

Shropshire Supports Refugees Testimonials July 2022

"Dear Friends!!!!

We had a wonderful event yesterday!!!!

SHREWSBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT !!!°

IT IS WONDERFUL THAT FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR CENTER, HELP TO THE Ukrainians who came to us.

A large number of ENGLISH people participated in the organization of this event !!!!"

" The whole team of the Center with Beautiful, Kind, Responsive, really, NATIVE PEOPLE WITH BIG HEARTS !!!!"

" 70 musicians of the orchestra rehearsed and prepared the program in order to support us and collect material assistance for us!!!"

Magnificent Conductor of the Orchestra John Mooa, friendly and caring director of the Orchestra John!!!!

These wonderful people did a lot of work to make us feel at home here!!!!

Look at how many people came to the concert and that's all Our Wonderful Englishmen!!!!!"

"UNDERSTANDING, SYMPATHY, CARE, KINDNESS, LOVE!!!!

THESE ARE THE TRUE COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN LIFE, which are given to us by our English friends!!!!!"

" That Sun, which covers the smoke of War. Beautiful People - the English are coming back to us!!!!!"

" We are all Ukrainians,

We are in eternal debt to you!!!

And God willing, the war will end and the sun and peace will return to our Ukraine!!!!!"

And God willing, peace will embrace the entire universe!!!!!"

THANK YOU AND WE HUG YOU WITH ALL THE BIGGEST HEARTS !!!!     

"Good afternoon I want to thank you for your work."

“Your work makes me and my children happy. Thank you for the walk on the ship, for the circus and even for the food fest you are incredible thank you again.”

“Good evening 🙏❤️❤️ You have done a very great good for me. You helped me a lot. I am very grateful to you 🙏🙏
We went to our hosts house. I like everything.
I hug you very much and gratitude to you 🙏❤️❤️”

“We thank you very much for your work, for your help, for your ideas for Ukrainians to make their life Interesting and happy!!!! ❤️
a big heart!!❤️!!!
a new house and everything is made with love !!!!
We will be moving in with next week!!!
🙏🙏🙏 We hug and thank you”

Crazy support of the hub in Shrewsbury, thank you the team, I received support with English lessons, provision of clothes for me and my daughters, various excursions and concerts, a boat ride and warm tea)))

“My children and I are very, very grateful to you for the fact that there is a center for Ukrainians, our hub. This is a place where we can always come to chat with our compatriots, hear a good and friendly word from you, the English, drink coffee, eat, learn English and even pick up clothes and shoes. This is VERY important to us now that we are away from home and somewhat limited financially.

We always have the opportunity to look into a corner of Ukraine and feel its spirit, as Ukrainian citizens gather in the center. Once again, thank you very much for your great care, facilitating our adaptation in England and the great support from the local authorities.”

“I thank you and other fairies who work and volunteer in the hub 🙏❤️
Thanks to you, many administrative issues are resolved, you can be consulted.
You can learn a lot of useful things over coffee
I would like to especially thank you for the English language courses and yoga. This is very important and useful for us.”

“Also, thank you for the free things, both for adults and for children (clothes, shoes, toys, books) that you can choose 🧐”

Just wanted to say, that all your hard work in hub is very appreciated by us 🧐 I personally have a chance to see Ukrainians and have met there new friends! And my son loves spending time there playing with the toys and other Ukrainian children!! So it's very very helpful!! Thank you ❤️

“I would like to thank you and the whole team of the hub in Shrewsbury for the support and help you are providing to us! It is so important to have such a place for people who are desperately trying to settle well in a new country. The possibility to come and talk, to have a cup of coffee and some sweets, to take a bit of food home, to take part in different activities, organised by volunteers, to obtain important information- it's invaluable. It's a chance to feel stronger and keep going. I can only imagine how much work and effort is behind it and we really appreciate everything! For me and my daughter it is a place where we feel comfortable and we are grateful for that!”

