



2025 IMPACT REPORT

LETTER FROM THE UNWLA PRESIDENT

In our centennial year, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America stands at the intersection of a proud hundred-year legacy and an urgent present. 2025 was a year unlike any other – we celebrated our founding with historic exhibitions, publications, and performances, while continuing to respond energetically to the devastating impact of Russia's war on Ukraine.

For a century, UNWLA has grown from a community organization into a civic institution dedicated to supporting the people of Ukraine, especially during times of existential crisis – from the Holodomor in the 20th century to Russia's war against Ukraine in the 21st.

This year, our members across the country organized nearly 500 educational and cultural events, directed over \$586,416 for humanitarian relief, mobilized 51 community events for abducted Ukrainian children across 14 states, and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with allies on Capitol Hill at two Ukraine Action Summits – joining hundreds of advocates from every state in a unified call for continued support for Ukraine.



Our centennial celebrations brought our community together in powerful ways. On October 19, in New York City – the very birthplace of our organization – we celebrated our centennial anniversary and premiered *Legacy in Motion*, a multimedia performance honoring a century of courage, sisterhood, and commitment.

Across the country, our branches and regional councils marked this historic milestone within their local communities through commemorative events, cultural programs, exhibitions, community gatherings, and service initiatives that reflected both our rich legacy and our continued mission.

Together, these celebrations became not only a tribute to the women who built our organization but also a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to Ukraine, our communities, and future generations.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sent a special message praising UNWLA's legacy of commitment and solidarity: "It is the courage to be the voice of truth – the strength of women's solidarity that can transcend borders and circumstances, uniting the past and the future."

We launched the Ukrainian Book Challenge with Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute, published a book detailing our history: *A Century of Commitment: The UNWLA Story*, and opened landmark exhibitions at The Ukrainian Museum in New York and the Museum of the Ukrainian Diaspora in Kyiv.

AS YOU READ THIS REPORT, I INVITE YOU
TO WITNESS THE STRENGTH OF OUR
NETWORK, THE SCOPE OF OUR IMPACT,
AND THE SHARED PURPOSE THAT BINDS
US TOGETHER IN THIS EXTRAORDINARY
MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Pawlenko".

Natalie Pawlenko, UNWLA President

2025 AT A GLANCE

Total Membership Count

1690
MEMBERS

Committed individuals dedicated to our mission and vision.

Branches Across the Nation

58
BRANCHES

Representing communities across the United States and beyond.

Events Organized Across The Nation

480+
EVENTS

Events organized by UNWLA members

Advocacy

175
EVENTS

That UNWLA members joined or co-organized nationwide

Children Praying For Children Campaign

51
EVENTS

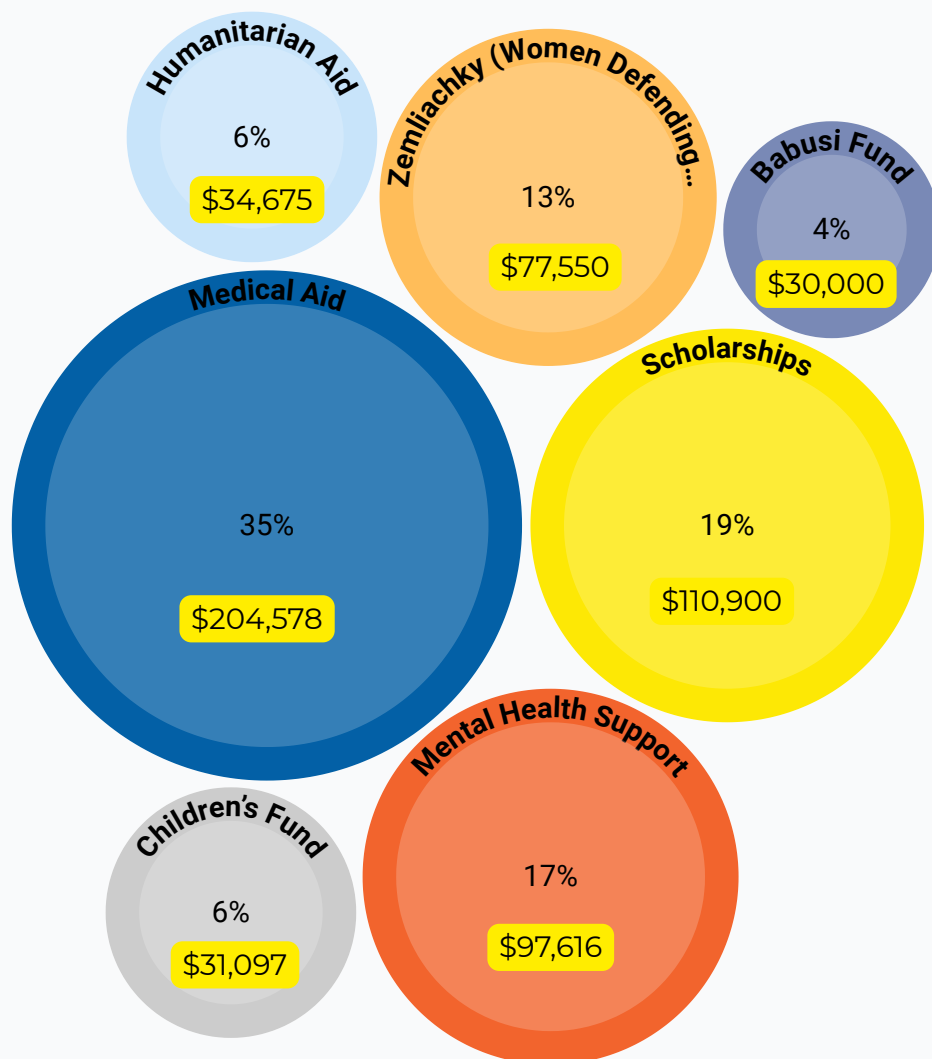
Organized by UNWLA Branches and Partner organizations across 14 States

