# **ACTIVITY REPORT**

**Think Pink Europe** 

# **HELP Ukraine**

Support cancer patients during the war

DECEMBER 2022

Chantal Blockx – Executive Manager



## Summary

February 2022, the news reached us that Ukraine was under the threat of war from Russia. In a video call with our partnering organization in Ukraine, Inspiration Family, the Ukrainian people didn't seem to be alarmed. For them, this war was already going on for years, and they didn't think a lot would change...

#### Around 5 o'clock on February 24th, Ukrainians woke up from explosions...

Russia brutally dared to launch a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine. The threat had become reality. Soon, many Ukrainians began to flee the country, to Poland, Romania, and the rest of Europe.

We immediately checked if everyone from Inspiration Family in Kyiv was safe. They were hiding in their basements, trying to figure out what was happening and worrying about the cancer patients needing their help.

Only a few days later, OmeaLife, our partnering organization in Poland reached out to us. They were getting a lot of questions from cancer patients entering their country and were looking for solutions to help out. Their national health system was not ready for this kind of problem, they had to figure out a way of helping themselves.

Think Pink Europe set up a meeting with Inspiration Family and OmeaLife. **One meeting**, and one decision was made. Find ways to help cancer patients from Ukraine, and Think Pink Europe will find financial support.

Think Pink Europe organized monthly meetings with Inspiration Family and OmeaLife, and soon our partner organization Renasterea from Romania joined the meetings too. We gave the organizations an opportunity to discuss the problems they were facing and to come up with solutions.

We started fundraising on Social Media, on our website, and by reaching out to our partnering organizations all over Europe. We decided to use part of the funds we received from our partners Olivia Garden and Sylvamo (HP papers) to cover the costs.

S.G. Komen Italia and Pink Ribbon Foundation UK, also donated some of the money they received through these partnerships. We soon had a budget to work with.

Besides all the practical and financial help that was offered, it was crucial for the people in Ukraine that they felt supported, that they knew they could count on us, they were not alone in this. To express their gratitude and the work that has been done for Ukrainian cancer patients, we invited the people from Inspiration Family Ukraine and OmeaLife Poland to speak at our annual Think Pink Europe in Tenerife (December 2022).

This project has made a strong connection between several of our partnering organizations and shows some of the true values of why Think Pink Europe exists.

#### #strongertogether

#### #closethegap



### **Inspiration Family Ukraine**

#### Ukraine, February 24th, 2022

Around 5 o'clock on February 24th 2022, Ukrainians woke up from explosions because Russia brutally dared to launch the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine.

In the First days many cancer centers were closed or limited in their options, warehouses with medications were blocked, radiotherapy and diagnostics were stopped.

#### **Treatments in basements**

Treatments as chemotherapy, urgent surgery and palliative care continued in basements, as hospitals were attacked too.











# Inspiration Family

#### Our Work.

The team of Inspiration Family in Ukraine had to find out what was going on and how they could proceed with their work.

They did not have the luxury of being in despair for a long time, because many patients needed their help. But according to the oxygen mask rule, they first took care of their own safety.

They soon adapted their work to the needs that were created by the war.





Collecting and providing up-to-date information on the work of oncology centers in Ukraine and making a list of services they provide.

Coordinating medical evacuation.

Collecting information from foreign clinics and coordinating patients to continue treatment.

Providing information on the receipt of humanitarian aid to specific oncology centers in Ukraine.

Communication with the global oncology community about the treatment of cancer patients in Ukraine during the war.

#### What we keep doing now.

#### **Coordination center**

coordination, information, medical evacuation, humanitarian aid.

#### **Medical fundraise**

to help close the gaps in medications.

#### Systematic changes

work with state institutions.

Advocacy and representation of Ukrainian cancer patients at an international level.



#### Ukrainian cancer patients need support in Ukraine and abroad.

#### UKRAINE

- Medications (basic treatment)
- Medications (expensive treatment)
- Rebuild cancer care system

#### ABROAD

- Accommodation
- Medical support
- Logistic support



## **OmeaLife Poland**

As soon as the war started, Poland was flooded with Ukrainians fleeing their country. Humanitarian aid was set up at the border and many Poles welcome Ukrainians into their homes.

Amongst them are also cancer patients who need medical care. Polish politicians make decisions about free health care for Ukrainians who crossed the Polish border after 24.02.2022.

#### OmeaLife automatically knows they can help too!

#### **OmeaLife & Inspiration Family**

Ada contacted Anna from Inspiration Family. They launched a hotline and were overwhelmed with the number of calls.