“hello dear refugee center! I want to say thank you to each of you, I am very grateful to you! You were with me in those difficult moments and in moments of joy. thank you for helping me change my house, it is very important for me and my daughter, thank you for giving warm clothes when we fled without anything from Ukraine. thanks for organizing yoga it heals us. Thank you for organizing English lessons. for me and the Ukrainian refugees, the hub has become a home where they will always support, help and simply treat them to a cup of hot coffee. you are very caring and I am happy that you are in my life ❤️

We have found the time and effort given invaluable in helping us with our family of 5 refugees. You have worked tirelessly with very little thanks or recognition for all your hard work. We really appreciate everything you have done to smooth a chaotic task.

Our lovely guest arrived in April. She is a single young woman who is trying very hard to make the best of a bad situation. It was brilliant being able to bring her to the hub where she knew there was help available, particularly in the early days, before she found employment. She was very happy to receive a phone card and has since made use of the hub. All agencies have been very helpful and made it easy for her to access NHS number, BRP, universal credit etc. She brings so much more to our household than we can give her. It is a very positive experience for us. For us the gas checks, home visits etc were done relatively quickly given the mammoth task of organising for so many guests in the county. Thank you for your help and support.

"Hello I came from Odessa. Upon arrival in Shrewsbury, I turned to the Hub for help. I am very grateful to all the workers there, they are very attentive and smiling! They gave me free clothes and hygiene products, so I came with one backpack. Also, they gave me free English lessons twice a week, where Gina and Helen are wonderful teachers, a low bow to these magical people! I started learning English and this will give me the opportunity to feel better in England."

" Many thanks to the government for supporting Ukraine and the "House for Ukraine" program! I can enjoy the peaceful sky and go on living."

"I want to express my great gratitude for the support of Ukrainian refugees and for my personal support ♡ I arrived in your beautiful country completely confused and scared. Without clothes and understanding of the language. Thanks to the support of your organization, I was provided with moral peace, I was helped with clothes for the first time, and I also have the opportunity to learn the language. Now I am confident, I have a job. But I enjoy attending your wonderful meetings. This is very important, so I don't feel alone when I'm far from home. Thank you very much to your center for your support. With love"

"The Hub provides real practical on the ground help. We had registered early to provide a home for a Ukrainian family but were very dubious about going into social media to find a family to sponsor. The break through came when chatting to a Ukrainian refugee who was visiting our church who gave me SSR's phone number and email address. This unlocked being able to find a family to sponsor."

“Once my family arrived, SSR provided a comprehensive list of what needed to be done to access services and funding and to settle my family in.”

“We visited Shropshire Supports Refugees at the Community Hub soon after my guests arrived and we were overwhelmed by the calm but warm welcome we all received. It was such a happy place with old hand Syrian refugees rubbing shoulders with their newer Ukrainian counterparts. New babies were cuddled.” adolescent boys were asked about their education and plans for apprenticeships/ universities. Coffee, tea and biscuits were provided and there was food in the fridges for those that might need it.

My guests were given welcome pack Sim cards, signed up for English lessons on the spot and we were signposted to the Job Centre and to the adjacent depot for free clothes and supplies.

The Community Hub is such a calm and welcoming place. My guests chatted with and hugged other Ukrainians who had been bombed out of their homes because “they had had a much tougher time”.

It has been a truly humbling experience to learn about this space, at the bottom of a scruffy deserted shopping mall, that has been caring for so many people for such a long time. I can't believe that I had never heard of it before.

The support continues. My guests are really enjoying their English lessons which not only teach them English but provide a good networking opportunity to learn about jobs and other matters. The free gym membership and travel arrangements are a boon for my teenage boy. The £200 payments for my guests arrived promptly after completing the relevant Council forms.

There is a humming hub of quietly committed care givers: Shropshire Supports Refugees at the Community Hub, the Council, the Food Hub, the Job Centre, the English teachers, community support from churches and charities. It is wonderful.

