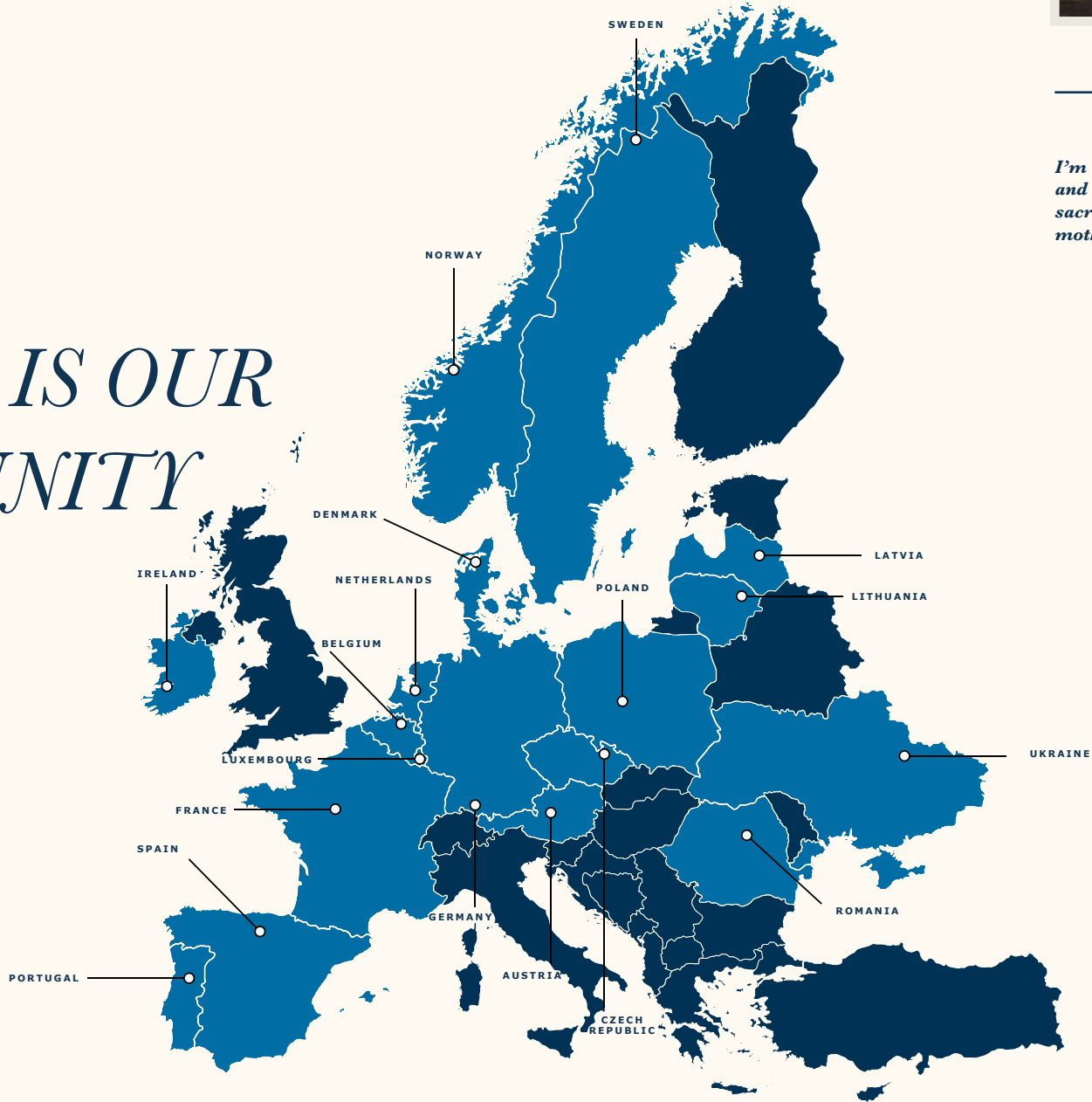
As our staff served on the front lines of war in Ukraine, you’ve served on the front lines of prayer and generosity. You’ve been dependable friends, and we’re encouraged by your constancy.

