



VOICES
OF CHILDREN



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

THE VOICES OF CHILDREN
FOUNDATION

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FOREWORD

Each annual report is an opportunity for us to reflect on our work, take stock of what we have achieved, and thank everyone who supports children, regardless of country, age, or the size of their contribution.

At the same time, an annual report for our Foundation is first and foremost about the children and families we were able to support. This year's format was created together with teenagers who took part in our art labs.

One of the most important parts of our work is the connections, community, and mutual support that continue long after our programs end, as well as the relationships that grow through this work. We often involve children and teenagers in events and activities, ask for their perspectives on our daily work, and on important decisions affecting children in Ukraine.

This report is also their “inside perspective” on what we were able to achieve in 2025. It reflects their first meetings with program leads, department heads, and the Foundation's co-founders; their impressions, memories, and the topics that matter most to them. For us, it is also an important reflection on our work and a guide for where we move next.

Thank you for being with us.

Voices of Children
Chair of the Board
Olena Rozvadovska



CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS REPORT:

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from Bakhmut, Donetsk region

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from Melitopol/Zaporizhzhia

**Velyzaveta Zakharchenko, 18 years
old, from Kyiv region**

**and the Voices of Children
Foundation team**

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS 🏐 IN 2025:



25,000

CHILDREN AND PARENTS RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION

8,369

CHILDREN RECEIVED PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

2,779

ADULTS RECEIVED PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

3,421

PSYCHOLOGICAL SESSIONS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE ONLINE PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT TEAM FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

13

COMMUNITIES AND 2,700 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOUNDATION, INCLUDING HOME REPAIRS, HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, FOOD AND HYGIENE KITS

13

OFF-SITE CAMPS FOR 589 CHILDREN WERE ORGANIZED

5

SESSIONS OF CAMP+ WERE ORGANIZED—A PSYCHOLOGICAL RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES OF UKRAINIAN SERVICE MEMBERS, INCLUDING THOSE WHOSE LOVED ONES ARE MISSING OR HELD IN RUSSIAN CAPTIVITY

6

ART RESIDENCIES WERE HELD FOR 80 TEENAGERS

350

FAMILIES RECEIVED INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, BEDDING, FOOD, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

12

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVED REHABILITATION SUPPORT THROUGH ONE OR MORE REHABILITATION COURSES



AT THE END OF 2025,

teenagers who participated in the Foundation's programs met with the Foundation's co-founders and team to discuss their daily work, challenges, and the moments that continue to inspire them.

We included some of these conversations in this report, while full versions are available via links on our website.

Teenagers who spoke with the co-founders include:

Halyna Kaplenko, 17 years old,
from Bakhmut, Donetsk region;

Tymofii Nebykov, 19 years old,
from New York, Donetsk region;

Veronika Pidpaniuk, 16 years old,
from Kamianets-Podilskyi,
Khmelnyskyi region;

Polina Starenka, 16 years old,
from Vilshany, Kharkiv region.



If this year for the Foundation were a natural phenomenon, what would it be? And what kind of weather do you expect next year?

[Olena Rozvadovska]:

During one interview, I was asked what was going on at the Foundation, and I said: everything, all at once. If I were to describe this year as weather, it would be snowfall, a blizzard, black ice, and sunshine with rain at the same time – winter in the middle of summer and summer in the middle of autumn. Everything at once, at a time like this.

As for my forecast, of course everyone longs for calm and a light breeze, but I understand it will not be like that. I suppose we'll keep going through a whole range of "natural phenomena" and still find joy in them, because even a storm can be beautiful, and you can have fun sliding on ice.

I think we've learned to face any kind of "weather" with love, joy, and gratitude. That is why I don't even check weather forecasts: why know what tomorrow will bring? I'll wake up and be glad. We don't make forecasts; we simply live this life. And I hope the Foundation will also remain ready for any weather and will be grateful for it.

[Azad Safarov]:

When Olena and I launched the Foundation – she's from Truska vets, I'm from Baku – we understood that in both places children are often not truly listened to. Even before the full-scale war, our goal was to help children experience childhood differently. We wanted children to be heard, to be taken seriously, and not be traumatized in the process of growing up.

Everyone who has joined us shares a common goal: to be a source of support for children and give them a chance to grow up differently than we did. Especially now, in times of war.

[You can read the full interview here.](#)



INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOUNDATION

IN 2025

- ✓ WE OPENED A NEW FOUNDATION CENTER **IN KROPYVNYTSKYI.**
- ✓ WE UPGRADED THE FOUNDATION'S CENTER IN TRUSKAVETS **INTO A HUB.**
- ✓ WE TRANSFORMED THE SUMY MOBILE TEAM IN SUMY INTO A **REGIONAL CENTER.**
- ✓ WE ADDED **CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN SUMY.**
- ✓ WE BECAME PART OF THE PULSE CONSORTIUM, BRINGING TOGETHER EIGHT LEADING ORGANIZATIONS.
- ✓ WE JOINED THE ALLIANCE OF UKRAINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.
- ✓ WE SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF **POLTAVA.**
- ✓ WE ENGAGED **NEW DONORS** TO SUPPORT OUR WORK.
- ✓ WE FINALIZED THE CONCEPT AND ARCHITECTURAL PLAN, AND OBTAINED THE NECESSARY PERMITS FOR **THE CHILDHOOD CENTER, WHICH WE ARE BUILDING IN THE KYIV REGION.**
- ✓ WE FURTHER **DEVELOPED AND EXPANDED** OUR LONG-ESTABLISHED SUPPORT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING VOICES CAMP, CAMP+, AND ART LABS WITH ELEMENTS OF ART THERAPY.
- ✓ WE CONTRIBUTED EXPERTISE, METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT, AND STRATEGIC VISION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "12-21" YOUTH SPACES LED BY THE OLENA ZELENSKA FOUNDATION.
- ✓ WE JOINED THE PROGRAM "STRENGTHENING COMPREHENSIVE REINTEGRATION SUPPORT FOR RETURNING CHILDREN" WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BRING KIDS BACK UA INITIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE.
- ✓ WE FULLY REDESIGNED OUR WEBSITE AND REFRESHED OUR CORE BRAND IMAGE TO MEET THE FOUNDATION'S EVOLVING PROFESSIONALISM.
- ✓ ~~WE HAD A REALLY RESTFUL YEAR~~

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a supportive grip. The hand on the right is wearing a black, flexible wristband. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

KEY NUMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION'S WORK SINCE 2019

(AS OF THE END
OF 2025)

162,000

CHILDREN AND PARENTS HAVE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION SINCE 2019

47,545

CHILDREN AND PARENTS HAVE RECEIVED PSYCHOLOGICAL OR PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

12,871

ONLINE PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SESSIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE FOUNDATION'S SPECIALISTS

11,714

PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

5,596

CHILDREN HAVE ATTENDED CAMPS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL RECOVERY INTENSIVES

2,544

FAMILIES HAVE RECEIVED INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, BEDDING, FOOD, FINANCIAL SUPPORT)

463

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES HAVE RECEIVED REHABILITATION SUPPORT THROUGH ONE OR MORE REHABILITATION COURSES

110

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS, COLLECTIVE ACCOMMODATION CENTERS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPS), AND COMMUNITIES HAVE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION (INCLUDING REPAIRS, HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, EVACUATION ASSISTANCE, FOOD AND HYGIENE KITS)

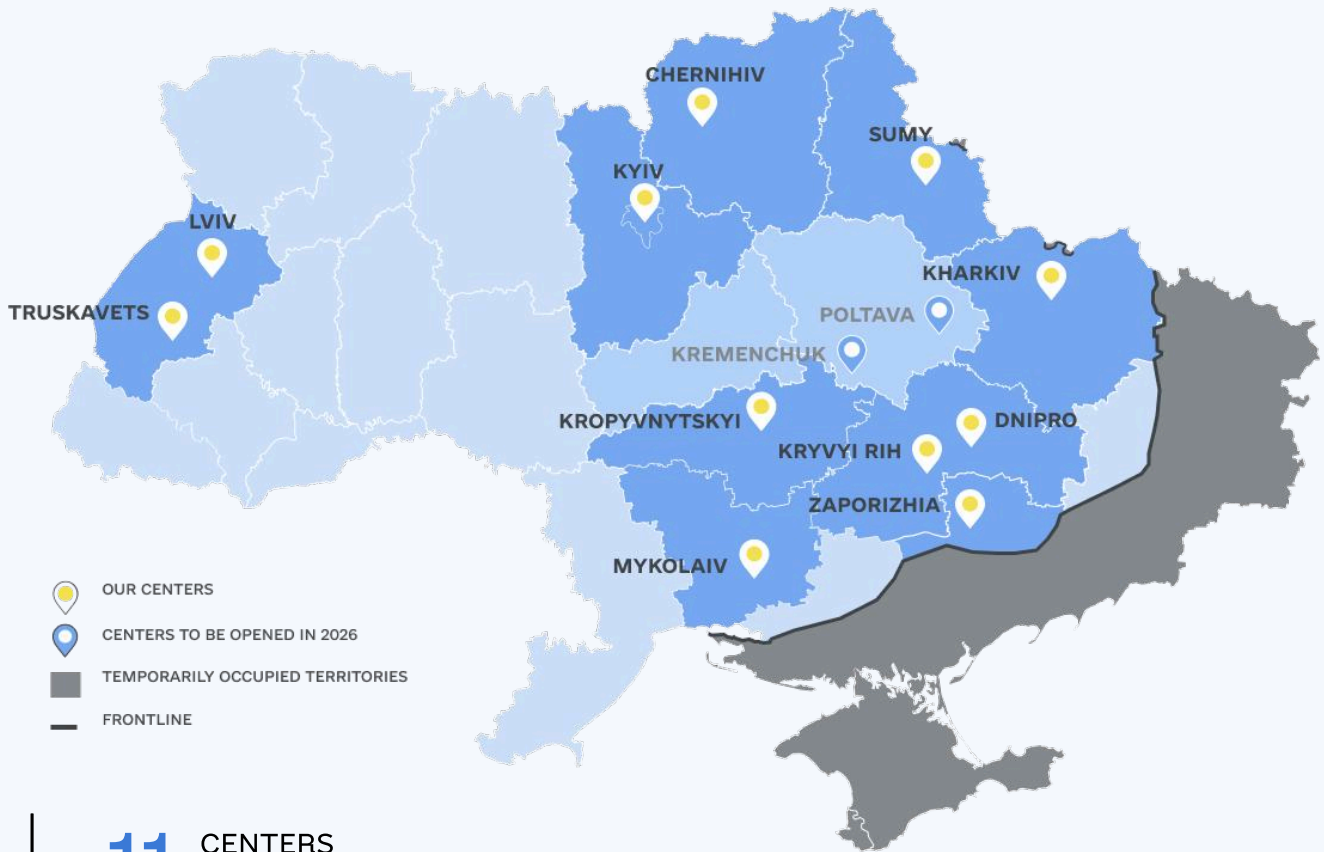
18

SESSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD UNDER THE CAMP+ PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES OF UKRAINIAN SERVICE MEMBERS, INCLUDING THOSE WHOSE LOVED ONES ARE MISSING OR HELD IN RUSSIAN CAPTIVITY. SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED TO 423 CHILDREN AND 314 ADULTS

FOUNDATION CENTERS ACROSS UKRAINE



Today, the Foundation operates **11 regional centers and 2 mobile teams** across nine regions of Ukraine. Our centers and mobile teams are staffed by psychologists, case managers, psychosocial support specialists, lawyers, and speech therapists. In addition, our centers are designed as safe spaces where children can come to spend time in a meaningful way, connect with peers, play, or simply rest.