Centennial

100
YEARS

Of UNWLA service celebrated

\$586,416 DEDICATED TO UKRAINE RELIEF AND RECOVERY



Medical supplies were delivered to hospitals in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, and Dnipro.

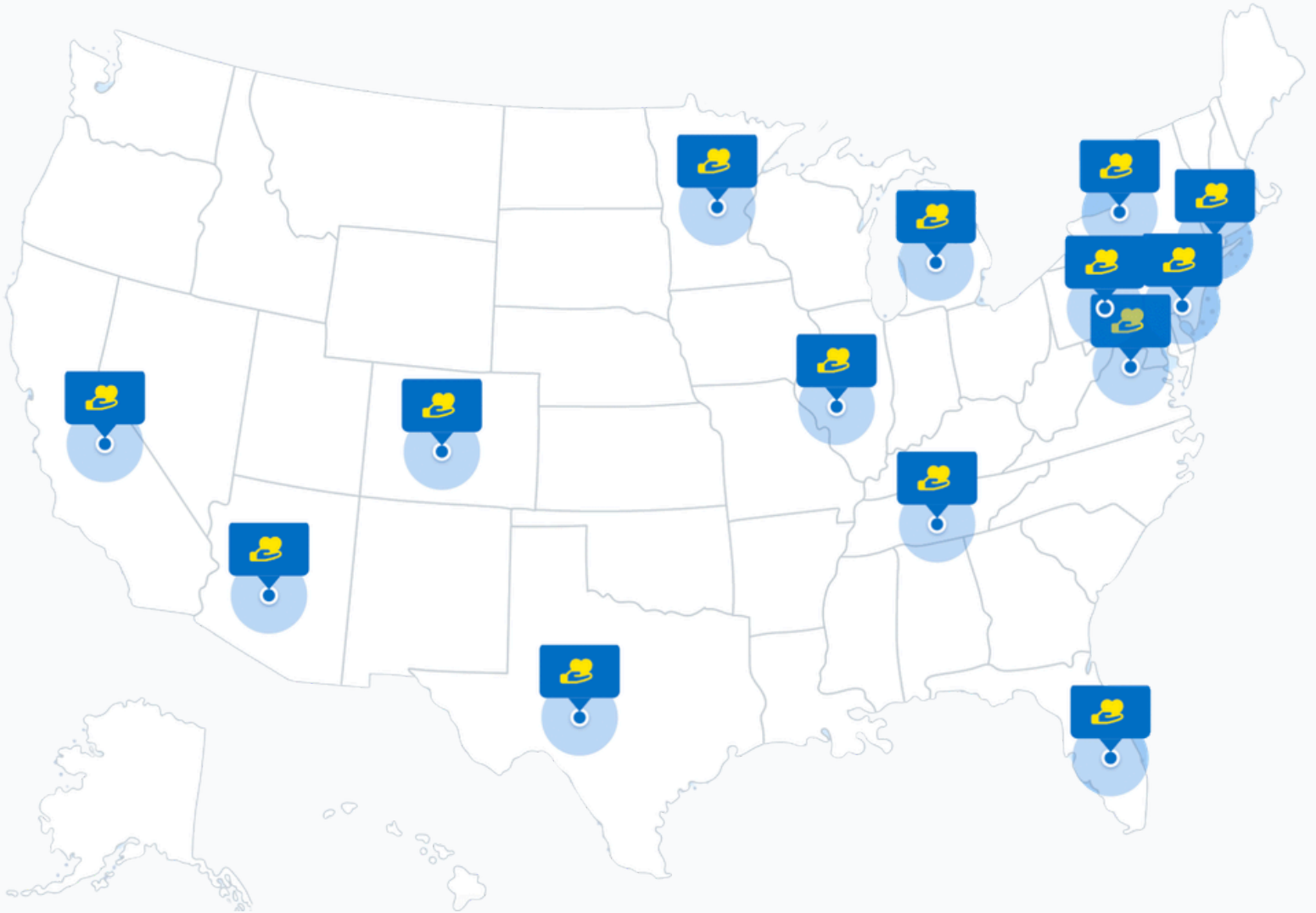
Through the Scholarship Sponsorship Program, UNWLA directed \$110,900 to support Ukrainian students in Ukraine and Brazil.