Gratefully,

*Megan Hershey*

Megan Hershey  
Executive Director

# WHERE IS OUR COMMUNITY NOW?



# GRATITUDE FROM OUR STAFF



“

*I’m once again convinced that the more we help orphans and single mothers, the more God takes care of us. Your sacrifice and help have brought a smile to many children, mothers, and soldiers. They see God’s care thanks to you.*

- ANYA C.

“

*Thank you to every sponsor who invested their finances, prayers, and heart in serving orphan students. Despite the difficult times for our country, the Day Center reopened a few weeks after the war started so all our students could receive help: hot lunches, hygiene kits, food, and to talk about something other than negative news.*

- YULIA N.

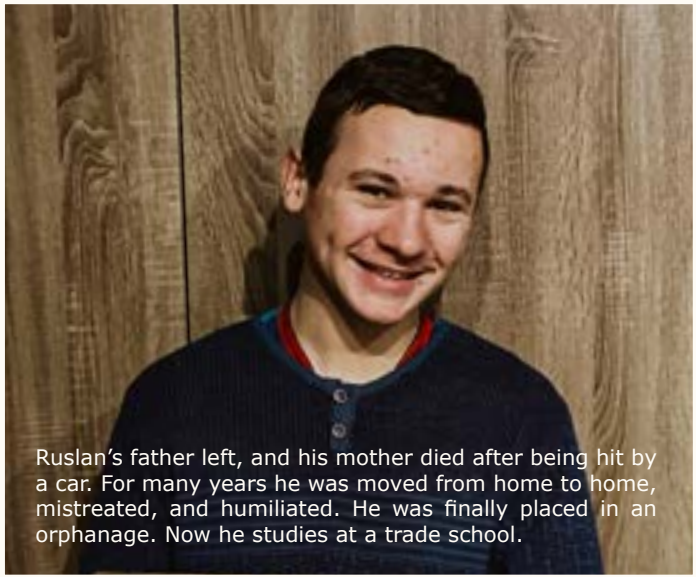




# 2021: A YEAR OF PEACE

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH:

SERVING ORPHANED STUDENTS



Ruslan's father left, and his mother died after being hit by a car. For many years he was moved from home to home, mistreated, and humiliated. He was finally placed in an orphanage. Now he studies at a trade school.

— “ —

*When I came to the Day Center for the first time, it was unexpected for me that I was accepted as a person. They communicated with me, repeatedly helped me with clothes and food. I have new friends. I thank you very much for that.*

- NEW STUDENT RUSLAN

\$909

OVER THREE YEARS ENABLES TWO-THIRDS OF STUDENTS TO HOLD STEADY WORK

## STOP THE CYCLE:

SERVING ORPHAN-PARENTED FAMILIES

In 2021, Stop the Cycle and Shelter served 25 families through intensive case management. Parenting classes, grocery bags, hygiene kits, medical advocacy, crisis housing, a clothing pantry, and Biblical counseling all help orphan-parented families make a new start.

\$2000

OVER TWO YEARS PREVENTS ONE CHILD FROM BECOMING AN ORPHAN



## RESTORATION PROJECT:

HOME RENOVATION APPRENTICESHIPS & RESTORING ORPHANS' HOMES



In 2021, our RP crew completed renovations on three orphanage graduates' homes, and made innumerable small fixes to homes and to our facilities. All the crew members grow in confidence as they learn new marketable skills.

