



# Annual Report

2023

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## Dear Partners, Friends and Supporters!

I express deep gratitude to all of you at the year's end. Despite significant challenges, we rescued thousands of children, providing shelter and support. Our volunteers, facing daily struggles, continued saving lives, advocating for children globally.

Our core mission is aiding vulnerable children affected by war, and this year saw strengthened partnerships and new achievements, all made possible by your support. We thank you for making a positive impact and facing the challenges of 2023 together.

Your generosity, faith, and dedication have contributed to creating a better world, evident in the smiles of Ukrainian children. Looking forward, we remain committed to extending our reach, rescuing more families, and bringing back children from conflict areas.

Our accomplishments are a result of invaluable partnerships and unwavering support. Thanks to sponsors, partners, and friends, we've succeeded and look forward to continuing this journey towards a brighter future for every child.

As we enter a new chapter, we invite you to join us in making a lasting impact, being a beacon of hope for those in need. Together, we can create positive change despite adversity.

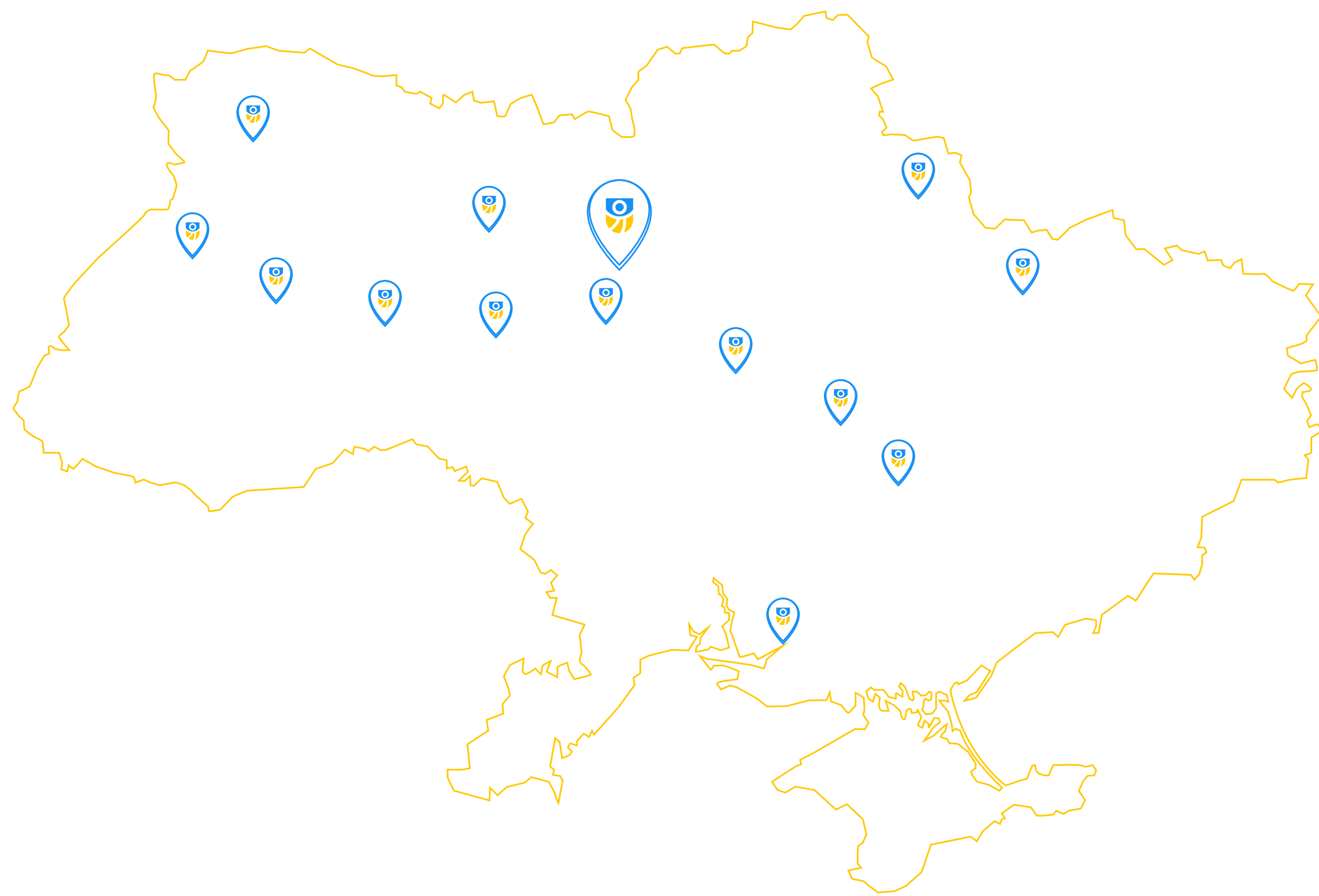
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**Mykola Kuleba**, Founder and CEO of Save Ukraine, expresses heartfelt appreciation for your continued support

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MK", located below the text of Mykola Kuleba.

