



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SWITZERLAND

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Dear Soroptimists – Dear Interested Friends!

Spring is here. The trees are turning green, some of them are already in the bloom. The awakening of nature strengthens the spirits on all sides. Our clubs are also actively involved in the Soroptimists' aid projects in Ukraine. Read about their diverse actions. With the war still on-going, clubs in Ukraine are happy to receive their donations. They provide healthy food and necessary equipment, especially for children. We are in regular contact with the Soroptimists in Ukraine. They are grateful for this support, and it helps them to endure the stress of war.

Catherine Schuppli, President SI Union Switzerland 2023 - 2024

For 14 months, shortly after the resumption of the Russians' war against Ukraine, we Soroptimists have been on site with our help. Here in Switzerland, many SI clubs are committed to both refugees and our Soroptimists in Ukraine in Kiev, Lviv and other places. Today we report on the energetic efforts of the **Clubs Le Locle, Mendrisio, Bellinzona, Schaffhausen and Chur**. For the most part, these clubs send medical supplies, generators, sleeping bags and, in some cases, clothes. In particular, however, monetary donations are delivered.

At **Club Chur**, where Ukraine Commissioner Sina Stiffler works, giving German courses and animating her club sisters, among other things, there was already a reaction to the wave of refugees at the beginning of the war. Monthly information meetings were held again and again, which were very much appreciated by the Ukrainians and their families. Some Ukrainian women even organized the Christmas meeting, and currently four women are taking part in the meetings.

Another highlight was the performance of the Soroptimists in March in the old town of Chur. In addition, a bag bourse attracted a lot of interest. The campaign was held under the motto "Healthy Food for People at War". We are curious to see what actions the Chur women are planning further!



SI Club Chur



Sina Stiffler at the bag bourse

These days, the **Club Bellinzona**, where Past President SI of the Swiss Union, Emma Brugnoli, works, is sending a transport to Chernivtsi/Thernovitsi. This club was already dissolved in the occupation turmoil of 2014. But the friendship and the support that comes with it continues! The city in south western Ukraine has not yet been bombed, but is home to many refugees. This is another reason why support remains urgent. This time the transport is special. A precious cargo of biological pharmaceutical products has set off for the refugees. For security reasons, the transport is accompanied by two Ukrainians. In general, support for goods such as money is provided in cooperation with Ukrainians living in Ticino and Como. After two days of driving, the goods will arrive in Chernivtsi!



Club SI Bellinzona: Preparation of Transport



Arrival at Children's Home in Chernivtsi

Club Le Locle reacted extremely quickly after the war began, as Corinne Farine was able to use an existing network via Romania as a representative of a watch company. At the beginning of March 2022, a first truck set off from the Jura in Switzerland, loaded with urgently needed everyday goods. Others followed. Corinne Farine can still rely on her professional network in Romania and Bulgaria. This includes a sports club in Romania as an intermediate link. At the moment there are no transports on the way, but the SI Club Le Locle would be willing to continue to support the sports club as a supplier of needed relief supplies. People are used to creating short-term activation plans.

The **Club Mendrisiotto** specialises in collaboration with the **Club Lugano**. In particular, medical goods, including insulin and equipment, are sent. Doctor Jolanta Jozefowski, Governor of the Union, is extremely active here. Several transports were sent to Kiev and Lviv. In February, entrepreneur Monika Kesselring also transported relief supplies by the Club Mendrisiotto to the Polish-Ukrainian border for the second time. On 25 February, the Swiss newspaper "Südostschweiz" reported again on Kesselring and these extraordinary transports.

The **Club Schaffhausen** has also been extremely active since the beginning of the war. The woollen blanket campaign of the women from Schaffhausen is also very touching. This is how it happened: After an unprecedented solidarity action, a flag consisting of hundreds of small knitted squares fluttered at the Schaffhausen City Theatre on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage. A few weeks ago, this flag was unceremoniously processed into blankets by industrious Soroptimists in a lightning action. As a result, they were brought to the Liubyn Velyky orphanage by the Relief Organization Ukraine in cooperation with Heusser-Transporte at the end of April.



Club SI Schaffhausen



Woldecken fürs Waisenhaus in Liubyn Velyky

Finances and Support

Donations of CHF 92,740 and their use since the beginning of 2023 – What did we do with the money?

Since the beginning of the year, CHF 92,740 has been added to the donation account. Some individuals / foundations have transferred very large amounts. In addition, various SI clubs have collected money for Ukraine aid and paid in a total of CHF 7,910. We would like to thank all those involved for these extremely generous donations and for their trust in the Ad-Hoc Commission. We can assure you that we used the money wisely. We finance aid transports and support our club sisters in Ukraine as needed. In addition, we have supported our club sisters in Poland with 15,000 EURO for their refugee aid in their own country and in Ukraine.

Shortly before the end of 2022, almost 33,000 EURO were received in the **Euro Account** and around 23,000 EURO in February.

And thanks to translations into several languages, for example, we receive donations from Soroptimist International, Epson District SIGBI. Otherwise, the majority of the money comes from SIE and is purposive. Various Ukrainian clubs submitted applications to the Disaster Recovery Fund in December 2022, which were approved by SIE extremely efficiently and quickly. The payouts were extremely challenging; it is indeed not always easy to send money to Ukraine, especially larger amounts. We are very happy that it finally worked out with the forwarding to the corresponding clubs in Ukraine.

Save the date

On **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**, a charity tournament will take place at the **Rheinblick Golf Club** in aid of the **"Solidarity Ukraine" Campaign**. The proceeds are intended for the women and children affected by the war in Ukraine.

A golf tournament in Suisse Romande is also planned for 2024.

Who would like to take part in these golf tournaments as a helper and contribute to the success of these events? Contact to the Ad Hoc Commission: ukraine@swiss-soroptimist.ch

Members of the Ad-hoc Commission Ukraine are: Catherine Schuppli President SI Union Switzerland, Sina Stiffler (Delegate for Ukraine), Franziska Brändli (Events), Iris Burkhalter (Finances, Contact SIE), Annelies Debrunner (Communication, News from Ukraine), Claudia Meister (Finances, Communication, SIE), Irene Muggler (Communication, Blog), Ursula Jutzi (Coordination), Martine Rossier (Translations), Renata Trottmann (Judicial Affairs).

Advice for Communication, Translations into English: Heinz Bonfadelli.

On our Website <https://swiss-soroptimist.ch/solidaritaet-ukraine/> you will find the blog about the Ukraine war and short news!

Contacts to the **Ad-hoc Commission**: ukraine@swiss-soroptimist.ch

We are looking forward to echoes of this news from Ukraine 14!

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