- **11** CENTERS AND 2 MOBILE TEAMS
- **99** SPECIALISTS WORKING ON THE GROUND
- **2,657** OUTREACH VISITS TO COMMUNITIES
- **8,369** CHILDREN AND 2,779 ADULTS RECEIVED PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES
- **4,214** PEOPLE RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES
- **10,561** INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATIONS WERE CONDUCTED FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
- **1,706** GROUP PSYCHOLOGICAL SESSIONS WERE CONDUCTED FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES
- **4,125** GROUP PSYCHOSOCIAL SESSIONS WERE CONDUCTED FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY AT A FOUNDATION CENTER LOOK LIKE?

“Life at the center never stops. The day begins with the team gathering and preparing spaces according to the schedule: consultations, group sessions. Some days, the team travels to children in remote communities. That is when the team packs backpacks with materials for creative activities.”

Anastasiia, administrator of the Kyiv center.

Interviewed by

*Halyna Kaplenko, 17 years old,
from Bakhmut, Donetsk region;*

*Tymofii Nebykov, 19 years old,
from New York, Donetsk region;*

*Polina Starenka, 16 years old,
from Vilshany, Kharkiv region*

“The walls of the center are covered with children’s scribbles, with drawings pinned up over them. It does not look like an office or a psychologist’s office in the conventional sense. It feels more like a space where a child is allowed to be themselves, draw, create, and not be afraid of judgment.

Many children are internally displaced. When you ask where they are from, you may hear Dnipro, Kyiv, Druzhkivka, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv.”

*Anna Kriuchkova, 17 years old,
from Rozivka, Zakarpattia region, and
Oleksandra Taranukha, 15 years old,
from Hola Prystan, Kherson region,
about the Lviv center*



“

...a space where a child is allowed to be themselves, draw, create, and not be afraid of judgment.

”

“I like working around children. When you see the results of your work — their smiles and joy — you understand what it is all for. Sometimes funny situations happen that lift your spirits. It is never boring here.”

Maryna, coordinator of the Chernihiv center.

*Interviewed by Aleksandra Nehovska,
15 years old, from Chernihiv.*

“For me, the Voices of Children center is above all about people. Very warm, attentive, and sincere specialists work here. They are the ones who truly love what they do. And the children they work with. You can feel it in every interaction — in the calm, support, and trust that fill this space.”

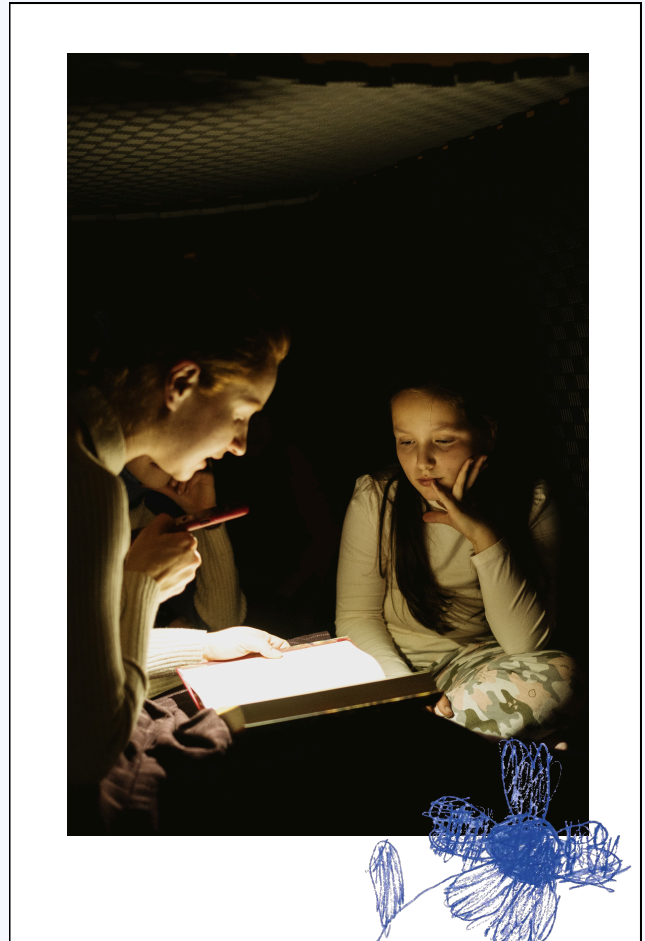
*Hanna Shevchenko, 17 years old, and
Anhelina Yehorova, 15 years old, about
the Zaporizhzhia center.*

HOW DOES THE WAR AFFECT WORK WITH CHILDREN?

“The hardest moments for me are when children open up in direct conversation, begin to trust you, and share something deeply personal and painful. For example, we had a six-year-old girl who came to two creative sessions for the younger group. She was such a bright child — very sweet, calm, and thoughtful in everything she did. We were just drinking tea and talking about mythical creatures, and suddenly she said, ‘My dad is an Angel.’ Then she began telling us that her father had been killed when a Russian missile struck.

Children, in many ways, reflect the emotional state and mood of society in real time. They are usually very distracted after nights of shelling. They seem to come in with energy, because that is a child’s basic state. When you are a child, you have more energy, you want to move. But their concentration drops significantly, because it was still a sleepless night; some were taken to shelters. So, we shift to simple activities, simple communication, to help restore their psycho-emotional balance.”

Tania, psychosocial support specialist at the Kyiv center.



“

“Voices of Children once gave me invaluable experience, but what I came to understand during my time at the Kharkiv center is that through meticulous and often routine work, they reach many, many children and families.

It is hard for me to imagine the emotional investment the team brings to the people they support, especially children, whose childhood they try to protect in every possible way. And through this, the Foundation shapes the future.

And one more thing — this is a place you want to return to.”

*Hanna Bulhakova,
16 years old, from Kharkiv.*

You can read the full essays about the work of [our regional centers here.](#)

SEMEN AND MYKYTA



Semen and Mykyta are actors, as they say about themselves. One loves drawing and runs a YouTube channel, while the other is passionate about cooking and writing. Together, they lived through Russian occupation and began a new life in Mykolaiv.

They remember their hometown of Pervomaisk as warm and comforting. But there weren't many children, so instead of friends they had two best toys: a stick and imagination, as one of the boys explains. At home, the brothers faced bullying. When they arrived in Mykolaiv, at first the situation repeated itself: once again, there were few friends; once again, a sense of not being understood.

Then they saw an ad for the Voices of Children center. At first, they played board games there with peers, and over time, found their first real friends. For them, friendship means not ignoring messages on Telegram, hanging out until evening, and accepting others as they are.

Watch the [video story here](#).



ONLINE SUPPORT
HELPLINE

First and foremost, the helpline provides remote psychological support for people who cannot access our regional centers. It also offers support to people who have been forced to leave Ukraine. Our main target audience is children and their parents affected by the war.

There are three main ways to reach out: **a Telegram bot, a Viber bot,** and a phone line. Administrators are on duty on the helpline every day, without days off, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. A psychologist then contacts the person, arranges a session, and connects in the way that works best for both the person and the psychologist, most often by video call, as this allows the psychologist to better understand the person's condition and provide more effective support."

Interview by Sofiia Dubyktivska, 17 years old, from Kyiv, with Olena Lisova, psychologist and head of the support helpline.

[You can read the full interview here.](#)

IN 2025:



WHAT CONCERNS DO PEOPLE MOST OFTEN CONTACT THE HELPLINE ABOUT?

From April to October 2025, the most common concerns included:

- Various fears, anxiety, and panic states in children and adolescents.
- Obsessive-compulsive disorders.
- Generalized anxiety disorders
- and sleep disturbances.

In December 2025, another group of requests became the most frequent: psychological support for mothers or caregivers related to difficulties with a child and parental emotional burnout.

Other common concerns included difficulties with socialization, communication with peers and family, and feelings of loneliness. Another fairly common issue was adjusting to life abroad after forced evacuation; complex emotional distress among children of military service members; as well as suicidal tendencies among adolescents, which tend to intensify during periods of heavy shelling.

“

Our team receives the request and connects the person with a psychologist, who then reaches out and arranges a session in a convenient format. Most often, we work via video calls, as they help psychologists better understand a person's condition and tailor the support more effectively.

”

Interview by Kseniia Fertak, 16 years old, from Kherson, with Viktoriia, Camp Program Manager

“When people think of childhood, they often imagine carefree summer days, outdoor games, and new friends. But in times of war, these familiar images can feel out of reach for many children. In order **to restore a sense of happiness, safety,** and confidence, the Voices of Children Foundation organizes special camps — spaces for support, growth, and genuine connections for children who have lived through difficult experiences.

Each child has their own difficult experience: some have had to leave their homes under occupation and relocate to another part of the country; some have loved ones serving on the front line; some have experienced loss. Children are very different, with different stories and needs.

Currently, we have two main programs: Voices Camp and Lord of the Elements. Both are grounded in psychological support and the continuous involvement of psychologists. Voices Camp is more creative, with many artistic activities. It is designed for children aged 10–15 and lasts two weeks. Lord of the Elements focuses more on physical activity: hiking, rafting, ziplining. Each day is dedicated to a different element. This camp is shorter and lasts one week. It is designed for teenagers aged 12–17.”

[You can read the full interview here.](#)



“

When people think of childhood, they often imagine carefree summer days, outdoor games, and new friends.

”

IN 2025:



13

OFF-SITE CAMPS WERE ORGANIZED



589

CHILDREN ATTENDED OFF-SITE CAMPS



21

INTENSIVES WERE HELD



338

CHILDREN ATTENDED INTENSIVES AT THE CENTERS

WHAT FEELING WOULD YOU LIKE CHILDREN TO TAKE AWAY FROM THE CAMPS?

“We want them, even if only a little, to rest, unwind, and remember that they are children. That they are free from constant stress and the burden of adult problems. Genuine communication is also very important to us. Many children have been studying online for years. We even experimented with going completely without phones, and it worked. The children were so absorbed in the activities that they admitted they had not even thought about their devices all day.”



“

...and remember that they are children.

”

In 2025, for the second year in a row, the summer sessions of Voices Camp were held with the support of and in partnership with the Olena Zelenska Foundation.



Зупочка
Миколаїв
ЗАПОРІЖЖЯ
Варна
Дубиничі
100 КЕТЧИВІІІ
Северодонецьк
ІЗЮМ
❤️


“I met many new people and made friends. Here, I found support and a space where I could speak openly. The trainings and reflection sessions also helped me learn a lot about myself,” – Anna

“The most valuable things about the camp for me were the support and the friendly atmosphere. I made great friends, had unforgettable experiences, received support from the psychologist and camp leaders, and had the chance to truly be myself,” – Yana

“What mattered most to me was connecting with peers, spending time in peace and quiet, relaxing, and feeling supported,” – Anna

“You helped every child discover hidden talents, believe in their own strengths, and unlock their potential.