I am so blessed and pleased to have been able to join this group and to be able share experiences on the Ukrainian Hosts WhatsApp group set up by SSR.

I have been very grateful for the help offered to me and my Ukrainian guest since she arrived in Shrewsbury on 4th May. My guest has found a great deal of support from the Hub; it has provided her with a social life as well as offering English classes. The emotional support on this level has been exceptional.

Personally, I have valued the information which was provided to me in the beginning. We seem to have been very fortunate in the way local support has been provided. I appreciate the calm and thoughtful way in which Council officials have approached the necessary checks, and I appreciated their flexibility when I needed to change appointment times.

Please accept my thanks for all the work you do and extend them to all the volunteers.

"I am a regular visitor to the refugee center in the Darwin Center. The work in the hub for refugees is organized very WELL. The people who work there try to satisfy all refugees' needs on different direction as well as they can:

- help for women with children (providing the information about different activities, opportunities for visiting schools, organizing their free time)*
- English lessons from beginner to higher levels*
- help with finding and getting jobs, collaboration with job agencies*
- providing interpretation services, consultations and advice*
- they provide food and drinks, clothes, shoes, all necessary items*
- creating the atmosphere where it is comfortable to spend time with people from my country, share experiences, support and inspire each other...."*

"I would like to express my deep gratitude from myself personally, as well as from my family members to ALL the employees of the Ukrainian Hub of the city of Shrewsbury, which is like a "breath of fresh air" for all citizens of Ukraine located in Shrewsbury and its region, who due to the current circumstances in as a result of the aggression of the Russian Federation, they were forced to become forced migrants and leave their native land. Employees of the hub and its volunteers, regardless of their personal time, provide moral, psychological, product, and financial support to all those in need almost 24 hours a day. They facilitate the adaptation and integration of citizens of Ukraine in new conditions for these purposes, English language courses were organized in the hub, which is, in my opinion, the most important element of adaptation, they systematically organize or provide free access to various events on various topics and places, in addition, such an environment is created directly in the hub that citizens have the opportunity to relax In the same situation, they will chat with each other over a cup of tea or coffee, discuss the issues that concern them. Employees of employment agencies are directly invited to the Hub to facilitate the job search for citizens of Ukraine and their further employment. The work of the employees of the Ukrainian Hub cannot be overestimated. from day one took part and continue to take part in supporting my family, this is a difficult time for us. In addition, I would like to thank the authorities of Great Britain for

supporting both the state of Ukraine and its citizens on the territory of Ukraine and Great Britain, and also thank the employees of the government of Great Britain, who directly on the ground they communicate with the citizens of Ukraine and provide us with all kinds of assistance. Words cannot express everything. Thank you ALL very much for your support!!!”

“We are Ukrainian refugees. We are very grateful to the Hub which takes care of us. I was helped quickly to rent a hotel for us in the evening time. listened attentively and thoughtfully to both sides of the misunderstanding conflict. It was an organized meeting for us and our sponsors. After that we had a meeting with a representative of local authority, which also happened thanks to SSR. They found new sponsors for us and we like them very much. During all this time SSR morally supported us. In two weeks after living with new sponsors, SSR asked how we are and everything fine to live with new sponsors. We are very grateful to the Hub and activities there together with the volunteer team. They created home atmosphere for us and shelter from war. We feel safe in foreign country. Hub became a family for us.”

Our Ukrainian family arrived in April. We met via social media at the beginning of March. We fully supported our family with their visa applications and all other associated paperwork to get them to the UK. The first few weeks were fine, we reflect on this time as being a ‘honeymoon’ period.

For our family clearly the reality of being in the UK was very different to their original perceptions.

Through no fault of anyone our relationship was on the brink of breaking down. the SSR team swiftly stepped in, providing faultless support to us as hosts and our family. This support included an evening home visit from SSR, who listened and gave professional and valuable advice.

We are three months in and everything is now working perfectly. We as hosts are happy and most importantly so is our family.