300 elderly women in Ukraine received stipends through the Babusi Fund.

More than 300 children and families from frontline and occupied communities across Ukraine attended summer and winter camps in the western region of the country.

2025

NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

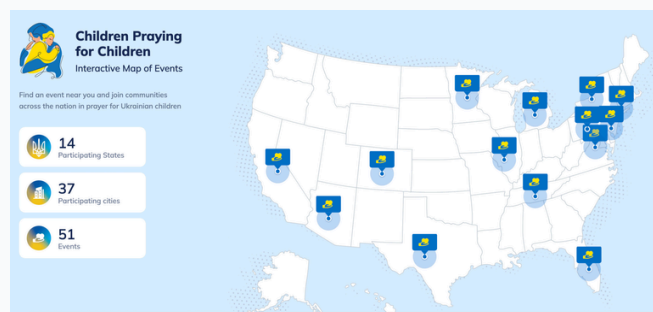


2025 NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

CHILDREN PRAYING FOR CHILDREN

During the weekend of May 31–June 1, UNWLA and its partner organizations held 51 prayer events in 14 states as part of the growing national campaign “Children Praying for Children.”

More than 40 houses of worship – representing Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and interfaith communities – joined in solidarity to raise awareness of nearly 20,000 Ukrainian children illegally abducted by Russian authorities.



The centerpiece of the campaign was an interfaith event in Washington, D.C., with remarks by Special Presidential Envoy to Ukraine, Ret. Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, who stated: “Children are the hope of any nation.” In a video message, Senator Chuck Grassley reaffirmed that the return of abducted Ukrainian children must remain a non-negotiable condition of any future peace agreement.



Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY TO UKRAINE,
RET. LT. GEN. KEITH KELLOGG:

***“CHILDREN ARE THE HOPE OF ANY NATION,
AND THE MORAL CLARITY OF THE ISSUE
SHOULD NOT BE UP FOR DISCUSSION.
THE CHILDREN NEED TO BE RETURNED!”***

IN PHILADELPHIA, PA, CONGRESSWOMAN
MADELEINE DEAN (PA-4) ADDRESSED A LOCAL
GATHERING HOSTED BY UNWLA BRANCH 146:
***“THE UNITED STATES MUST STAND FIRM IN OUR
SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE’S YOUNG DEMOCRACY
AND WE MUST BE STRONG IN OUR POSITION AS
THE INDISPENSABLE NATION.”***

The Minneapolis community, led by newly established UNWLA Branch 148, received a letter from Senator Amy Klobuchar acknowledging the ongoing advocacy efforts.

Twelve events took place across California alone, demonstrating a united effort to honor and pray for the return of Ukraine’s children.

2025 NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

KEEP UKRAINE WARM

Launched each November, the annual Keep Ukraine Warm campaign addresses the life-threatening winter conditions caused by continued attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, leaving millions without heat or electricity. Through the generosity of UNWLA members and supporters nationwide, this campaign delivers critical winter assistance, including:

Women Defenders:

Uniforms and cold-weather gear provided through our partner organization, Zemliachky.

Medical Support:

Medical and humanitarian aid and generators for hospitals through AICM, and directly to Mechnikov Hospital in Dnipro.

Babusi Fund:

Seasonal financial aid for women retirees – personalized stipends ahead of Christmas and Easter holidays.