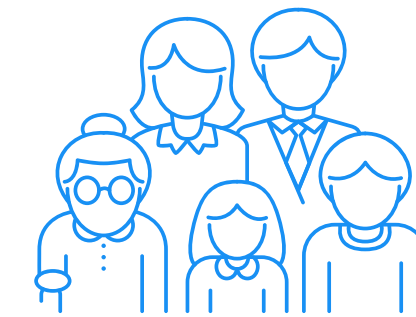


**SAVE UKRAINE**, a charitable organization, aids families and children affected by war. It offers a comprehensive rescue network coordinating efforts to evacuate individuals from conflict zones, rebuild their lives, and reunite the children who were deported to Russia.



## AT A GLANCE

2022-2023



**108 800 evacuated**

children and families from the war zone



**226 children rescued**

and returned from illegal deportation to Russia



**161 425 people assisted**

by expert consultations via our 24/7 Hotline

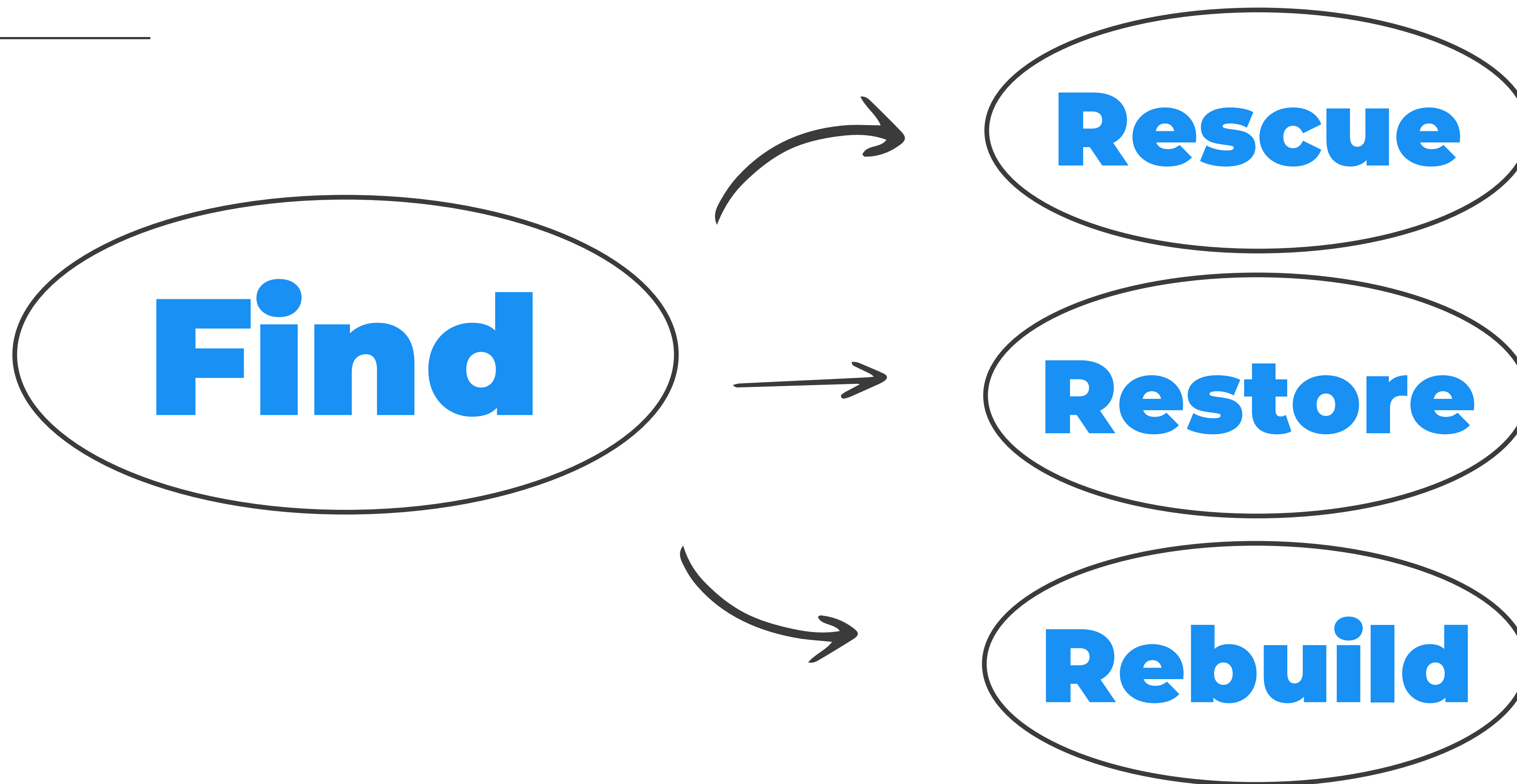


**186 450 provided**

humanitarian aid kits

Save Ukraine uses a comprehensive three-stage approach to rebuild the damage and the trauma caused by the war.

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# Rescue

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**This stage is centered around evacuation and rescue missions. The goal is to remove as many children and families as possible from immediate danger into safety.**

- Returning abducted children from Russia
- 24/7 Hotline
- Evacuation from combat zones
- 10 transitional Hubs (Emergency assistance)



## Returning abducted children by Russia

As of now, the Save Ukraine team has successfully repatriated 226 children who had been under the influence of Russian authorities since February 24, 2022.

The mission consists of 4 stages:

- Identifying abducted children and their whereabouts;
- Returning children back to Ukraine;
- Documenting children's cases and filing them to local and international courts;
- Helping children and their families recover their psychological and physical health.

## 24/7 Hotline

Since the beginning of the war, we have provided 161,425 expert consultations. The hotline allows us to promptly address the problems that people from the frontline regions and those affected by the war are facing. Every day we receive 300+ calls.

## Evacuation from the combat zones

Due to the ongoing conflict, the evacuation of families and children from the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine remains a critical priority. To date, we have successfully evacuated more than 108,800 individuals from areas exposed to danger. This includes families with children, individuals with disabilities, and elderly citizens.

## 10 transitional hubs

Following evacuation, individuals are transported to our hubs where they receive immediate first aid. Subsequently, they are directed to the Hope and Healing Centers for comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery services.