## OUR CORE VALUES

HEALING RELATIONSHIPS

DYNAMIC COMMUNITY

HOLISTIC ORPHAN CARE

600+

SERVED







ZHYTOMYR, UKRAINE

# WHEN THE WAR BEGAN,

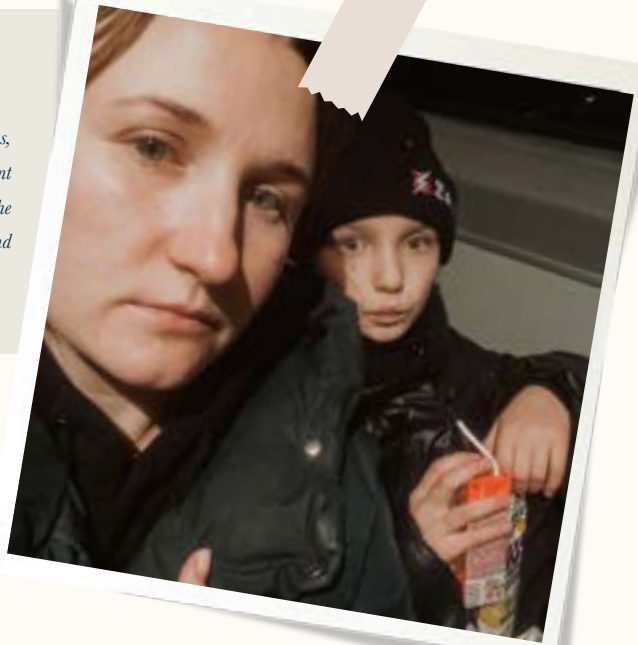
our staff prayerfully decided that Yuliana Sagaidachna, a staff member and former orphan, would lead our biggest group of evacuating moms. Yuliana with her two kids shepherded many families to Poland and the Netherlands. Here are a few notes from her travels.



JUST INSIDE POLAND

March 3:

*The locals took care of us, people who are not indifferent to others' grief. Tonight, for the first time in seven days, we and our children slept peacefully.*



HOME IN ZHYTOMYR

December 31:

*I'm so grateful to God for His presence in this difficult year. I'm very grateful for volunteers and friends from Poland, the Netherlands, and the USA through whom God has shown His care. I don't know what to expect in 2023, but I know He who holds my future in His hands!*



POLAND

March 7:

*Many girls are praying for Ukraine, for their loved ones who have stayed at home and have been sitting in basements.*



THE NETHERLANDS

July 10:

*I'm watching kids playing on the trampolines and wondering, would I be right to take away our children's peaceful skies and put them back in those basements listening to sirens? I ask God every day for the right decision. Millions of moms every day risk their children's safety or their ability to be with their dad. A choice that no family in any country should have to make.*



April 2:

*We were greeted very kindly... Volunteers are assigned to each house to help. Today we had a festive lunch and soup for dinner. We also have a house with a large hall where we can gather to pray together.*

June 25:

*Twenty-four rockets were fired at our hometown. The moms are all worried about their relatives. We pray for peace in Ukraine, for our city, and for people who wake up in danger every day.*

## EVACUATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

310

MILES FROM THE SHELTER TO THE MOST COMMON POLISH BORDER CROSSING

100

PEOPLE STOPPED AT THE SHELTER FOR A CUP OF TEA OR A BED DURING EVACUATION

150

MOMS, KIDS, AND STUDENTS EVACUATED FROM THE LAST BELL COMMUNITY

70

OF THOSE HAVE NOW RETURNED TO UKRAINE



# 2022: A YEAR OF WAR

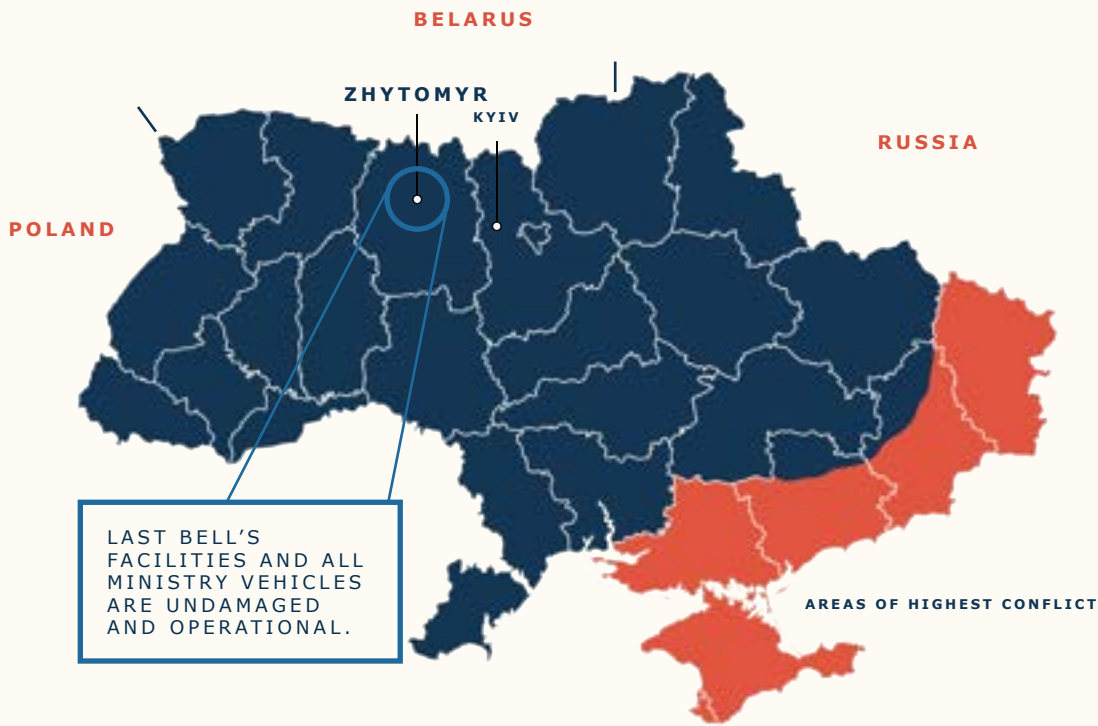
## WHERE ARE WE IN THE WAR?

Since the first weeks of the war, most missiles flying over our region have been shot down. Few residences have been damaged, but utilities have been struck frequently, leaving many without heat or water.