Your support, patience, and thoughtful guidance became a light that helped them find new knowledge and skills,” – mother Nadiia

A close-up photograph of a person's hands and torso. The person is wearing a blue t-shirt and a red jacket. They are holding a wooden mallet in their right hand and a brass singing bowl in their left hand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

CAMP+ PROGRAM
FOR THE
REHABILITATION
OF CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES
OF UKRAINIAN
DEFENDERS

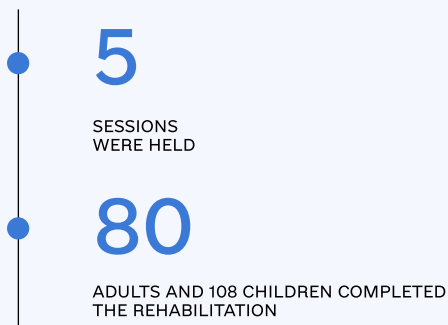
CAMP+

is a three-week **psychological support program** developed by specialists at our Foundation specifically for families of Ukraine's defenders living through loss, captivity, or uncertainty. The program combines individual and group sessions with psychologists, body-based practices, and art therapy.

We treat every story of defenders' families with deep respect. Our goal is to help participants reduce the impact of prolonged stress, stabilize their emotional well-being, and gradually restore a sense of stability.

Voices of Children has been running this original program since 2022. In 2023, it **was approved and recommended*** for specialists working with families experiencing loss, trauma, or forced displacement. In October, Voices of Children presented the CAMP+ psychological rehabilitation program for children and families at the EPPC 2025 International Conference in Málaga, Spain.

IN 2025:



In 2025, one of the program sessions became possible for the first time thanks to a public fundraiser supported both by people in Ukraine and by supporters around the world.

The impact of the program on emotional well-being is best described by the participants themselves.

“When I arrived with my children, I was completely broken, lost, and in an incredibly severe psychological state. What happened next, without exaggeration, was an unbelievable feeling of safety, support, and love! I had never experienced such emotional protection. And thanks to the camp, I found amazing people I still keep in touch with — women who gave me strength! The time at camp brought me closer to my children, helped me understand myself, and gave me the strength to keep going,”

Viktoriia shared her impressions.



“Here, everything feels different. A different format that feels easier. A lecture, a game, or a conversation. You share your pain, and a specialist helps you see possible ways forward, encourages you to find your own strength. We feel inspired, we are supported, we are told: keep living, find joy for yourself and your children,”

Yuliia recalls.

“Our psychologists created a warm, calm, quiet, and trusting atmosphere. It was easy and comforting to be together. I wanted to work with psychologists, so the individual consultations, body-based practices, and art therapy were especially valuable for me. I really appreciated how peaceful and safe it felt there. I was able to relax, rest, sleep well, and even enjoy life,”

an anonymous participant shared.

*The Academic Council of the Ukrainian Scientific and Methodological Center of Applied Psychology and Social Work.

YULIIA, SOLOMIIA, AND DENYS



EVEN AFTER LOSS, LOVE REMAINS

"Mom, are you going to die too?" — asked Solomiia after her father was killed defending Vuhledar. Andrii gave his life for Ukraine's independence while serving with the 72nd Mechanized Brigade named after Black Zaporozhians.

She did not know what awaited her tomorrow, but she promised her daughter to stay by her side and protect her and her brother.

"Here, they encourage you to find the strength to keep going. To live for your children and for yourself. I think he would be proud of us," says Yuliia at CAMP+, as she preserves his memory while building a new reality for her family.

Watch their [story here](#).



ART LABS
WITH ELEMENTS
OF ART
THERAPY

Interview by Veronika Pryss, 16 years old, originally from Melitopol, now living in Zaporizhzhia

Art labs with elements of art therapy for teenagers are part of the Foundation's psychosocial support program. These are courses and residencies for teens who use creativity to cope with the difficult experiences of war. Together with the Foundation's psychologists and mentors from different creative fields, participants write scripts, prose and poetry, make their own short films, sing and take part in jam sessions, and create their own theater performances.

Mentors Olha Mykytchyn and Olha Rusina share more about the program.

WHAT NEED ARE YOU PRIMARILY TRYING TO ADDRESS FOR PARTICIPANTS?

Olha M.: "First, psychological support and community support, the feeling that you are not alone in this world. Second, helping young people regain a sense of inner grounding. It is important for all of us to know how to support ourselves, because there is not always someone nearby ready to do it for us.

Not everyone has access to psychological support. That is why we want everyone to have a personal way to cope — something that helps bring relief. Very often, that is creativity as a way of reflection. We bring together teenagers who already have such a way of their own and help them develop it further.

And of course, we also want them to feel they belong to a community of people with shared values and interests."

IN 2026:

6

ART RESIDENCIES WERE HELD

80

TEENAGERS TOOK PART IN THE PROGRAM



“

First, psychological support and community support, the feeling that you are not alone in this world.

”



[You can read the full interview here.](#)

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE MAIN OUTCOME OF A RESIDENCY?

Olha R.: "For me, the main outcome of a residency is the relationships that stay within the group. I do not expect everyone to become close friends, but it makes me very happy when people stay connected — some more, some less, but they still feel a sense of community they can return to. Of course, it is wonderful that we made a film or created a collection together, but what matters just as much is the network participants leave with. In our reality, the importance of human connections is hard to overstate. It's one of the things that helps in the hardest moments."

What Participants Say

HAS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR OWN CREATIVITY CHANGED AFTER PARTICIPATING? HOW?

"My perception of creativity changed drastically. Before, it seemed like something unattainable, like the privilege of the 'chosen few' or of people who devote their whole lives to art. But after the residency, I realized that creativity is that very 'sixth breath' that opens up new meaning. In truth, creativity does not choose people. We are the ones who choose it in our lives."

Viktoriia

WHAT DOES BEING PART OF AN ARTISTIC COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

"It means understanding that you have a circle of people who will understand you; knowing there are people you can finally talk with about art and feel you are on the same wavelength. It means knowing many amazing people who are passionate about what they do and knowing who to turn to with a question or an idea."

Halia



WHAT DID YOU TAKE FROM THIS EXPERIENCE INTO EVERYDAY LIFE?

"I took with me the courage to express myself, openness to new connections, and belief in the power of collective creativity; discipline in my work and an understanding that growth requires consistency, as well as people I still stay in touch with and even meet again in other projects."

Kamila

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE THE RESIDENCY IN ONE WORD, WHAT WOULD IT BE? WHY?

"Wildness. Because it is unpredictable and alive — just like people."

Sofiia

DID YOU FEEL SUPPORTED? HOW DID THAT SUPPORT SHOW UP?

"In everything: in words, in a glance, in hugs, and in acceptance."

Nastia





ADVOCACY AND ARTS ADVOCACY

**Interview by Hanna Shevchenko,
17 years old, from Zaporizhzhia**

Today, Ukrainian children are living through devastating experiences. These are often stories of trauma and broken lives. The abduction of Ukrainian children by Russia and their forced placement in Russian families happens far more often than what reaches the news. A child's traumatic journey can easily be lost in the flow of information, while fair court decisions may take years. Advocacy is a way to ensure these stories are not forgotten.

We spoke about this with Alla Perfetska, coordinator of the Foundation's advocacy work, and Olha Rusina, who focuses on arts advocacy.

Alla: "Because the Foundation has many centers across Ukraine, we can stay in close contact with people from different parts of the country. This helps us see when there is a problem affecting many people. One example is the age at which a child can independently seek psychological support. Currently, the threshold is 14 years old, while younger children need parental consent. Specialists in our centers have cases where a teenager under 14 wants help from a psychologist, but parents refuse permission. In such cases, changes to legislation are needed."

Olha: "And alongside this, arts advocacy grew significantly in 2025. For example, in art labs, teenagers often create projects in collaboration with mentors, including collections, short films, and performances. In essence, these are forms of advocacy, because they are artistic works where young people speak directly about their own experiences, without adult interpretation."

This year, for example, teenagers worked with writer Kateryna Mikhalitsyna to create the poetry collection titled **Oxygen**, and with sound engineer Volodymyr Olshanskyi to produce an audio version of the collection, recorded by the participants themselves. We also translated the collection into English so it could reach audiences abroad.



Hold fast to life.
No matter how hard it gets.
Live.

Take life by the hand
and lead it.

**Kateryna Skorokhod
Chernihiv**

Together with the DAKH Contemporary Arts Center, we created a theater performance, and together with film director Marysia Nikitiuk, a short film, the third one created within the labs. Meanwhile, a previous short film made by teenagers in 2024 was screened in the autumn of 2025 in Santiago, the capital of Chile. There, under the mentorship of film director Vladyslav Troitskyi, an exhibition was also presented on the deportation of Ukrainian children by Russia. Chile is a country far from us, with a long history of strong Russian influence. Yet these artistic formats make it possible to gradually counter that influence by speaking directly to local society.

Advocacy is an important tool for action at both local and global levels. For it to have an impact, a problem must first be carefully analyzed, and then different ways of addressing it must be explored. Ultimately, we carry great responsibility toward children who need support, because their well-being and future depend on how effective our work is. So, every story must be approached carefully and thoroughly. Only in this way can we bring real changes that protect children's rights."

[You can view the full interview here.](#)



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND CASE MANAGEMENT

In 2025, **4,214 people** received support through the case management program, including individual humanitarian assistance, counseling, social support, and access to the Foundation's full range of services, including psychologists, speech therapists, and structured psychosocial activities.

Among them was **Oleksandra** (name changed). Together with her two children, she left Russian occupation and began a new life in another city. The Foundation's team supported her in changing professions: Oleksandra completed training as a nail technician and received equipment to begin working. At the same time, psychologists at the center helped the family adapt and process trauma related to life under occupation.



We provide essential items, offer support, and help people regain a sense of control over their lives. Every success story inspires us to keep finding new ways to help.

*Yuliia Sich,
Case Management Coordinator*



Throughout the year, case managers worked closely with other departments across the Foundation. In villages and towns visited by mobile teams, they worked directly with local communities. They regularly took part in group and individual supervision, and some completed additional training on supporting military families and families experiencing loss.

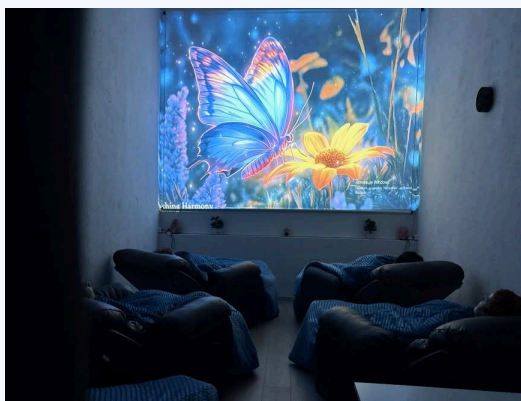
In 2025, the Foundation continued both to support families individually and to strengthen communities.

In 2025, the Foundation continued both to support families individually and to strengthen communities. We worked across the Kyiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Sumy, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, and Lviv regions, supporting educational institutions, healthcare facilities, civil society organizations, and foster families.

We provided stationery, generators, and voltage stabilizers. Families in the most vulnerable situations received food packages, children's essentials, and gifts.

Thanks to the support of donors, in 2025 we were also able to support children's institutions as part of our humanitarian response.

- We equipped a **recreation room** and procured medical equipment for the Ukrainian
- Medical Center for Rehabilitation of Mother and Child of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in Odesa.
- We purchased **materials to equip a shelter** at the Zabiria Hub School in the Kyiv region (village of Dzvinkove).
- We equipped **five sensory rooms** to support children's nervous system regulation, including children with ASD, in a specialized school in Sumy, a children's hospital in Dnipro, Lyceum named after O. Olzhych in Mykolaiv, Nadezhdivka High School (Kryvyi Rih district), and Veselivka High School (Kryvyi Rih district).
- We provided equipment for the sports hall of High School No. 98 in Zaporizhzhia.
- We delivered sports equipment to the Children and Youth Sports School in Liubotyn, Kharkiv region.



