

LIFE notes

LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and every day make us a little more ... human.

April 4, 2022

The Hope and Healing Edition



Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Biblical proverbs is “To save one life is to save an entire world.”

These words have been front and center for me over the past few weeks. As I’m sure it is the same with you, I have watched the events unfolding in Ukraine with great sadness and alarm. The images of the millions of children, and their mothers, desperately fleeing the war and seeking refuge in Poland, Romania, and elsewhere – so many with just a tiny suitcase or backpack – are heart-wrenching. What these innocent children are now going through, being ripped from the safety of the only homes they know by a war they cannot really comprehend, is devastating.



Helping Hand: A mother and her children receive support as they cross the border into Romania.

And as I’m sure it is the same with you, I have wanted to do what I could do to actualize those prophetic words – to save that one life, that entire world. They are what spurred me to make a \$1 million donation to Save the Children, the global humanitarian organization working to meet the urgent needs of children and families fleeing escalating violence in Ukraine. The contribution has established a fund called Lois’ Care for Refugees that will help provide children impacted by the Ukraine crisis with food, water, hygiene products, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance as they seek safe haven.

At the same time, those words – to save one life is to save an entire world – represent what has defined our work in fulfilling the mission of LIFE. Indeed, from the very beginning, we have endeavored to give LIFE to those who are disadvantaged, marginalized, or forgotten because of disabilities, socio-economic status, neglect, age, abuse, and other barriers.

Lois’ Care for Refugees will provide urgent humanitarian support to the war-torn children of Ukraine.

It is said, "it takes a village to raise a child." That village is all of us who support the work of LIFE. Together – through our empathy, compassion, and commitment – we are transforming lives. Just consider what we have accomplished over the past 28 years. Together, we have:

- Given more than 100,000 children from the most underserved low-income communities in Florida a much-needed and unforgettable summer camp experience.
- Built The Lois Pope Life Center- the home for the Miami Project / Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, the world's foremost center for research and treatment of spinal cord injury, and for the countless thousands of individuals who have benefited from the work there.
- Created the nation's first permanent place of tribute, education, remembrance, and solace for the 4.2 million living disabled American veterans and all who have died, through our endowment of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.
- Established a clean water system for an impoverished village in Guatemala in order to decrease the vast rate of disease and greatly improve the health of the children, mothers, fathers, and other residents there.
- Ensured that thousands of food-insecure children in Southeast Florida have healthy and nutritious meals when they are not in school – on weekends, vacations, holidays, and times of disaster and pandemic – through the establishment of the Lois' Food4Kids program at the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

- Saved the lives of veterans suffering from PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury by rescuing dogs from shelters, providing them with specialized training as certified service dogs, and giving them for free to these veterans, through our support for the Pups4Patriots program in partnership with American Humane.
- Offered a new life for women victimized by genocide in Sudan.
- Handed a lifeline to victims of bombings and other terrible tragedies and adverse health events, by providing 14 ambulances to Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency response service.
- Made it our mission to save the sight of the millions who, like my own mother, suffered from macular degeneration, through the establishment of a center for retinal and macular degeneration research at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.
- Provided access to free and reduced-cost health services and medical care for the pets of thousands of low-income families in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties, through the endowment of the Lois Pope Pet Clinic at Tri-County Animal Rescue.
- Helped rescue, shelter, and treat thousands of animals displaced or lost in hurricanes, tornados, and other natural disasters, as well as from severe abuse, through our support of American Humane Association's Red Star programs.

Together, our LIFE "village" has achieved all this, and much, much more. Together, our "village" has saved that one life, that entire world. For that, and all we will continue to achieve in the future, you have my profound gratitude and, above all, my deepest love.

Lois



Photo courtesy of Save the Children.

Alina's Story: Alina is a mother of three who fled Ukraine with her two sons, ages 11 and 6, and a 14-month-old daughter (sleeping in the background). Originally from Russia, she lived in the city of Irpin with her Ukrainian husband and children until the conflict broke out. The family hid in a basement for three days before they could escape through the help of a friend and make it to the Romanian border. However, her husband stayed behind in Ukraine. Alina hopes to reach some extended family who lives in Spain. For now, the family is staying in temporary accommodations for refugees in Romania.

**For more information,
visit www.life-edu.org or call 561-582-8083.**