**552**  
AIR RAID  
ALERTS IN  
ZHYTOMYR

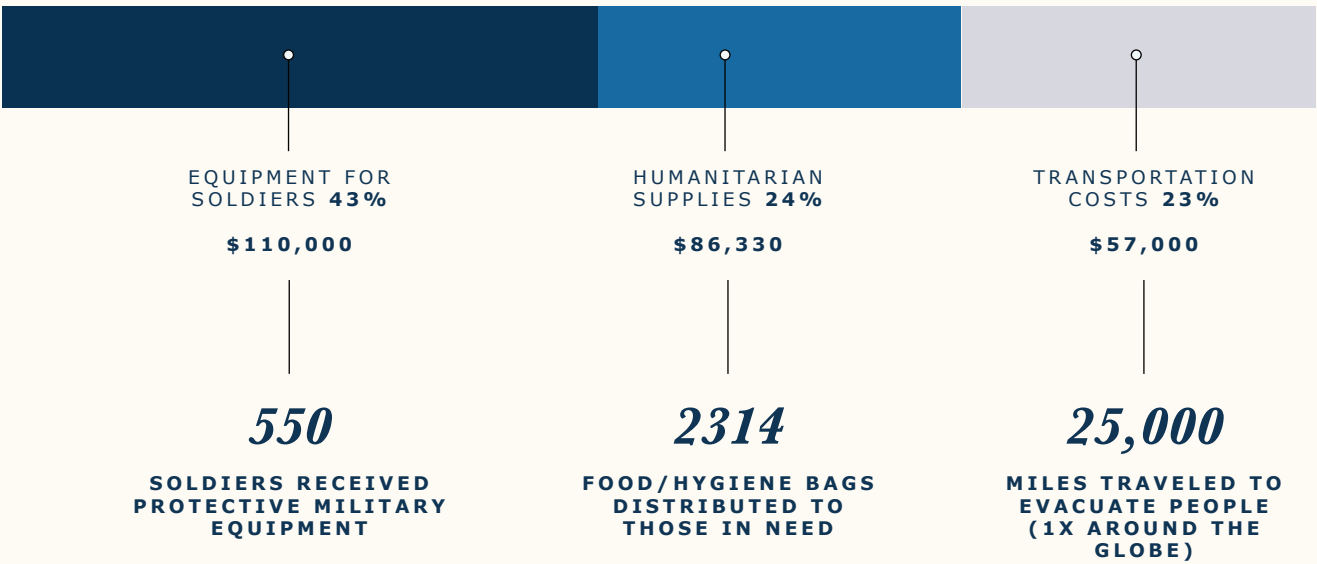
**350+**  
MISSILES AND  
BOMBS ATTACKING  
ZHYTOMYR REGION

**14,870**  
AIR RAID ALERTS  
ACROSS UKRAINE,  
RANGING FROM 4  
TO 189 PER DAY



## BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES FROM WAR RELIEF FUND

FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER 2022



## ORPHANED PARENTS ENDURE WAR

Olya's son Kiril was born in the first week of the war. She lived with family, then evacuated to the Czech Republic, then came back to Ukraine. When the baby's father left her, she was alone. She and Kiril were both frightened by the shelling. After family camp, she came to our Shelter Crisis Housing facility.

Olya wrote, "I thank God that He protects me and gave me the opportunity to understand that not all people are cruel. I want to thank the people who help us... Since I moved to the Shelter, I have changed a lot for the better. The more I learn about God, the more I thank Him that I am surrounded by these kind people."

## OUR COMMUNITY SERVING IN WARTIME



**31** LAST BELL YOUTH  
HELPING WITH WAR  
RELIEF EFFORTS

**25** LAST BELL COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS SERVING IN  
THE MILITARY

## UNIQUE DONORS

164

2021

464

2022

## WHO COULD HAVE FORESEEN

at the beginning of the year what would take place in Ukraine? When I first started going to Ukraine, nobody knew where it was. Now everyone knows!

The Last Bell Board has kept a close watch. The funding, the humanitarian aid, the evacuations, and the needs of those who stayed have been on our radar since last February. Every time we hear about new missile strikes and air raids, the prayers go up.

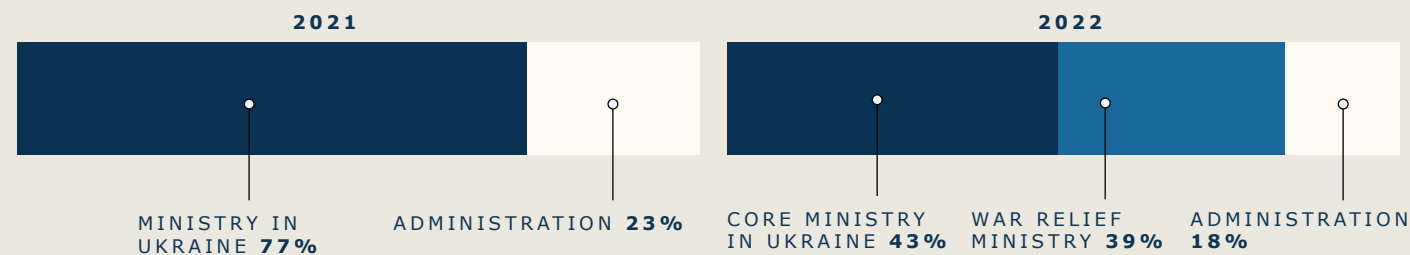
The outpouring of humanitarian aid has been huge, and we can account for every dollar. We have shared the love of God with all who needed it.