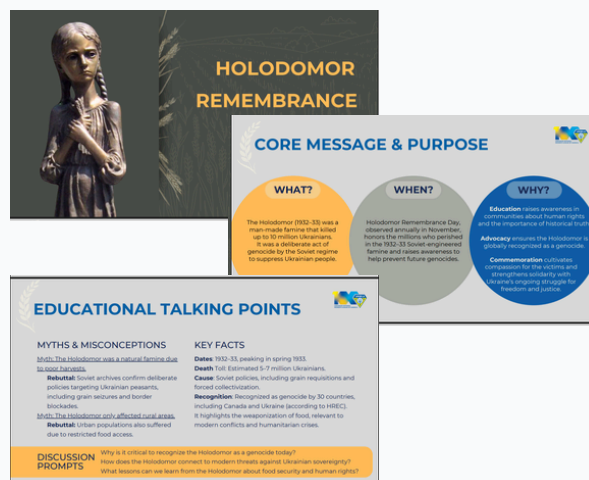
In addition to these national efforts, UNWLA branches across the country have organized local fundraising initiatives to support humanitarian needs in Ukraine.

2025 NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

HOLODOMOR REMEMBRANCE

Thirty-nine branches (nearly 70% of all) were involved with events or initiatives commemorating the Holodomor, including commemorative processions, film screenings, a Remembrance Ceremony featuring artistic performances and visual art, and prayer services and community liturgies involving children.

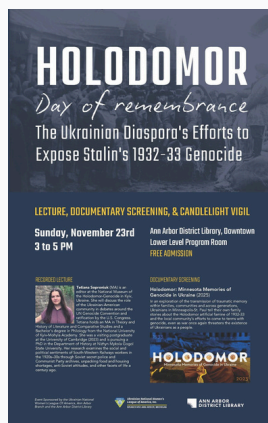
In 2025, UNWLA also published an updated Holodomor Remembrance Toolkit to support branches and community organizations in organizing their commemorations.



Toolkit for UNWLA Branches and community leaders for Holodomor awareness projects



Branch 147, Austin - San Antonio organized a commemorative event in Texas Capitol and brought their Holodomor exhibition to Dallas



Branch 50, Ann Arbor, MI, organized a screening of the film Holodomor: Minnesota Memories



Philadelphia Regional Council attending a liturgy service, panakhyda, and screening of the Black Raven film.



Holodomor, illustration by Oksana Sydorchak, UNWLA Honorary Branch 1, NYC

2025 NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

DEFENDER'S VYSHYVANKA CAMPAIGN

Together with Zemliachky and Gaptuvalnya Studio, UNWLA created a limited-edition Defender's Vyshyvanka. The fundraising campaign invited supporters to donate \$25 or more for a chance to win one of three vyshyvankas, raising funds for uniforms and essential supplies for women defending Ukraine on the front lines. In 2025, this campaign was one of several initiatives that helped UNWLA raise \$77,550 for the Zemliachky program.



**CONTINUE
SUPPORTING
UKRAINIAN WOMEN
AS THEY CONTINUE
TO DEFEND
UKRAINE.**

Donate \$25 or more
between
02/26/2025 and
03/31/2025
and win one of three
exclusive vyshyvanky.

Scan to donate



unwla.org/donate

KOSYTSIA
34 years old, Master Sergeant and
chief of a mortar battery in a battalion,
has been defending Ukraine against
the Russian invasion since 2022.

**3ML
CHK**



2025 ADVOCACY

What changed because of UNWLA:

In 2025, UNWLA helped transform support for Ukraine into one of the largest sustained grassroots advocacy efforts within the Ukrainian-American community. Through our nationwide network, members organized 175 advocacy engagements across the country, mobilized communities in dozens of states, and helped bring Ukraine's cause directly into nearly 900 congressional offices through the Ukraine Action Summits organized by the American Coalition for Ukraine.

UNWLA members played a leading role within the coalition itself — chairing the ACU Board of Directors, leading advocacy teams, and helping coordinate nationwide civic engagement during a period of growing political uncertainty surrounding support for Ukraine. Our advocacy contributed to increased public and legislative attention to the issue of abducted Ukrainian children, including the advancement of S.2119 and national media coverage on CNN.