## Rescued lives

*Serhii and Kseniia Koldin are orphans who were raised in a foster family in Vovchansk, Kharkiv region, before the war. From the first days of the full-scale invasion, the brother and sister found themselves under occupation under the influence of russian propaganda. In the summer of 2022, Ksenia, who had just graduated from high school, entered a technical school in Shebekino. And 11-year-old Serhii was sent by his foster mother to the Medvezhonok children's camp in the Krasnodar Territory for "vacation".*

*When Vovchansk was liberated in September 2022, Sergiy remained behind the front line and his foster mother could not take him out of russia. The russian foster family soon took the boy in. Thus, the brother and sister were separated.*

*However, Serhiy quickly found a way to keep in touch with his sister and told her about his whereabouts. They were not able to see each other, but Ksenia knew that her brother needed help. Unfortunately, Serhiy's new foster parents learned about the conversations with his sister and began to put psychological pressure on the boy. The manipulations of the foster parents had such an impact on Serhiy that he almost stopped communicating with his sister and almost lost faith in the possibility of returning home. Ksenia realized that she might lose her brother forever, so she left for a hostile country. She had to stay in russia for several days to convince her brother to return to Ukraine. Ksenia met Serhii, who was full of propaganda against her sister and Ukraine, and there was even a moment when she almost lost hope.*

*But the thought that her brother actually wanted to return and needed her support kept her going, and she continued to convince Serhii that there were people in Ukraine who cared about them and that their place was with their family. In the end, the older sister's patience and persistence won out over the manipulations of the russian foster parents.*

*Fortunately, Serhii and Ksenia had no more obstacles on their way home. Thanks to the efforts and support of the Save Ukraine team, they successfully returned to Ukraine.*



# Restore

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**This stage targets trauma recovery among children and families evacuated during the Rescue stage. Most work is carried out at Hope and Healing Centres.**

7 Hope and Healing Centers  
(temporary housing, food, mental health recovery family services)

- 4 for IDP families with children
- 1 for returned children kidnapped by Russia
- 1 for sexual abuse survivors
- 1 for abandoned elderly



## Hope and Healing Centers

serve as dedicated rehabilitation facilities for internally displaced families with children and elderly individuals affected by the ongoing war. Since the commencement of the full-scale war, our centers have provided shelter and care for a total of **1,853 people**.

