



Share our experience with a crazy, intensive project....

Can you even imagine... being BORN in a WAR ZONE???



You've all seen photos like this one... Ukrainians travelling on foot to escape the bombing.

Strollers lined up at Poland train station for fleeing
Ukrainian families.



And this famous photo of people who donated baby strollers for Ukrainians
fleeing by train...



... and heard stories of how babies are lined up 3-4 per crib or bed due to over crowding.

March 9th Business Meeting via ZOOM



Several members know Olena Stetskiv.

She is from the Ukraine. Moved to US for a better life. She became a Dental Assistant.

She has family still in the Ukraine.

One of her relatives is a doctor at a Maternity Hospital.

She decided that something had to be done to help her family who was still in the Ukraine.

She devised a plan to gather goods and get them DIRECTLY into the hands of those who needed it most.

She reached out to Altrusa for help!



You might remember that Russia bombed one of those hospitals. The news showed a woman carried on a stretcher with her newborn child. Neither one survived.

Something had to be done.

We took part in a humanitarian project to supply expectant mothers and newborns with desperately needed supplies to war-ravaged Ukraine.



Facebook post was written by me, shared to our club page... then District One's page.

Through our contacts... it was shared 60 times!!!

Those with friends not on FB, sent emails, posted flyers in their businesses, and told their friends.

All contained links to the Amazon Wish List...

People started ordering things right away. We were positive these items would not be held up in customs. Olena had friends ready to meet the plane that delivered her packages!

There were 2 drop off sites locally: Dental office and Dance Studio

Amazon purchases were sent to the daycare (operated in a private home) All boxes were stored in her garage until time to sort.



Olena secured the use of the condominium clubhouse, and the goods started coming in.



Teams sorted and boxed....

Items were separated to like piles, and then boxes were prepared.

Mommy boxes contained toiletries, nursing equipment (pads, breast pumps, bags, creams), sanitary items

Baby boxes contained formula, vitamins, diaper bag, clothing, blankets, hats, mitts, rattles, and lots of diapers.

A Mommy box and Baby box were paired in a larger box, and padded with more diapers.

And boxed...
And boxed...
And boxed...



Over the course of 1 week, items arrived, piled up, were sorted, packed, boxed, and ready for shipment!
They organized work teams to cover 3-3 hour shifts per day for 4 days.

The last push had them working long into the night... the truck arrived in the morning, and if it was not boxed, it was not going!



Loaded onto a truck...



Wrapped onto Pallets...

Sent by trailer to
Airport and

chartered plane to
Poland...



Incredible response!!!

- Altrusans responded from: All over District One, plus
 - Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin
- Filled a 53-foot-long truck with total of 27 pallets of goods
 - Formula, diapers, clothing, creams, port-a-cribs, diaper bags that convert to bassinet, toys, blankets,
 - Nursing supplies, lotions, warm socks, toiletries, sanitary items
- Brought 4 groups (plus their extended networks) together to make this happen
 - Dancers, dentists, Altrusans, Daycare
 - American, Asian, Russian, Ukraine – all working side-by-side

Altrusans responded from: All over District One, plus
Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Michigan,
Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin
16 States from Maine to California

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Formula, diapers, clothing, creams, port-a-cribs, diaper bags that
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Thank You

THANK YOU!!

****Update on Donations to Newborn Mothers and Infants in Ukraine****

The amount of support that was shown in these past few weeks through donations and helping hands was absolutely AMAZING to say the least!

DESTINATION OF AID

Items were all brought to a local warehouse this weekend where they were placed on pallets and wrapped. Monday they were loaded on the tractor trailer... and **YES an entire 50' tractor trailer was filled!** Items were trucked to Chicago where they will be loaded on a plane to Poland. They will then be trucked to a maternity hospital in Lviv and a maternity/children's hospital in Ternopil, Ukraine. We will let you know as soon as we have more updates.

Truly impressed by all the helping hands and giving hearts 

Olena Stetskiv

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MIDDLETOWN

Altrusa members send care packages to Ukrainian moms

By Cassandra Day

MIDDLETOWN — Altrusa International of Central CT members and volunteers took part in a local humanitarian project last weekend to supply expectant mothers and newborns with sorely needed supplies in war-torn Ukraine.

They spearheaded a recent effort in Middletown to aid those who remain in Ukraine by collecting diapers, handmade and other afghans, personal hygiene items and other goods, according to member Patti Nettis Deegan.

The event was dubbed "Let's Help Children and Their Moms."

"We are focusing efforts on the moms who are about to deliver babies," Deegan said in a news release. "Can you imagine being born in a war zone?" the statement said. "How can you prepare formula without running water?"

They chartered a flight from the United States to Poland and will be delivering diapers, formula, clothing for all ages, and

other much-needed supplies and equipment to refugees, Deegan said.

"It is truly amazing to see the generosity of our local community and our family and friends [who are] not local," Deegan said.

Ukrainian Olena Stetskiv, who organized the drive, is part of a grassroots effort to provide aid, Deegan said. Some of her family members are still in Ukraine, including a doctor who works in a maternity hospital in her hometown.



Altrusa International of Central CT is sending diapers, formula, clothing and other supplies to Poland, where they will be given to new and expectant moms.



Patti Nettis Deegan / Contributed photo

Members of the Altrusa Club of Central CT assembled care packages for expectant mothers and newborns in Ukraine this past weekend. Olena Stetskiv, above, organized the effort.

Stetskiv attended school in the United States to learn English as a second language, became a dental assistant, got married, bought a condo and had two children in the United States, Deegan said. "She's giving back to her homeland, which is in dire need."

Items were collected at the

Arborview Dental Office in Middletown and Company N Temp Dance Studio in Cromwell. As volunteers prepared boxes for infants and children Saturday and Sunday, the room was full of activity, as seen in a video Deegan provided. When they were done, boxes were plastic wrapped in large pallets, ready

to go.

Donations arrived from many other states, including New Hampshire, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Florida, California, New York, Maine, Virginia, Oregon, Minnesota, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maine, Wisconsin and Georgia, Deegan said.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed people can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

(Margaret Mead)

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