Think Pink Europe invited both organizations to a joint meeting and a quick decision about helping them was made. Regular meetings were set up by TPE to find out where help was needed and how organizations could work together. Fundatia Renasterea from Romania joined in too.

In April OmeaLife hired Natalia as a coordinator for patients from Ukraine! Think Pink Europe helped to finance this.



# OmeLife helps patients with their treatment in Poland

- Translating medical documentation and collected information about the patient.
- Support in communication with medical staff (translation of the doctor-patient conversation by phone or the personal presence of the coordinator during the visit),
- Registration of consultations in cancer centers.
- Providing information about available therapies under the National Health Fund and commercial ones.
- Supporting in finding accommodation and completing the administrative formalities related to the stay in Poland.

# So far, they helped more than 280 cancer patients!



### Cancerworld

UT ONIKOLO GITIM MARITSKE STWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWC



#### A call to action: how Poland is stepping up for Ukraine's cancer patients

February 24, 2022. Julia, a lawyer living near Kiev, is counting down the days until her last chemo. After which she will still face surgery and radiation therapy on her...

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

VIEW POST



When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, consultant clinical oncologist Mohammed Hojouj put out a call for help: "Cancers do not stop growing because there is a war. But cancer...

 $\equiv$  Cancerworld

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"The patients are stressed by the war and the disease itself," says Ukhach. "They are terrified of how they will cope. My first task is to calm the patient down. I help arrange paperwork later." She has already helped almost 200 patients.

Conversations often follow a similar pattern. "First there is a request for help and concern about whether someone in Poland will help or not. Later there are questions about whether it will be for free or for a fee, how to get treatment. My job is to provide information and show the path."



### **Race For The Cure**

Even though Inspiration Family and OmeLife were going through difficult times, they both managed to organize a Race For The Cure event to raise funds.

In Poland, the event was smaller than before, because their focus was on helping cancer patients from Ukraine. In Ukraine, a physical event wasn't possible because of safety issues. They had to go 100% virtual, but still managed to pull it off.



#### **Inspiration Family buys medicines**

The funds of RFTC 2022 Ukraine were completely used to buy medicines for Ukrainian cancer patients.





### Visibility in social media

Activities related to the 'Help Ukraine' project are published on the official organizations' social media pages on Instagram and Facebook.

www.instagram.com/thinkpinkeurope/ www.facebook.com/ThinkPinkEurope www.instagram.com/inspirationfamilyua/ www.facebook.com/InspirationFamilyUkraine/ www.instagram.com/fundacjaomealife/ www.facebook.com/FundacjaOmeaLife



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(*** <b>k</b> is)	thinkpinkeurope Think Pink Europe helps Ukrainian breastcance patients like the country to get their treatment elswhere in Europe, We support our member organisations ("Imprivationalimityua in Ukraine and @Fundadgoomealife in Poland with the coordination of transport, accomodation and medicines for cancerpatients from Ukraine.	er
	WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU! Please reinforce Think Pink Europe and make a contribution to help.	
	DONATE on our website: https://www.thinkpinkeurope.org	
	You can also make a bank transfer to the Think Pink Europe account BE31 0018 3782 5755 (BIC: GEBABEBB)	
	#strongertogether #closethegap #beatbreastcancer	
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#### Fundacja OmeaLife ongeveer 3 weken geleden

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Kiedy wybuchła wojna w Ukrainie, a my chcieliśmy pomóc ukraińskim pacjentkom w kontynuacji leczenia w Polsce, doświadczyliśmy siły naszej rodziny Think Pink Europe 🤎 Razem jesteśmy silniejsi. O tym właśnie rozmawiamy podczas naszego corocznego spotkania.

Zatrudniliśmy wspólnie Natalię - koordynatora dla pacjentów z Ukrainy, która obsługuje wszystkich z naszego biura. Do tej pory pomogliśmy 280 pacjentom 🙂

¿Sprawne działania są możliwe, dzięki regularnym spotkaniom online... Meer weergeven



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🗹 Ви донатили на платформі BeKind, щоб зібрати на препарат Капецитабін.

Особлива подяка за підтримку Алла Мазур, Marina Baturinets, Anna Davidenko, Vlada Nedak

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🗹 Ви бігли, йшли та донатили на Race for the Cure, а також купували смачне на акції Рожевтень, щоб зібрати на препарат Летразол для жінок, які борються з раком молочної залози. ... Meer weergeven



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# closing the gap in women's health care think pink