In the past 3 months alone, children and adults have undergone comprehensive psychological, physical, and social rehabilitation within our facilities. Post the initial rehabilitation phase, these families continue to receive sustained support for an additional 9 months, ensuring a continuum of care and assistance in rebuilding their lives.



*To the Administration of the Center,*

*Our family extends heartfelt gratitude to you for your exceptional care, comfort, and understanding during our stay. Meeting such kind-hearted individuals on our life's journey has been a source of great joy. Please know that we will forever remember you with warmth and gratitude. Thank you for everything you do; our appreciation extends to each and every one of you, from the driver to the director.*

*Sincerely,  
The Stelmakh Family*



*We extend our profound gratitude to the center for your unwavering kindness, care, and positivity in every situation. Your team embodies sincerity, kindness, and openness, going beyond mere work to invest a part of yourselves into each family. Thank you for providing people with opportunities, the chance for a new life. We will sincerely miss you.*

*Warm regards,  
The Gorditsan Family*

# Hope and Healing Center for Children: Restoring Lives After Russian Deportation and Occupation

## Problem

In the face of the illegal deportation of thousands of young Ukrainians to Russian territory and the continued occupation affecting countless more, the true extent of this crisis remains uncertain. The children rescued from the temporarily occupied territories and the Russian Federation consistently recount the deliberate erosion of their Ukrainian identity through forced russification, accompanied by a deprivation of basic rights. Shockingly, many of these children also report enduring physical, sexual, and emotional trauma.

## Mission

Save Ukraine's steadfast mission endures — to rescue children from the ravages of war, reunite them with their families, and rebuild their well-being within Ukraine.

## Vision

The Hope and Healing Center provides a vital sanctuary where children, some of whom are orphans lacking parental care, live with their families for a transformative six-month period. Over the past two years, this center has facilitated the rehabilitation of 226 children and their families, offering a crucial space for healing and restoration.



## Hope and Healing Center: Providing a Temporary Stay for the Elderly and Individuals with Limited Mobility

Amidst the chaos of war, our center has been a haven for 679 individuals, offering crucial support to those most vulnerable. The story of the Zhenchak family exemplifies the profound impact of our efforts.



*For the Zhenchak family, the specter of war dates back to 2014, but it was the unprecedented intensity of bombardment in 2022 that tested their resilience. During the shelling of Bakhmut, 93-year-old Andrii Vasylovych displayed unwavering devotion, leaving a blanket by his sick wife's bed each evening. This gesture, intended to swiftly evacuate his wife in case of a rocket strike, reflected the harrowing realities faced by countless families.*

*Lidiya Yukhymivna, bedridden for five years after enduring three strokes, relied on her husband's tireless care despite his advanced age. Even as Russian shells rained down on their city, Andriy Vasylovych continued his devoted caregiving. Concern for Mariupol weighed heavily on their hearts, leading them to shelter a fellow resident who had escaped the horrors of that city. However, the Zhenchak couple, resilient but reluctant evacuees, decided to leave only when their neighborhood was nearly deserted, and their home faced the imminent threat of destruction.*

*However, their steadfast commitment faced a turning point when their once-thriving neighborhood became a ghost town, with neighboring houses succumbing to Russian attacks. In a heartbreaking moment during one such assault, the windows of the Zhenchak couple's apartment were shattered, compelling them to reconsider their decision to stay. Even amid the evacuation intended to secure the elderly, the relentless shelling persisted in close proximity.*

*Today, Andriy and Lidiya find themselves in safety, allowing them to resume necessary treatments and embrace the tranquility of their twilight years. Their journey is a testament to resilience, underscoring the challenges faced by those who, despite unwavering determination, are eventually compelled to seek refuge and rebuild amid the ravages of conflict.*



# Rebuild

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**During this stage, Save Ukraine actively helps children and families adapt to their new lives in safety. Projects of the Rebuild stage tackle the issues of longer-term housing, social and psychological support, education for children and families.**

- **FortHome**  
(Modular housing for internally displaced families with children who lost their homes)
- **Community Centers**  
(Saving children, strengthening families, empowering communities)



The **Save Ukraine Community Center** is a safe space designed to provide comprehensive support to families with children aged 5 to 16 who have been affected by the war.