Please pray with us for the safety and well-being of all of our friends and loved ones, including our orphaned youth, many of whom have been drafted to fight.

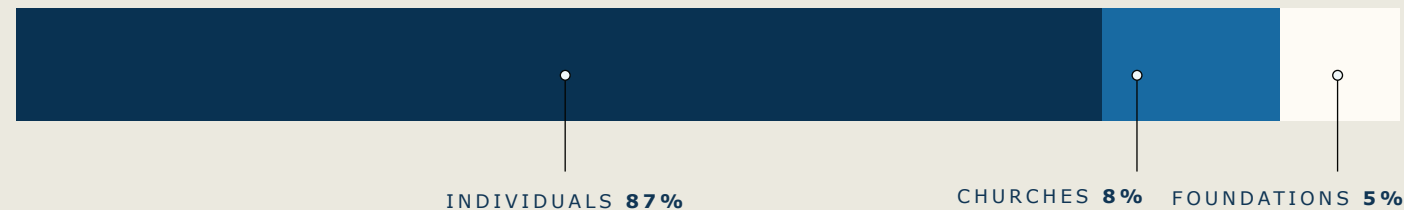
*Donald B Lawton*

Don Lawton  
Board Chair for Last Bell

### MINISTRY AND OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES

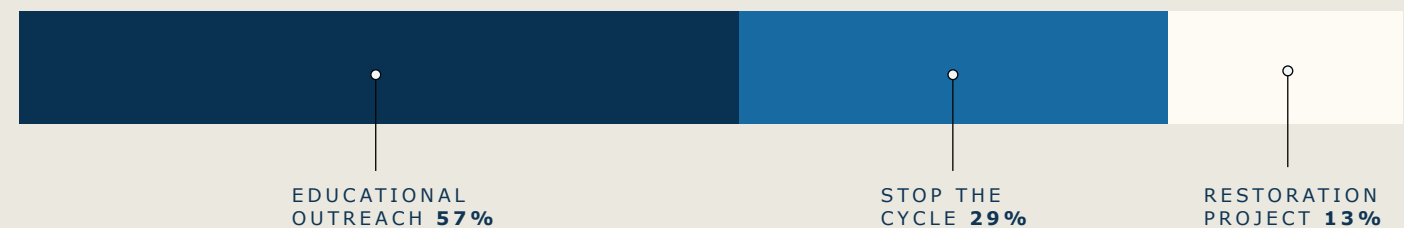


### FUNDING SOURCES, 2021-2022



### MINISTRY SPENDING IN UKRAINE, BY PROGRAM

(Does not include war relief funds)



MINISTRY DIRECTOR ANDREY PANKYEVYEV WITH A NEWLY-WED ORPHANAGE GRADUATE

“WHY DO I SERVE ON THE LAST BELL BOARD?”

— “ —

*Last Bell is a life-saving net that catches Ukraine’s cultural castaways, orphans, whose very life and future depends on the work of Last Bell. I love being a part of something God is actively using to bless orphaned youth! Last Bell brings these young people a hopeful future in Christ, and the training, resources and love they so desperately crave.*

- DAVE RICHTER,  
BOARD MEMBER

EVEN DURING WARTIME,  
WE CELEBRATED ORDINARY  
SUCCESSSES. IN 2022...

135

STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM TRADE SCHOOL, COLLEGE, OR UNIVERSITY

6

FAMILIES MOVED INTO THE SHELTER AFTER THE WAR STARTED

49

PEOPLE WERE SERVED IN SUMMER CAMPS

20

BABIES WERE BORN TO LAST BELL FAMILIES DURING THE WAR





## OUR NEW PHOTOGRAPHER

Two years ago, we wrote about Masha Pankyeyeva, a former orphan who's been part of Last Bell's community since its founding. For years she's been babysitting, volunteering, and developing her photography skills. In 2021, we hired her as our staff photographer. Many of the photos you see in this report are Masha's beautiful work.