During the Christmas holidays, with support from partners, the Foundation delivered **3,159 gifts** to children living in frontline areas and those attending our regional centers.



We invest heavily in training specialists who work with children.

64

TRAINING PROGRAMS WERE HELD FOR THE FOUNDATION'S TEAM AND

1,365

EXTERNAL PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING EDUCATORS, LOCAL CHILD PROTECTION ACTORS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

The topics covered included a trauma-informed approach, recognizing signs that a child may need psychological support (including through the ReachNow tool), psychological first aid, manifestations of child stress, psychohygiene and self-care for educators, as well as child rights protection and their safety.

Offline training ranged from several hours to two days and took place in the regions where the Foundation's regional centers operate. Together with the NGO Vilnyi Vybir, we conducted training on psychological support for children experiencing loss for school psychologists in the Chernihiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

In 2025, psychologists, case managers, and other specialists also completed training in child safety and protection in humanitarian response, while strengthening complementary methods such as Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), intuitive-metaphorical drawing, fundamentals of music therapy, and other approaches.



Throughout 2025, the Foundation contributed to the development of “12-21” youth centers initiated by the Olena Zelenska Foundation.

In partnership with the Coordination Center for Mental Health under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Foundation's team organized training for specialists and contributed expertise, methodological support, and strategic vision.



At the initiative of child psychologist and writer Svitlana Roiz, psychologist Viktoriia Horbunova, and the organization GlobalInMind, Voices of Children became part of an **international project** working on one of the highly effective methods for treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This is the first adaptation of this method in Ukraine and globally that opens new possibilities for working with this disorder.

In 2025, Voices of Children also **joined a support program for children who were returned from Russian occupation** and deportation as part of the Ukrainian President's Bring Kids Back UA initiative. We trained educators in trauma-informed approaches, prepared mentors and psychologists who help children adapt and build relationships within peer groups, and developed a systemic support model in schools so internally displaced children and children returning from occupied territories or deportation could feel they belong. We began with 10 pilot schools to test this model in practice and plan to scale the initiative nationwide.

On our YouTube channel, we launched the course **"A Safe Space for Voices of Children in Media,"** developed for media professionals working with children affected by the war. The course includes 8 lectures on ethical approaches to covering children's stories.



[You can watch the course here.](#)

In December, Voices of Children signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Open Eyes Fund within the Generation Tech project. Together with SoftServe, we will support children affected by war in completing an offline course in IT.

In 2025, we also began cooperation with the DNKBridge research group, which includes researchers from Northwestern University and Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. In August, the group came to Kyiv to conduct in-depth interviews with parents whose children had been forcibly taken to Russia, as well as internally displaced parents, exploring attitudes toward the use of DNA in family reunification processes.

We also began working with the University of Bath, supporting research into how cognitive patterns and sleep affect the development of chronic pain in Ukrainian children after injury. In addition, we established contacts with Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute.

The Foundation provided a letter of support for the LeaveNoMind-BehindUkraine initiative, which seeks to provide Ukrainian organizations working in mental health and psychotherapy with free training delivered by American specialists. As part of the initiative, staff from U.S. universities will deliver certified training in third-wave cognitive behavioral therapy.

Nataliia Masiak presented the Foundation's camp programs and their results for children at the online event MHPSS for Children in Ukraine, organized by the German Platform for the Reconstruction of Ukraine on August 6, 2025.

MARYNA



“WHEN THE WORLD FALLS APART, CHILDREN HOLD US TOGETHER.”

Maryna is originally from Mariupol, where she had lived her entire life until Russia’s full-scale invasion. After a forced evacuation and a long period of depression following everything she endured in her hometown, she lost all the things that once felt familiar.

Yet over time, Maryna found the strength to return to everyday life and to her profession. Today, she supports children in Kharkiv.

“I want to give children at least a small sense of safety. To bring them back to childhood,” says Maryna. “I felt that I needed to do this work. I have so much I can do and give to others, because I’ve been through it myself.”

Watch [her story here](#).

A close-up photograph of a child's torso and hand. The child is wearing a light pink, long-sleeved shirt with silver buttons. On the left chest, there is a colorful graphic print featuring a character and the word 'SUPPORT' in green. The child's right hand is holding a large, pink, plush stuffed animal that has a large, dark blue, circular eye and a small orange beak. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

SUPPORT
FOR FAMILIES
OF CHILDREN
WITH AUTISM
SPECTRUM
DISORDER (ASD)

In 2025, 12 children supported by the Foundation completed a rehabilitation course, which included individual consultations, therapeutic sessions, group therapy, speech therapy, psychological support, and sensory integration. The course helps children better adapt to social environments, improves their psycho-emotional well-being, and supports parents and specialists in better understanding the child.

As part of the “Motherhood with the Letter A” project, we ran three psychological support groups for mothers of children with ASD. Each group included 10 themed sessions, two hours each, followed by a creative closing session.

“In this space, trust was built, and new strength and hope emerged. This project is very special to me, because here I am not only a co-trainer, but also a mother raising a child with autism. I, myself, left each session with something of my own — a little stronger, a little calmer, with the feeling that there are people nearby who see, hear, and truly understand me,”

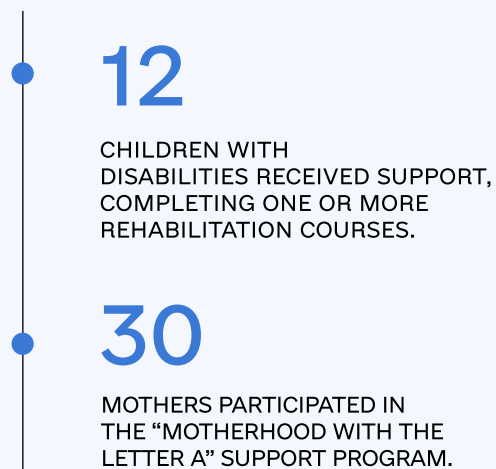
shared one of the project’s trainers, Olena Shalashna.

Over the course of the program, 30 mothers learned how to take care of themselves, build inner resilience, find resources, allow themselves to feel and express emotions, work with physical tension, practice self-regulation, set boundaries, manage anxiety, navigate social relationships, and strengthen their sense of self-worth.

“As a trainer, I share with other mothers what once became a lifeline for me: a sense of support,

essential knowledge, and tools to maintain emotional balance. There were tears, sincere hugs, and warm promises to meet again. Over the course of two and a half months, we held ten sessions together. We shared pain and joy, anxiety, and small victories. Sometimes we sat in silence, and that was also a kind of support. Sometimes we laughed, and that, too, was healing,”

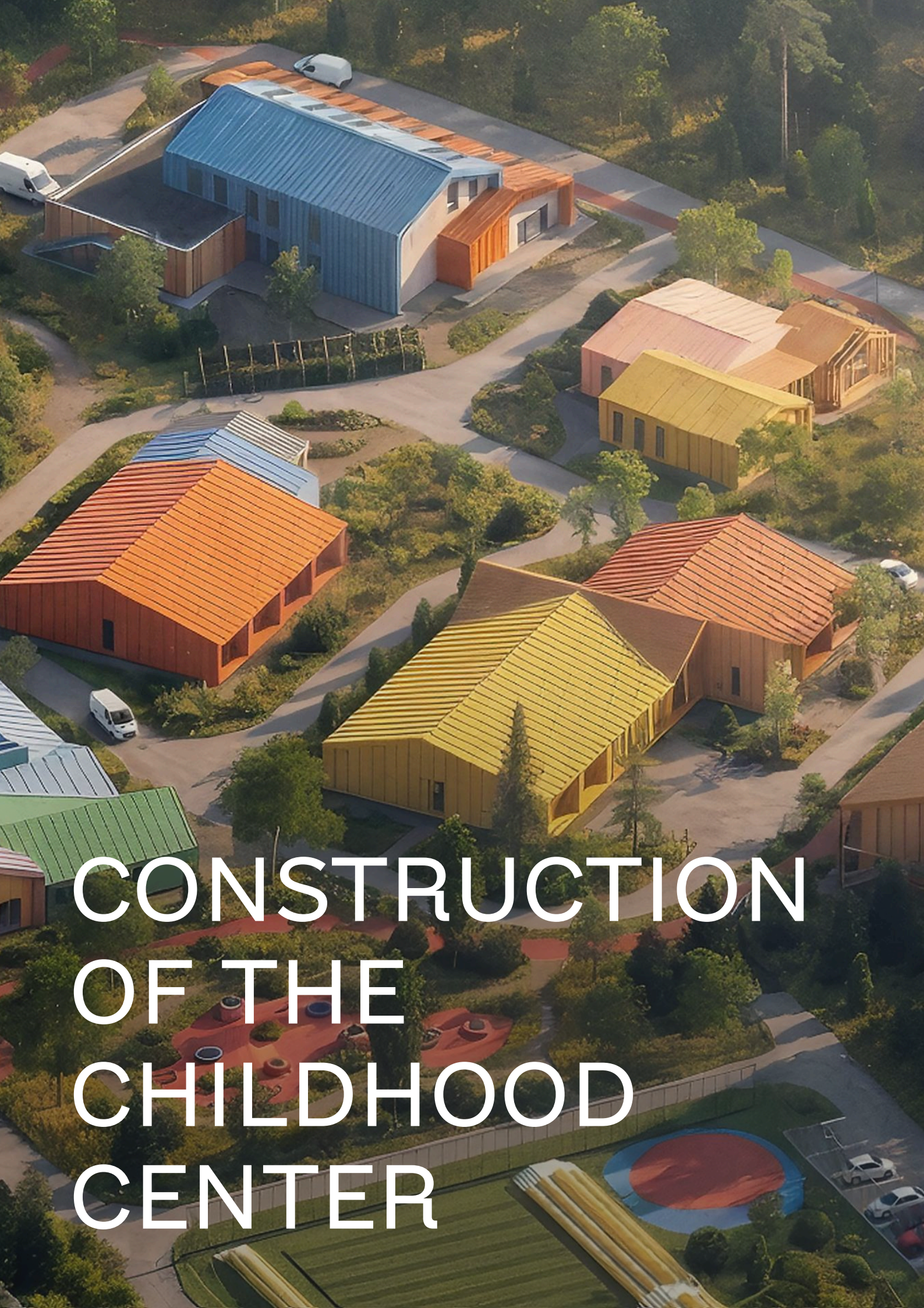
said Olena Shalashna.



After the sessions ended, participants stayed in touch and continued to support one another.

“For me, it was a great support to be surrounded by people who feel the same way I do. There are almost no families among my friends and acquaintances who raise children with autism. And it became easier for me to realize that I’m not alone, that there are people who will find the right words. This was very valuable to me,”

wrote one of the participants.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHILDHOOD CENTER

The Childhood Center is the first space in Ukraine dedicated to long-term psychological rehabilitation for children and parents affected by war. It will span 3.18 hectares of safe space just 40 minutes from Kyiv and will welcome over 2,000 children and parents each year for rehabilitation programs lasting 14 to 21 days.



On June 5, 2025, we marked the symbolic start of construction. At the site of the future Center, we placed a time capsule with messages to future generations of children, written by guests of the event, including children, as well as the Foundation's friends and partners. This is an **investment** in Ukraine's future through care for children's well-being.



You can learn more about the project and the construction process [here](#).



**SPEAKING
ON GLOBAL
PLATFORMS, KEY
MEETINGS, AND
MILESTONES
OF THE FOUNDATION**

In January 2025, the Foundation's co-founder Olena Rozvadovska spoke at a meeting of the Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine, held on January 21–23 in Strasbourg.