There are currently 16 Community Centers in operation. One of them, located in Irpin, is fully dedicated to working with children with disabilities.

Since the spring of 2022, more than 4,790 children have received social and psychological support and help in catching up with lost school knowledge through group and individual sessions at the Community Centers.



*"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Community Center and its dynamic team of teachers! Your dedication is truly commendable as you instill love, knowledge, and faith in our children. The classes at the day center are not only interesting but also diverse. Thank you for your remarkable efforts. I wish you continued strength and boundless inspiration in the coming year!"*

Warm regards,  
**Yulia Tatarintseva**



*"Thank you for everything!"*

*Our children are indeed in good hands! May the Lord shower His protection and blessings upon you and your families!"*

Kind regards,  
**Olena Poltavska**



*"Thank you very much for your compassionate hearts! For my daughter, the Community Center is the best place on earth, and you are the best people. A low bow to you for everything. I wish you health, happiness, and, most importantly, a peaceful sky overhead!"*

Warm regards,  
**Olena Kots**

# FORTHOME

## Introduction to Housing Support for IDPs

- Overview of the initiative: Installation of 116 modular houses across Ukraine.
- Focus on helping families with children, especially those raising children with disabilities.
- Houses equipped for comfortable living; ongoing support provided throughout the year.



*“At the time of the invasion, the Spiryugov family lived in the city of Kherson. On February 24, 2022, when the Russian military entered the city, the family was forced to leave Kherson and go to a village near the city. During the occupation, the family with three minor children, including a girl with cerebral palsy, was very short of food. They survived thanks to caring neighbors and support from local volunteers. The parents recall those terrible moments in their lives with eyes full of tears: "I remember only one thing: how the two younger children were crying and constantly asking for food." The terrible living conditions could hardly be called life: no heat, no drinking water and no hygiene products, and the younger children developed and progressed diaper dermatitis.*

*After the de-occupation of Kherson, Natalia and Oleksandr had a hope for peaceful life, but the worst was yet to come. The village where the family lived was under constant shelling by enemy artillery and mortars. One day, the father of the family went to the neighboring town to buy food and came under fire and could almost lose both legs. Oleksandr talks about it with a smile, but it is a protective reaction of his nervous system, as you can see pain and despair in his eyes.*

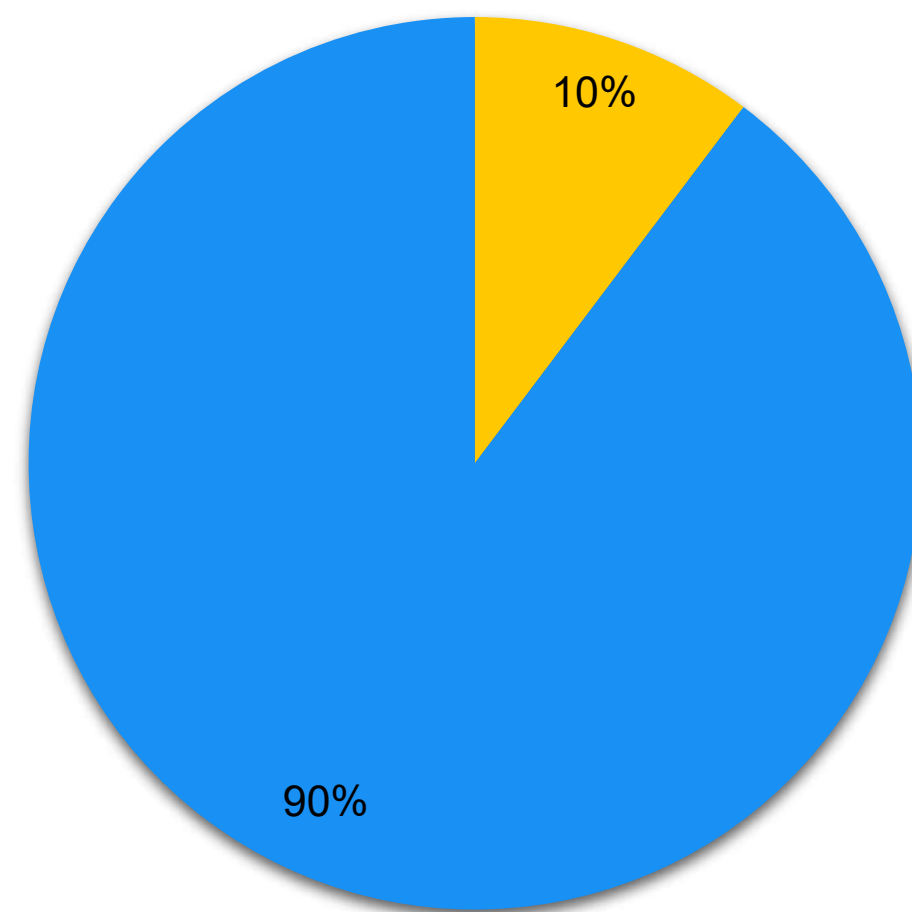
*At the end of September 2023, an artillery shell landed in the family's yard. Two outbuildings in the yard were completely destroyed, all the windows in the house were blown out and part of the roof fell off. After that, the Spiryugov family decided to leave the house, as there were no more living conditions. At first, thanks to volunteers, Oleksandr, his wife and children found temporary shelter in Odesa, where they learned about Save Ukraine, which helps families whose children have disabilities. Having bought tickets, they did not hesitate to come to Irpin, where they were met by the foundation's team. Natalia and Oleksandr's family was provided with separate modular housing under the FortHome program. The children were delighted, and the eldest daughter even asked: "Mom, will we really have a separate shower?" When you talk to the family, you feel pain for what they had to go through, but at the same time you also feel hope that their lives will change now”.*

