

SIEMACHA

The violent war in Ukraine is in progress. Thanks to the mass involvement of the Polish people, refugees (mostly mothers with small children) receive support and the most needed items. This is just the first aspect of this humanitarian tragedy. Soon, we will need to provide the right accommodation, source of income, permanent job... let's try not to become exhausted too quickly. Our involvement will be needed for a long time.

The most disadvantaged are children and people who have to be assisted by others: disabled people, chronically ill people, and the elderly. It is not surprising that some caregivers focus on protecting their families. The very weak social assistance system in Ukraine is consequently becoming totally inefficient. In this situation, genuine assistance must focus on making the relevant infrastructure available and on providing professional care in Poland. There are indications that this will be a long-term activity.

We are all trying to be helpful, but we should not all do the same thing. Valuable energy needs to be managed skilfully. Let's avoid taught behaviours and outdated support models. As in business, let's focus on systemic solutions, trust experienced leaders, concentrate on efficiency, putting showy measures away. Simply put, we should all focus on verified NGOs, which are professional and have the necessary tools at their disposal. Keep in mind the importance of the morale of the opposing side. It is also helpful to express solidarity with those fighting and to stigmatise the aggressor.

The DEMOS Foundation and THE SIEMACHA Association, which are experienced and cooperating organisations that have been active for over 20 years, have been helping Ukrainian children from the outbreak of the war in Donbas. In facilities in Krakow and Wrocław, there are currently around 300 children with their caregivers, who escaped the country before poverty and war struck. We provide them with day care, educational support, opportunities for personal development. In view of the recent events, we have decided to focus on assisting Ukrainian orphans, including disabled children.

The DEMOS Foundation is engaged in the creation of premises that will accept large groups of orphans from Ukraine. It will start with the expansion of the orphanage that has been operating for eight years, located in Odporyszów near Tarnów, which will soon include Ukrainian children. If you want to help, you can make a donation to the account of the DEMOS Foundation: **35 1020 2892 0000 5902 0238 8494**

The SIEMACHA Association in its facilities in Southern Poland assists Ukrainian children and their families on an on-going basis. It also provides a temporary shelter for newcomers. Once an orphan facility for children from Ukraine is launched, it will provide round-the-clock care together with its willingness to take provide care to such children until they reach the legal age. If you wish to support the day-to-day activities, you can make a donation to the account of the SIEMACHA Association: **35 1020 2892 0000 5602 0238 8544**

SIEMACHA Association

ul. Długa 42, 31-146 Kraków

www.SIEMACHA.org.pl

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