Olena highlighted that children who have been returned home after Russian deportation often experience confusion, fear, isolation, and significant challenges in adapting to new realities.

In February, witnesses of war crimes addressed members of the Dutch Parliament, sharing firsthand accounts of the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine and discussing pathways to hold the aggressor state accountable.

Among them was 17-year-old Olha (surname withheld for security reasons), who returned after ten years of Russian occupation to live and study in Ukraine. "Living under occupation means living in constant fear. Always being afraid of being who you are.

I lived under occupation from the age of seven. The war came to my hometown in the summer of 2014. It started with explosions. And then came the checkpoints, where armed men inspected everyone's documents. My grandmother said, 'I was a child too when in 1942 I learned what war was.' And I got scared. 'Are we all going to die?' I asked my mom. We didn't die, but our normal life died," she said during her speech.



In May, the Foundation's team spoke at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Paediatrics and International Child Health in Giessen.

They shared how difficult it is to grow up under the sound of sirens, when a parent is at the front line, and instead of a sense of safety, there are constant reports of loss.



The Foundation's co-founders were invited to a closed meeting with the President of Finland, Alexander Stubb, to speak about the realities of childhood in Ukraine during the war.

Following that, on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where around 150 heads of state and government addressed the Assembly, the President referred to this meeting and spoke about the work of Voices of Children.



In October, **Princess Anne** met in Kyiv with Ukrainian children who had experienced Russian deportation and occupation. She heard about Russia's crimes from the Voices of Children team.

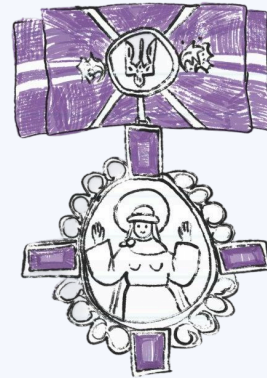
The First Lady Olena Zelenska and Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets, together with Olena Rozvadovska and psychologist Nataliia Sosnovenko, visited the Child Rights Protection Center, where they spoke with returned children – Valeriia, Sashko, and Marta.



In 2025, the foundation's psychologists supported participants of the **Junior Eurovision national selection** for the second consecutive year. By helping reduce stress and create a sense of stability, they enabled children to more fully express their creative potential. Participants visited the foundation's Kyiv center, and together with Suspilne and the children, the foundation also organized a fundraiser to support children living in frontline areas.



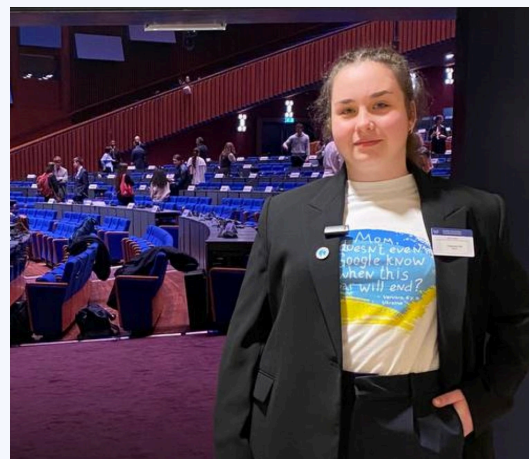
In August, the President of Ukraine awarded the co-founder and Chair of the Board of Voices of Children, Olena Rozvadovska, with a **state honor** – the Order of Princess Olga, Third Class, which is awarded to women for outstanding achievements in public activities.



In December, 18-year-old Liza, who is supported by the Foundation, spoke in the Netherlands at the 24th Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court.

She spoke about what childhood looks like under Russian occupation and how difficult it was to leave.

"Today, I'm standing here not to be pitied. I'm here to be heard, so you know what is happening to children in occupied territories right now," Liza concluded her speech.



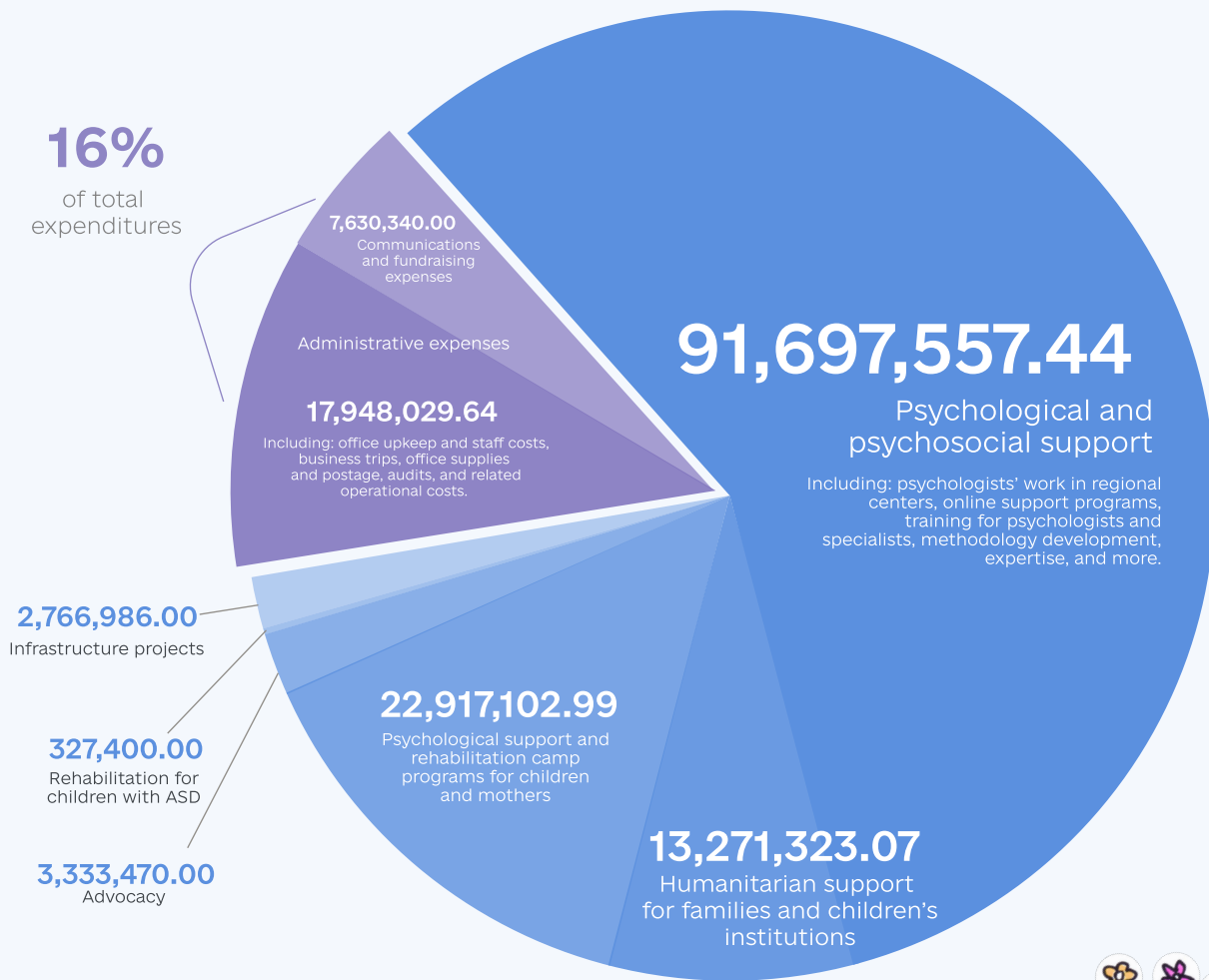


VOICES OF
CHILDREN

FINANCIAL
OVERVIEW

In addition to regular audits conducted by our donors, we undergo an independent **financial audit** every year to ensure the highest level of transparency and accountability in how funds are used. This allows us to confirm the accuracy of our financial management and demonstrate to our supporters and partners that every hryvnia is directed toward helping children in line with our mission.

Total budget for 2025 – UAH 159,892,209.14



TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES: **UAH 134,313,839.50**



**ALL REPORTS FOR 2019–2025
ARE AVAILABLE [HERE](#).**

Our Foundation treats donor funding with great care and always strives to direct as many resources as possible toward providing direct support for children and families.

We continuously review expenses, optimize internal processes, and reduce administrative costs wherever possible without compromising the quality of our services. At the same time, we believe that high-quality and safe support for children is impossible without strong administrative and operational systems behind it.

Behind every hour of psychological support provided to a child lies the work of many specialists and the internal processes that ensure the quality, safety, continuity, professional and ethical standards of our services.

To enable psychologists to work with children both in our centers and during outreach visits to communities, the Foundation has a **methodological department** that provides professional guidance, supervision, program development, and quality assurance for psychological support services.

Our **legal department** is responsible for concluding agreements, collecting and securely storing parental and child consent forms, ensuring compliance with child protection procedures, and responding to complaints or potential safety concerns.

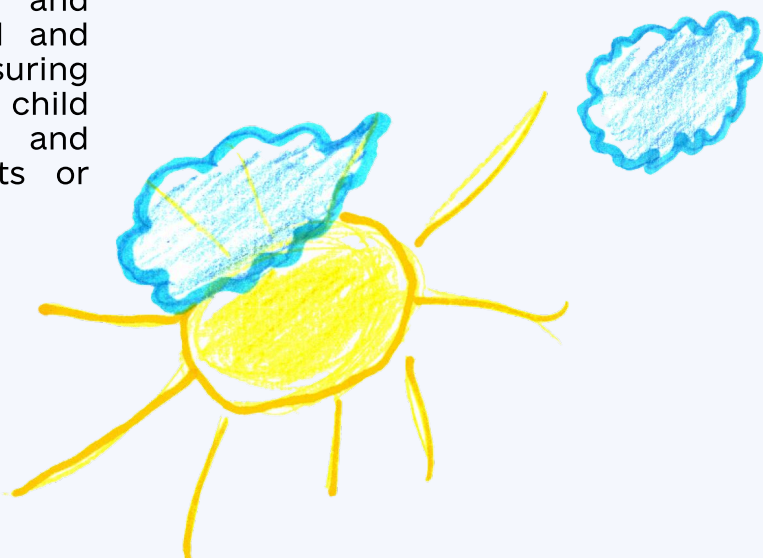
The **finance department** ensures timely salary payments, financial oversight, reporting, and compliance with donor requirements.

Our **monitoring and evaluation team** collects feedback from beneficiaries, analyzes program outcomes, and helps improve both the quality of services and their alignment with the needs of children and families.

The **fundraising department**, which works to ensure sustainable funding for our programs, also plays an especially important role. Its work includes preparing grant applications, communicating with donors, completing verification procedures, and producing reports.

At the same time, the **procurement department** ensures the timely and high-quality supply of materials, equipment, and other resources necessary for the sustainable operation of our centers and mobile teams.

For this reason, administrative costs in our organization are not “non-program” expenses. They are an essential part of the system that allows us to provide high-quality, safe, professional, and continuous support to children and families affected by the war.





DONORS
AND PARTNERS
WHO SUPPORTED
THE FOUNDATION
IN 2025

Our work is made possible by people. Those who support children through partner organizations, and those who make individual contributions. We value and we are grateful to each and every one of you. Your support allows us to stand alongside children and families at the moments when they need it most.

