

# Ukraine

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With their connections to others on the ground in Poland, the Schwendingers are raising money that is going directly to refugees who are trying to make it in their temporary home in Poland.

"We send it Western Union directly into their bank accounts," Tanya said.

They are looking at giving \$500 per person on average to help those who had to rush from their homes with practically nothing.

The Schwendingers are looking to help those who are not as fortunate as her brother's family, who are with friends in Poland. A few days before the invasion, starting to get a sense that maybe this will not be the same old from Russia, Tanya's brother, Artem, and his wife, Ira, decided to take their family and visit her mother's home in Lyiv, which as we all now have a basic understanding of Ukrainian geography, is on the western edge.

It was there that Artem and Ira were when the invasion began.

That started their own family's journey out of the war zone.

For two days, Artem and Ira and their children slept in their car, waiting for Ira and the children to be able to cross into Poland (As a man ages 18-60, Artem was banned from leaving).

Once his family was across, Artem, found a van, and has now been running supplies to Tanya's hometown of Cherkasy to support those staying put.

Artem, on his return trips back to get supplies, carries refugees to get them closer to the border. On one trip, he helped the family of one of Tanya's friends from

when she was in college in Kyiv. One of those people not willing to give up his home is Tanya's father, who, despite the fact that he is old enough to be able to leave the country, and has a visa to visit the United States, is stay put.

"This is my country," Tanya relayed what her father told her. "This is the last place I am ever going to live."

That spirit is something Tanya is proud of. Born in 1983, she remembers vividly when Ukraine was once again an independent nation following the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1990.

She remembers how difficult it was to get enough money to eat in those early days of democracy, but the Ukrainian spirit carried the population through, and she remarked at how proud she is that in three decades the country has advanced to where it was before the invasion.

And while things are easier than they had been, Tanya noted that much like Americans, Ukrainians would not give up liberty for some security.

"They are not going to give up their land for peace and security," Tanya stated. "They are going to fight until the end."

No one knows when the conflict is going to end, but Tanya states that when it looks to be over, she will look to return to help with rebuilding in some way. She quipped that she has a degree in architecture, and "they are going to need a lot of buildings."

But until that happier time comes, she and Richard are going to go and try to raise funds. They have been speakign with area churches, and one of the last conversations she had with her brother, she has a list of items they need.

"They need helmets," Tanya said. They need tactical vests. They want drones that have night vision.



TOP - Some of the damage that Tanya Schwendinger's brother, Artem, has seen while running supplies to those in need in Ukraine. Artem said goodbye to his family at the border with Poland, after waiting two days in the car.

## CELEBRATING OUR heroes.

**NATIONAL Doctors' Day**  
MARCH 30, 2022

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our patients and communities.

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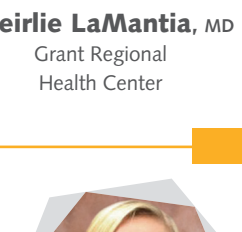
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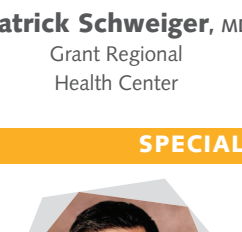
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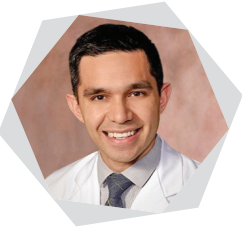


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