# Financial indicators 2023

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## Expenses

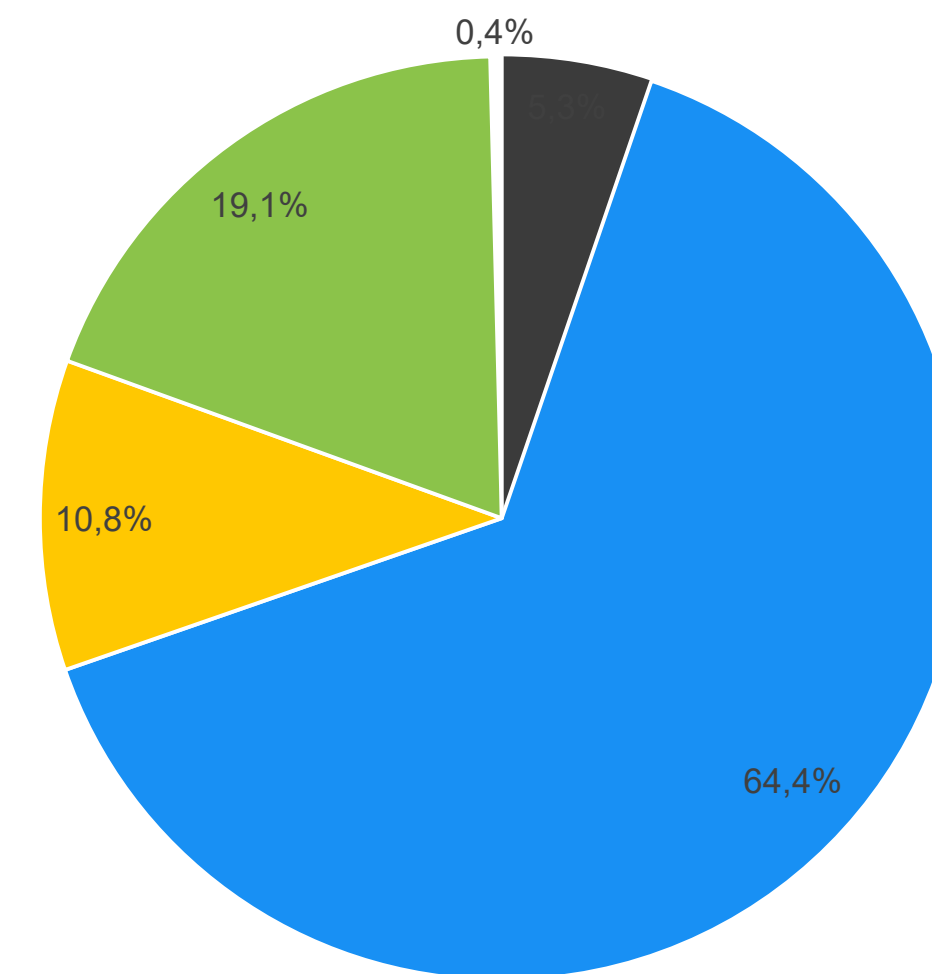
\$5,218,859



■ Operational expenses ■ Programs

## Revenue

\$6,974,476



■ Institutional donors ■ International NGO ■ Private donors ■ Religious organization ■ Ukrainian NGO

# OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## 1. Revamped Online Presence:

- Successful launch of our new website aimed at enhancing user experience and accessibility.
- The new platform serves as a user-friendly hub for information, engagement, and seamless interaction with our organization.

## 2. Strategic Fundraising Integration:

- Implemented Classy, a leading fundraising platform, to optimize and elevate our fundraising efforts.
- This strategic move enhances our capacity to connect with donors, streamlines the donation process, and amplifies our fundraising impact.

## 3. 501(c)(3) Registration Achievement:

- Secured 501(c)(3) registration, unlocking new avenues for strategic partnerships and funding opportunities in the US.
- This milestone allows us to broaden our impact, extend our reach to more individuals in need, and establishes our organization as a recognized and credible entity.

## 4. Dynamic Team Expansion:

- Experienced substantial growth with the addition of diverse talents to our team.
- The influx of fresh perspectives and skills not only enriches our internal expertise but also injects renewed vigor into our collective pursuit of organizational goals.

## 5. Chef Jose Matching Campaign Success:

- The Chef Jose Matching Campaign showcased the generosity of our supporters.
- Highlighted the pivotal role partnerships play in amplifying our impact as funds were matched, demonstrating the collective power of collaboration.

## INTERNATIONAL MEDIA AND AWARDS

### International Media

- Samantha Power, the USAID leader, visited with Save Ukraine and some of the children they have helped. (The New York Times)
- Mykola Kuleba of Save Ukraine, a Ukrainian NGO that helps families bring their children home, said that Russia plans to “absorb Ukrainian children and to re-educate them, indoctrinate them, brainwash them”. (The Economist)
- Save Ukraine has rescued 96 children to date, and recently launched its seventh mission: ten mothers left Kyiv on May 13 to rescue 23 children from camps in Crimea. (Daily Mail)
- With the help of a nongovernmental organization called Save Ukraine, a Ukrainian grandmother traveled deep into enemy territory to rescue her 9-year-old grandson. (CBS News)
- Ilona and Maksym were able to escape with the help of Save Ukraine, a charity that maintains an underground network inside occupied parts of Ukraine and Russia itself, helping children flee. (Reuters)
- Ukrainian’s Stolen Children (The New York Times)

**The New York Times**

**The  
Economist**

**Daily Mail**



**REUTERS**

**CBS NEWS**

### Awards

- Magnitsky Award Recognition: Being honored with the Magnitsky Award stands as a testament to our organization's commitment to human rights and social justice.
- The Manhae Peace Award 2023 from the Manhae Promotion Festival Committee
- Oxi Courage Award

## SAVE UKRAINE PRIORITIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ARE TO:

**1. Provide critical support for the estimated 300 children abducted by Russia this year upon their return.**

**2. Family-Type Home for Orphans Returned from Russian Deportation in Irpin:**

We are embarking on a project to acquire a home in Irpin for foster parents dedicated to caring for ten orphans who have survived Russian deportation and lost their relatives. This strategically located house offers a beautiful setting, providing ample space for a large family to live comfortably. Our goal is to create an environment where these orphans can physically and psychologically recover, embark on a new life within a nurturing family, and ultimately, build a happy future.

**3. Small Group Home for Evacuated Orphans with Complex Disabilities (SGH):**

The SGH initiative aims to establish a comfortable and compassionate environment for the long-term residence of 8-10 orphans and children with severe disabilities who lack parental care. With a focus on round-the-clock care and rehabilitation, caregivers residing in the same house will ensure the children's needs are met, fostering a sense of security, care, and emotional attachment. The small group home provides an invaluable opportunity for disabled orphans to navigate through the challenges of war, leading dignified lives alongside other children in a family-like atmosphere. Ultimately, our hope is that these children will find loving families for adoption or ongoing care.



# Partners

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# Contacts

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