АЖКУ



Fishka

softserve



ВИДАВНИЦТВО
СТАРОГО ЛЕВА



ifo Institute

Leibniz Institute for
Economic Research at the
University of Munich

KROLA

Wings for Children
in Ukraine



koloHUB



BINANCE

**HIT GAMES
KOMPANY**



gradus



СУСПІЛЬНЕ

kochuf

SkylUp

MISS + UNIVERSE
UKRAINE

FUS
VOI



hro

dreamarium
простір оригінальних подарунків і концепцій



DEMISEO



AGCO
Your Agriculture Company

Sunflower
World Inc

Centrum
Terapii Depresji

GRIFFON
SOCKS

Vevgatan
Holding 1 AB

COPEKIT



NEBO
BOOKLAB
PUBLISHING

UA FOOD BOX
CHARITY BOX WITH AUTHENTIC UKRAINIAN TREATS



The Shambhala Trust

engagiert mit Herz

МНТУ
міжнародний науково-технічний університет

**BOB
SNAIL**

ВІННІ

ЧАЧАПУРІ
ОФІЦІЙНЕ ПРЕДСТАВНИЦТВО ГРУЗИНСЬКОЇ КУХНІ

**Таки
Пирого**

ЛАСКА

SECRET
GARDEN

**Україна
mpit**

ТОВ «Трієкс
Трейд»

PRIPRAVKA
ЧИСТІ ПРЯНОЩІ

БО «Благодійний
фонд сім'ї
Андрющенко»

FILMAKADEMIE
BADEN - WÜRTEMBERG

**Гуманітарна
Нова пошта**



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**AIR
PRODUCTS**

We are grateful for your thoughtful partnerships, open communication, shared initiatives, and support through donations and recurring contributions. We read every note and message of support – and each one means a great deal to us.

PARTNER-LED FUNDRAISERS



Українська «Мрія» на допомогу дітям



Це 16-річна Софія з Києва, яка через війну вимушена була переїхати до Швейцарії. Там вона зіткнулася з труднощами адаптації, самотністю й навіть булінгом. Завдяки підтримці фонду «Голоси дітей» Софія відчула підтримку й змогла інтегруватися – і тоді вирішила допомогти іншим дітям й вирішила зібрати макет легендарного літака «Мрія».

Тепер за допомогою літачка Софія хоче зібрати гроші на допомогу тим, кому це потрібно найбільше. Всі кошти підуть на критично необхідну фахову допомогу дітям із прифронтових зон, які пережили травматичний досвід війни.



At the beginning of the year, we introduced partner-led fundraisers on our website to bring people together in support of children. In 2025, the initiative was joined by **Suspilne Broadcasting** and children participating in the Junior Eurovision national selection, **Miss Universe Ukraine 2025** Sofiia Tkachuk, the band **Hyphen Dash**, and a student team from the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg with the film **If I Could Fly**.

For the second year in a row, poet and veteran Artur Dron and The Old Lion Publishing House, together with their friends, have been supporting children through their own initiatives. Meanwhile, British supporter Rick Green completed his third parachute jump to raise funds for children affected by the war in Ukraine.

“At first, partners learn about us and study our work in detail. When they start trusting us — considering the scale of the help we provide, our transparency, regular reporting, annual audits, and the stories of the children we have supported — action follows. This means partners are ready to donate and to create positive change in children’s lives together with us.”

“Another telling example is our partner, a journalist from the Netherlands, Patrick Haar. He was inspired by what we do after seeing information about us in the media and began sharing it with Dutch audiences. Over the last four months of 2025, he managed to raise €900,000 to support Ukrainian humanitarian organizations, including Voices of Children,”

*Nataliia Osipova
and Oleksii Zlenko,
Corporate Partnerships Department.*

***Interview by Daria Larionova,
16 years old, from Melitopol/
Zaporizhzhia***

***[You can view
the full interview here.](#)***

***Another unique story for us was
the Mriya fundraiser in support
of children living in frontline
areas.***

The story began with 16-year-old Sofiia from Kyiv, who was forced to escape to Switzerland because of Russia’s full-scale invasion. There, she faced the challenges of adaptation, loneliness, and even bullying. With the help of the Voices of Children Foundation, Sofiia found the support she needed and managed to integrate into the community – and then decided to help other children.

She created a hand-made model of the legendary Mriya plane (which symbolically translates from Ukrainian as “dream”) and, presenting it at school, told the Swiss about children in Ukraine who had lost their homes and parents. Now, through this little plane, Sofiia wants to raise funds for those who need them most, so she launched a large-scale fundraiser.





“

There are children who have lost their parents, who have lost their homes, whose families are separated because a parent is at the front line. That's why I believe psychological support is necessary in these cases. The funds should not go towards toys or my own whims, but to help the country, ”

Sofiia explains.

Sofiia's story impressed representatives of SkyUp Airlines and Kochut, so the companies decided to support her initiative and help scale the fundraiser toward the goal of **500,000 UAH**.

On Sofiia's birthday, donors from the Jamestown Ukraine Relief Project supported her fundraiser and the Foundation's programs with **more than 1.2 million UAH**. The donors noted that their main inspiration was the story of children helping other children. In total, Sofiia raised **more than 1.5 million UAH** to support children.

Today, Sofiia's model airplane is displayed at the State Aviation Museum in Kyiv. It was signed by Dmytro Antonov, the legendary pilot who flew the original Mriya aircraft for 20 years.



FOUNDATION COMMUNICA- TIONS



In 2025, we continued the **social campaign “Kid Superheroes.”**

In a series of videos, the Foundation’s psychologists Anna and Yana, together with their sons Sashko and Vova, demonstrated self-regulation exercises in pairs. When a parent joins in, a stressful situation turns into a shared experience through play. The child feels supported, and the technique comes more naturally.

МИ З МАМОЮ ОБИЙМАЄМОСЬ, ЩОБ ЗАСПОКОЇТИСЬ
ЛЮБОВ — МОЯ СУПЕРСИЛА!

(СКАНУЙ QR-КОД
І ПОВТОРЮЙ :) 

«Голоси Дітей» — лінія БЕЗПЛАТНОЇ психологічної
Допомоги ДІТЯМ І БАТЬКАМ ПІД ЧАС ВІЙНИ

 0 800 210 106
ЛІНІЯ БЕЗПЛАТНОЇ ПСИХОЛОГІЧНОЇ ДОПОМОГИ

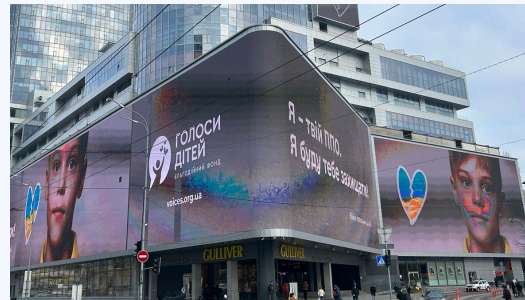


**The child feels supported,
and the technique
comes more naturally.**

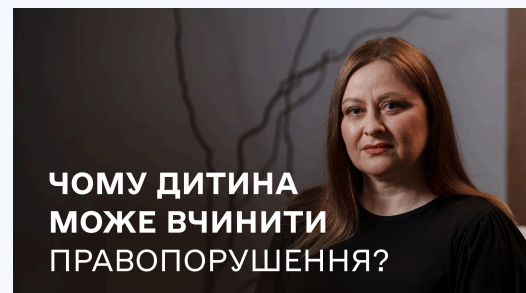
[You can watch all the videos here.](#)

To mark the anniversary of Russia’s full-scale invasion, the voices of Ukrainian children were “broadcast” on Europe’s largest screen at Gulliver Shopping Mall.

In this way, we sought to draw attention to what children in Ukraine are going through during the war and to emphasize the importance of listening to their voices. With the support of adults, children are much better able to cope with these difficult experiences.



Together with the NGO Volunteer, we created a series of videos featuring practical advice from experts for parents and teenagers.



In short and accessible formats, experts explained how to recognize the risks of train hopping, child recruitment, and domestic violence, as well as where to seek help and support. The series helps adults talk with children about difficult and dangerous situations without using fear or intimidation, while offering specific tools for safety. You can watch all videos here.

[You can watch all videos here.](#)

On May 31, Kyiv Day, after a difficult night spent in shelters, we held a warm and **hopeful family event “Thread,”** together with children, parents, friends, and partners.



We created a dedicated space with psychologists and specialists from our Kyiv center: children drew, parents spoke with specialists about raising children during the war, and we listened closely and wrote down children’s stories about home, traditions, and family.



In 2024, we held a creative residency with elements of art therapy as part of the Foundation’s collaboration with Ukrainian film director Marysia Nikitiuk. The result was the **film Generation**, which we presented in 2025 at Kyiv’s Zhovten Cinema for teenagers themselves and friends of the Foundation.



In November, together with students from Lviv School No. 91, teenagers from the Foundation, writer and veteran Artur Dron, The Old Lion Publishing House, and the Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater, we held the charity **literary evening “The Most Important Spice in Life”** featuring a performance, poetry, and conversations about childhood during wartime.



MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE FOUNDATION'S WORK



Ukrainian and international media regularly turn to the Foundation for **expertise and stories of children** and families. Our psychologists and other specialists provide commentary, share their experience, and contribute to the development of media materials. We help journalists report on the impact of war in a way that is ethical, accurate, and respectful of the child and their experiences.

The Foundation obtains informed consent, respects the right of the child and family to refuse, and takes into account age, lived experience, emotional state, and the risk of re-traumatization.

We apply these standards in our daily work and promote them among colleagues in the civil society sector, media, public authorities, and partners.

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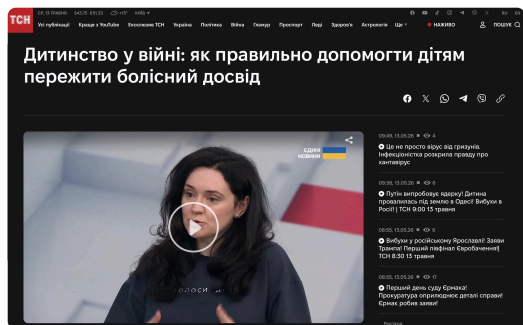
UNIQUE MEDIA PUBLICATIONS IN NATIONAL OUTLETS.

50

PUBLICATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA.

