

NEWS RELEASE

LOCAL WOMAN FUNDRAISES TO RELOCATE UKRAINIAN REFUGEE TO JONESBOROUGH FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<https://gofund.me/6370d23b>

LOCAL WOMAN FUNDRAISES TO RELOCATE UKRAINIAN REFUGEE TO JONESBOROUGH

JONESBOROUGH, TN – A local woman is single-handedly funding a Ukrainian woman's relocation to Jonesborough, Tennessee in order to escape the ravages of war in her hometown in the Ukraine. Katie Rios is offering a GoFundMe(<https://gofund.me/6370d23b>) to give the local community a chance to make at least one Ukrainian safe right here in the Tri-Cities. On March 4th, Nataliia Ivanova will arrive in Tennessee through Rios' efforts, escaping the trauma and tragedy of war-torn Ukraine. Ivanova, 47, of Kharkiv, Ukraine, has survived an emotionally devastating year since the start of war and will be leaving her adult daughter and husband in Ukraine until situations there improve. She will arrive with nothing but a suitcase and will live with Rios until she can determine avenues for housing and other necessities of life.

"I've heard so many people say they wish they could help. This is their chance to help a Ukrainian escape the suffering and fear, and welcome her as a neighbor. With the community's donations, we hope to start Nataliia out on a life safe from danger. We may not be able to help all of Ukraine but can at least help one," said Rios.

Through Uniting 4 Ukraine, a Department of Homeland Security program (www.dhs.gov/ukraine), Katie Rios is sponsoring two Ukrainians. Artem Cherkashchenko, of Zaporozhye, Ukraine, who will be living out of state and Ivanova who will be living with Rios and her parents in Jonesborough.

“As soon as I heard of the invasion on February 24th, I wanted to help Ukraine in any way that I could. I was wanting to host families but at that time the only Ukrainians allowed to come here were families of Ukrainians already in the US. I donated to many non-profits and continued to post about the war and places people could donate throughout and still during the war,” said Rios.

Rios will need help from the community to help Ivanova start a new life in the Tri-Cities. She is hoping agencies, churches and individuals will assist with housing, supplies, furniture, food, and other necessities.

Rios was planning on sponsoring a 27-year old Danylo from Mariupol but didn't want to commit until she knew she could sponsor more than just one. During this time, Danylo continued to search for sponsorship in case Rios wouldn't be able to or so he could escape the war-front sooner. He fortunately was able to find sponsorship that brought him to the US. Once Rios had secured enough money that she felt confident to sponsor a second, she met Ivanova and offered her sponsorship on Christmas day.

“My goal for the GoFundMe is to be able to supplement the financial aid I am providing through my savings and earnings. I also hope that I can raise enough that I can donate portions to non-profits also assisting Ukraine, such as Restore Ukraine and Vols for Ukraine,” Rios said.

To donate, go to:

<https://gofund.me/6370d23b>

To contact Katie Rios with other assistance, call (904)208-1038 or by email at: krios93@hotmail.com