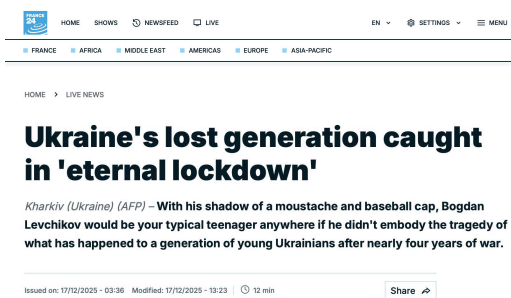
TSN (UKRAINE)

Childhood in War: How to Properly Support Children Living Through Painful Experiences (UKR)



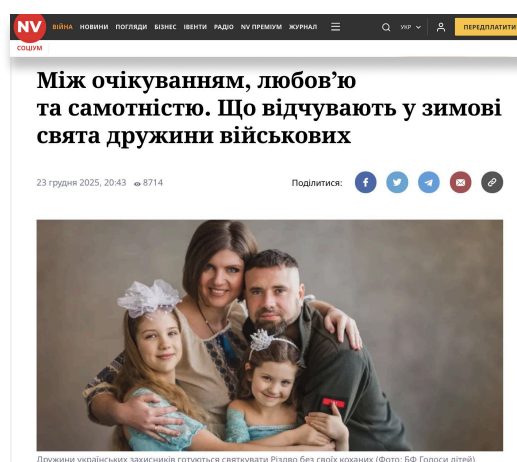
FRANCE 24 (FRANCE)

Ukraine's lost generation caught in 'eternal lockdown'



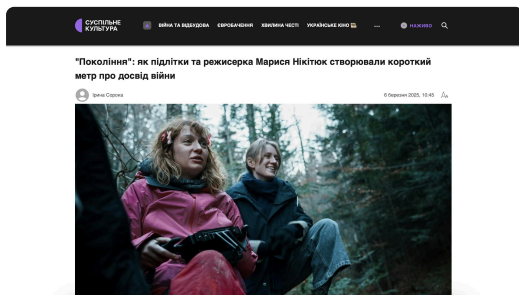
NV (UKRAINE)

Between Waiting, Love, and Loneliness: What Soldiers' Wives Experience During the Winter Holidays (UKR)



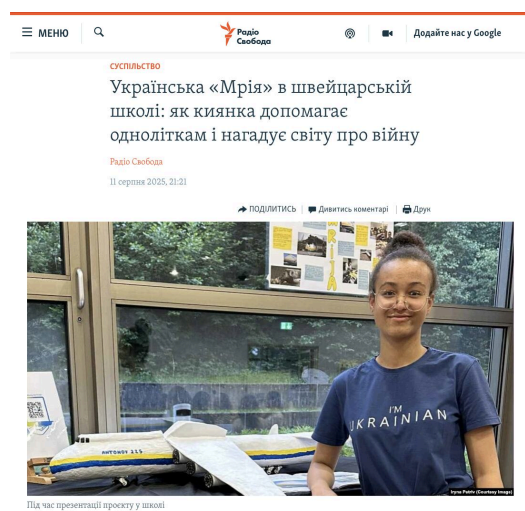
SUSPILNE (UKRAINE)

“Generation”: How Teenagers and Director Marysia Nikitiuk Created a Short Film About the War Experience (UKR)



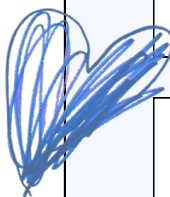
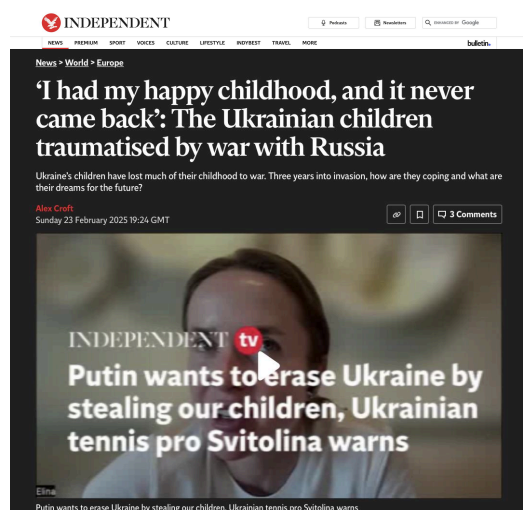
RADIO SVOBODA (UKRAINE)

The Ukrainian Mriya in a Swiss School: How a Teen from Kyiv Helps Peers and Keeps the World’s Attention on the War in Ukraine (UKR)



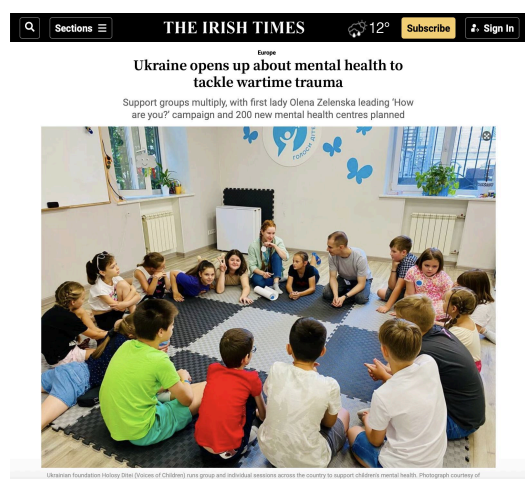
THE INDEPENDENT (UK)

‘I had my happy childhood, and it never came back’: The Ukrainian children traumatised by war with Russia



THE IRISH TIMES (IRELAND)

Ukraine opens up about mental health to tackle wartime trauma



RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE (FRANCE)

En Ukraine, soigner les blessures invisibles de la guerre chez les enfants

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Radio France Internationale website with categories like 'LA UNE', 'PODCASTS', 'MUSIQUE', 'SPORTS', 'DIRECT MONDE', and 'DIRECT AFRIQUE'. Below the navigation, there's a 'REPORTAGE' tag and the article title 'En Ukraine, soigner les blessures invisibles de la guerre chez les enfants'. A sub-headline reads: 'En Ukraine, après trois ans de guerre, un enfant sur cinq présente des signes de stress post-traumatique. L'ONG Voice of Children tente d'aider les parents et leurs enfants à surmonter les traumatismes.' The article is dated 25/02/2025 and is 6 minutes long. A photograph shows a woman sitting on a blue mat in a room with other people, likely a therapy session.

NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG (SWITZERLAND)

"Die Kinder lernen, Artillerie-Geräusche von Drohnen zu unterscheiden": Eine Expertin für Kinderrechte erklärt, wie der Ukraine-Krieg die Jüngsten prägt

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung website with 'Startseite', 'International', 'NZZ', and 'Anmelden'. Below the navigation, there's an 'INTERVIEW' tag and the article title '«Die Kinder lernen, Artillerie-Geräusche von Drohnen zu unterscheiden»: Eine Expertin für Kinderrechte erklärt, wie der Ukraine-Krieg die Jüngsten prägt'. A sub-headline reads: 'Sieben Millionen Kinder sind in der Ukraine vom Krieg betroffen. Viele sind traumatisiert. Olena Roswadowska arbeitet mit ihnen zusammen – und weiss, was diese Kinder jetzt brauchen.' The article is by Andrea Marti, dated 18.03.2025, 14.01 Uhr, and is 5 minutes long. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Hören 9:41', 'Teilen', and 'Merken'.

DAILY EXPRESS (UK)

'I'm only 13 - Vladimir Putin ripped my childhood away but now I'm taking it back'

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Daily Express website with 'EXPRESS', 'SUBSCRIBE', '11°C', 'UK', 'US', 'LOGIN', and 'REGISTER'. Below the navigation, there's a 'NEWS' tag and the article title 'I'm only 13 - Vladimir Putin ripped my childhood away but now I'm taking it back'. A sub-headline reads: 'EXCLUSIVE: At the age of 13, Artur Monakhov sought psychological help to manage the trauma of living in a war zone along with his mother, Natalia.' The article is by Rebecca Robinson, dated 17:00, Fri, Apr 18, 2025, updated 10:25, Mon, Apr 28, 2025. A photograph shows a young boy sitting at a table, looking thoughtful.

UP (UKRAINE)

“Mom, Are You Going to Die?” Stories of Women Living Through the Loss of Loved Ones in War (UKR)

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the UP website with 'ЖИТТЯ' and 'REPLY TO US'. Below the navigation, there's a photograph of a group of women, some with their arms raised in a gesture of solidarity or protest. A sub-headline reads: 'Мамо, а ти не помреш? Історії жінок, які проживають втрату близьких на війні'.



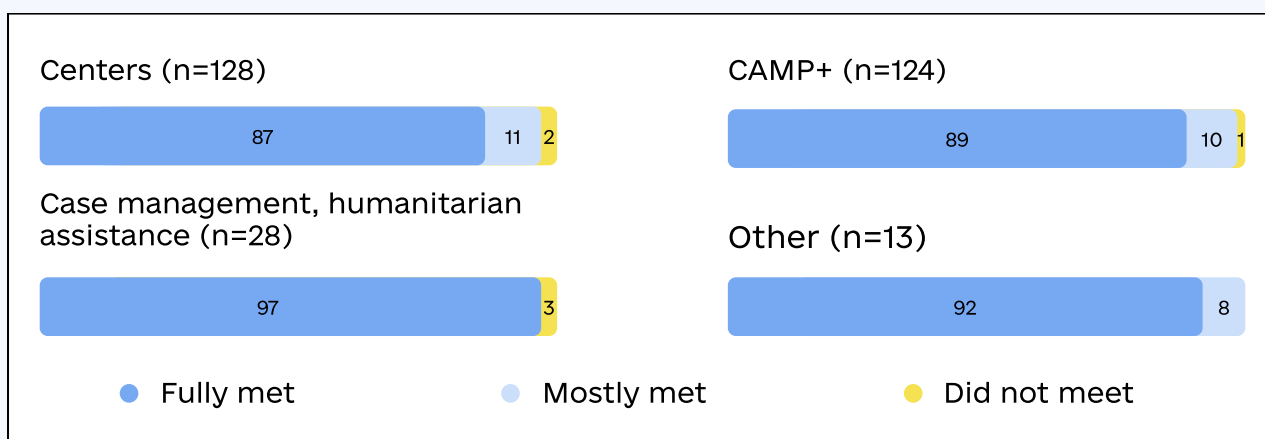
FEEDBACK
FROM FAMILIES

Each year, we conduct surveys among the people we support to better understand their needs, assess the quality of our programs, and identify what works well and what should be improved. The survey helps us evaluate how accessible and relevant our services are, whether people are satisfied with them, how children's emotional well-being is changing, and whether families feel supported by the Foundation's specialists.

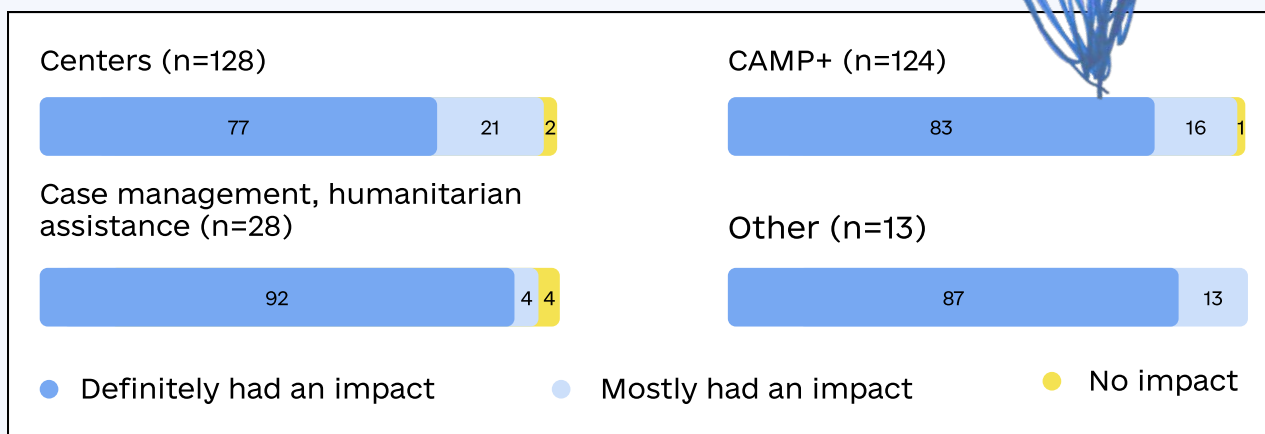
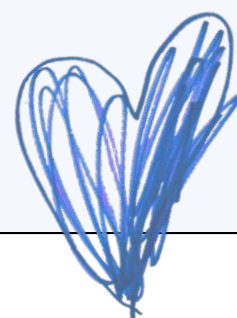
More than 95% of respondents reported that the Foundation's support met their expectations. The same proportion confirmed that this support had a positive impact on their well-being.



EXPECTATIONS OF THE SUPPORT RECEIVED

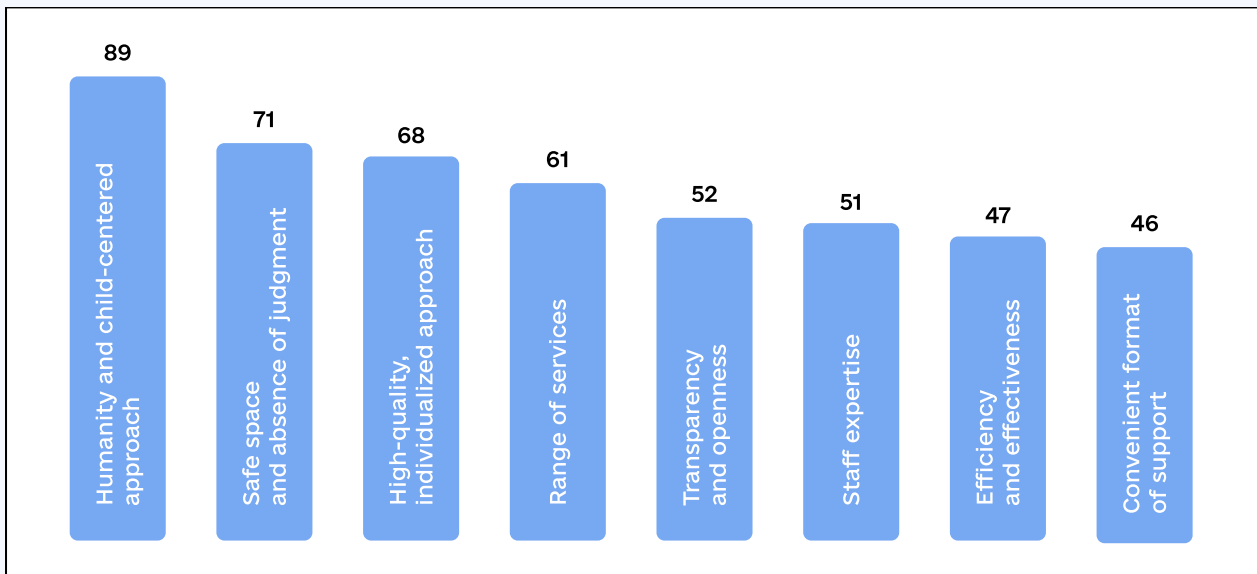


IMPACT OF THE SUPPORT RECEIVED ON THE PARTICIPANTS' WELL-BEING



We also asked what people value most about the Foundation. The most common responses were its humanity and child-centered approach, a sense of safety, and a non-judgmental environment, as well as high-quality, individualized support.

WHAT BENEFICIARIES VALUE MOST ABOUT OUR FOUNDATION (N=235)



For the Foundation’s sixth anniversary, we invited children, parents, colleagues, and partners to share a few words about what the Foundation has become for them. Within a few days, we received more than 160 responses – all warm and moving. Here are just a few of them.



Voices of Children is an amazing place where you can be yourself!:) It’s always fun, interesting, energetic, and unforgettable! Thank you for being around! :)

Vadym, 11 years old, participant in workshops and the teen club



Voices of Children, its community, and its project have been a turning point in my life. I often think back to moments from the course, the residency, our conversations.

I’ve become braver, more confident, broadened my outlook, and met incredible people. Through this valuable experience, I truly got to know myself better and understood what I want to do in life. I’m so glad all of you became part of my life.

Iryna, 16 years old, participant in the Storytelling in Cinema residency



Voices of Children is love, happiness, and kindness for me.

Arina, 7 years old, participant in leisure activities at the center



You brought my son back to me. You brought back his smile and laughter. I’m writing this through tears, remembering how bad things were for him, and how, as a mother, I couldn’t help until we turned to your specialists. Thank you so much. You do incredible things!

Alina, mother of a boy who experienced suicidal thoughts

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY: REACH AND GROWTH



Over the year, our social media platforms reached more than 10 million people, including:

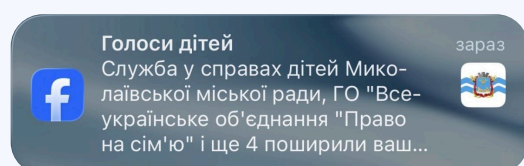
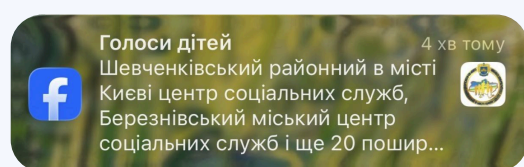
8,685,600

[FACEBOOK](#)

1,484,100

[INSTAGRAM](#)

Materials with recommendations from the Foundation’s specialists are regularly shared by schools, libraries, communities, and municipal institutions, and are also used in work with children, including in printed form.



One of the most genuine drivers of our communications remains the stories of children.

Marichka says that home feels like a hug. Like the warmth of a heater in winter. Like tea in the kitchen and conversations that make you feel at ease. She was born in Kamianske, started school in Feodosia, graduated in Lviv, and eventually came to Kyiv to study at university. A tangled geography, yet each of these cities has become a part of her and shaped the person she is today.



“It makes me incredibly angry and feels deeply unfair that they want to take my home away from me, and that the people who could have been my home... or become very important to me, are being taken away as well,”

— she says.

For Marichka, Crimea is fig trees in the yard and cherries. You climb a big tree, and you can already see the sea. It is also mountains, forests, and a family summer cottage. A doll named Nastia, whose eyebrows her grandmother used to draw. Marichka loved her so much that she still remembers the familiar rubbery scent. The toy remained there. Marichka had planned to take it with her, but didn't have time. The war deprived her of the chance to return, but not of her memories.

“I have to gather myself back together—before. I have to gather myself piece by piece—after. Books should not be published posthumously. Books must see their poets,”

— she writes in her poems.

During the residency, Marichka felt the same warmth she associates with home. It feels safe there: you can express any thought, and you will be heard, accepted, not judged.

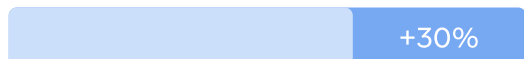
You can watch the video with the girl's story [here](#).

Read more stories of children [on our website](#).

IN 2025, THE VOICES OF CHILDREN SOCIAL MEDIA AUDIENCE CONTINUED TO GROW RAPIDLY:



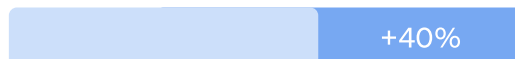
Facebook



55,890 followers (+12,770)*

*Growth in 2025

Instagram



20,250 followers (+5,700)*

Interview by Yelyzaveta Zakharchenko, 18 years old, Kyiv region

*“In our communications, **ethics** in telling the stories of children and their parents comes first. We all know how the internet works: social media tends to amplify negative and tragic content, because it triggers emotional responses and the urge to spread the truth across the world. But at the Foundation, we follow a rule: not to post sensitive images or personal details, as this may retraumatize children and their families.*

We are mindful of our tone, so that our publications do not leave a sense of hopelessness. And people thank us for this ethical approach,”

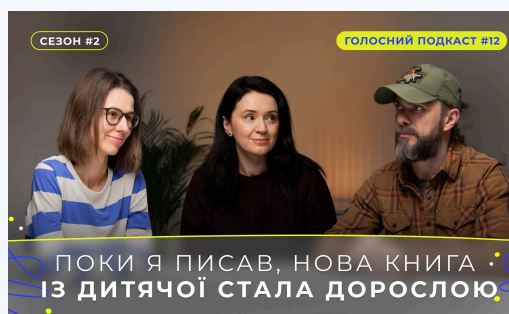
*Dmytro Romashko,
Head of Communications*

[You can read the full interview here.](#)

In 2025, we continued the second season and launched the third season of our Voices Podcast, dedicated to conversations about childhood and the experiences of children whose lives have been upended by the war.

Among the guests were Illarion Pavliuk, Iryna Suslova, Sevgil Musaieva, Denys Lohvynenko, and 16-year-old Ania Bukharkova from Druzhkivka.

[You can watch all the podcast episodes here.](#)





AFTERWORD AND PLANS FOR 2026

What does it mean for you to be part of the Voices of Children community?

[Azad Safarov]:

For me, **it's a shared mission** – changing the world so that children are no longer seen, as they're often mistakenly described, as “small people.” Children should be recognized as individuals with equal rights, with their own values and opinions that are truly heard.

For me, Voices of Children is not just a charitable foundation where you receive humanitarian aid and leave. **It's rather a place** where we are changing how society sees children. It's about giving them a sense of support, the ability to speak directly, often without adults, and to stand by their voices.



How do you take care of your inner child, and where do you find energy in such difficult times?

[Olena Rozvadovska]:

It's taken many years to learn how to recover, because emotional resources are not unlimited. And during war, it's very easy to burn out as the scale of grief is far greater than what the human psyche can hold. And yet, somehow, we endure.

I think that is why I don't see this as just a job. For me, it's truly a mission and a constant **source of motivation**.

It also helps to feel needed. I can't go out and defeat all our enemies. I can't stop this war. But you do what you can. That is a daily routine – helping at least someone, even just one person – that keeps you going, helps you not to break.

And of course, I draw energy from Azad, and Azad draws energy from me. And now we also have **our daughter, Leila**, and we both draw energy from her. She has so much of it that you could power an entire city.

Tell us please about your plans for 2026. What would be especially important for you to accomplish?

[Azad Safarov]:

Definitely to build the Childhood Center. It will be a rehabilitation center – a unique space for childhood in Ukraine, where we'll be able to run our programs, camps, workshops, art labs, and psychological support sessions, and create an environment that is welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

We also want to create a children's room in our office as we've had a bit of a baby boom. Several team members have already had children, so it's time to think about space for them, too. And we want to expand our art labs, too.

[You can view the full interview here.](#)

THE STARS SAY...

This year, the stars are aligned for something new. Don't miss the moment when last year's wishes to take shape as a new Childhood Center. The effort invested will turn into strength, joy, and children's laughter. It will also help you overcome potential challenges along the way.

If your name contains the letters o, l, i, and a – it's time to get ready to work with poets, writers, theater and film actors, singers, dancers, and artists of all kinds (you might as well prepare for everything :)). 12 creative art labs are ahead!

Want to join an art lab but not sure which form of creativity suits you best? No need to worry if you haven't found your path yet. The coming year will offer the perfect opportunity for self-discovery through multidisciplinary residencies.

Interview with the stars by Veronika Pidpaniuk, 16 years old, from Kamianets-Podilskyi.

This year, 500 children will face a choice. Don't worry! It will simply be about choosing between camps focused on mastering the elements or on creative development.

For school students, 2026 will bring understanding and support: a mentorship program developed by our experts will help create a friendly environment in educational institutions.

Needing support is never something to be ashamed of. A special team of super-psychologists will take this on, leading the newly established Foundation's National Hotline.

Seven is a lucky number for many. That's exactly how many opportunities the stars predict for participants of this year's CAMP+ to release tension, find inner support, and overcome anxiety.





THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT
AND TRUST

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US:

- Make a donation to one of our focus areas (programs, infrastructure, training);

✉ **General inquiries:**
info@voices.org.ua

- Share information about our work within your community;

✉ **Partnership inquiries:**
partnership@voices.org.ua

- Provide professional expertise or resources;

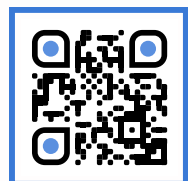
✉ **Media inquiries:**
press@voices.org.ua

- Become a strategic partner.



**My fears turn into joy
at Voices of Children.**

Bohdana, 8 years old, Mykolaiv



voices.org.ua