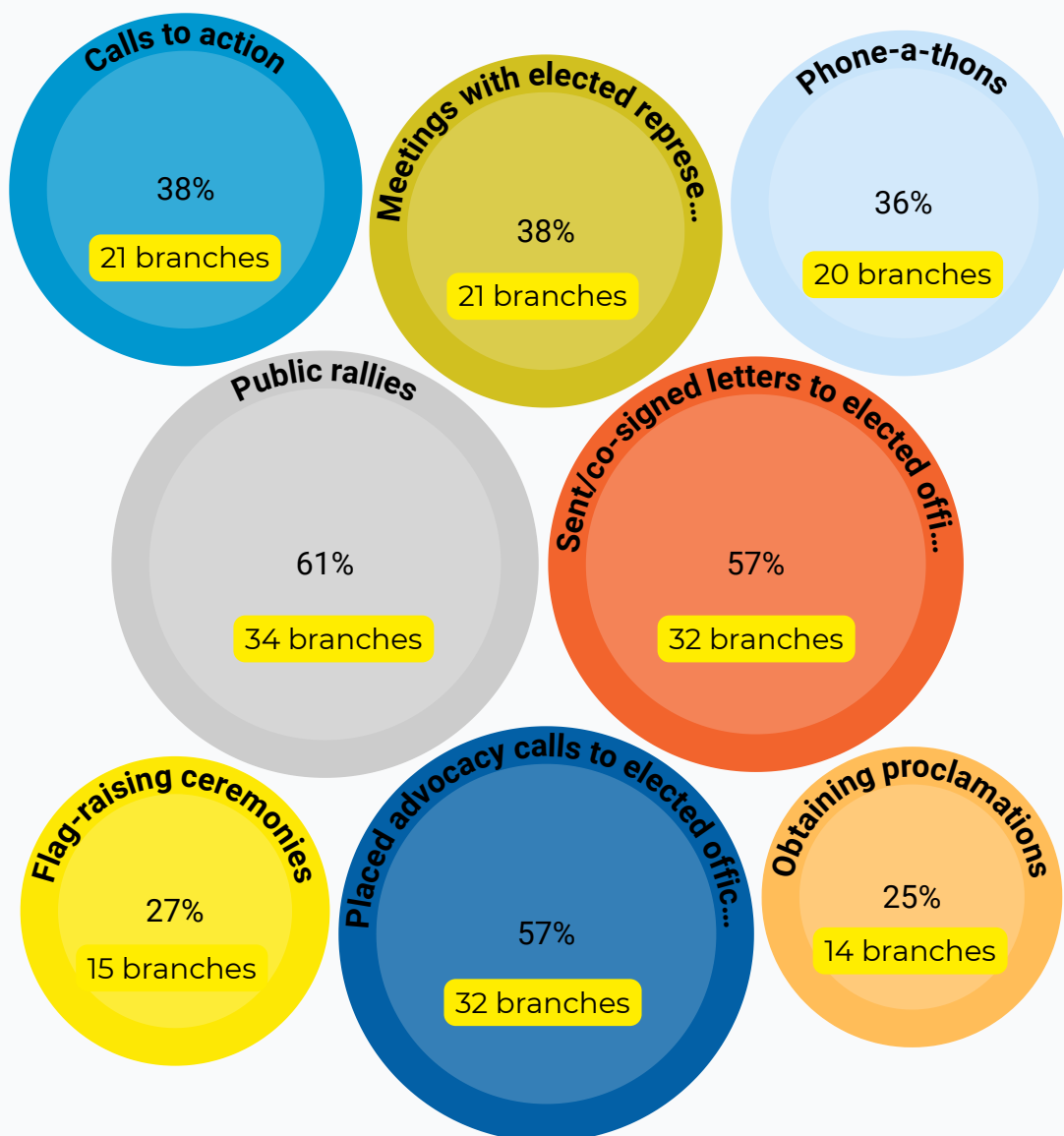
Beyond Capitol Hill, UNWLA strengthened public visibility and grassroots solidarity for Ukraine across the United States. Through 111 Ukraine Independence Day events in 39 states, advocacy campaigns, public rallies, interfaith initiatives, media engagement, and outreach beyond the Ukrainian-American community, UNWLA helped ensure that Ukraine remained visible in American civic life and public conversation.

2025 ADVOCACY

175 EVENTS

attended or organized by
members of 56 UNWLA Branches

UNWLA continues to advance its mission of advocating for Ukraine — on Capitol Hill and beyond. In the face of ongoing russian aggression and the enduring existential threat to Ukraine's sovereignty, identity, and people, our members carry forward a century-long tradition as a Ukrainian-American civic institution — mobilizing communities, engaging policymakers, and ensuring that Ukraine's voice continues to be heard.



86% OF BRANCHES HELD AT LEAST ONE ADVOCACY EVENT

2025 ADVOCACY

UKRAINE ACTION SUMMIT



In 2025, UNWLA members deepened their engagement in the Ukraine Action Summit – the largest bi-annual Ukrainian advocacy event in the U.S. Across the Spring and Fall 2025 Ukraine Action Summits organized by the American Coalition for Ukraine, more than 1,300 advocates from all 50 states and Puerto Rico participated in nearly 900 congressional meetings on Capitol Hill, demonstrating the growing nationwide movement in support of Ukraine.

UNWLA members played a leading role – chairing the ACU Board of Directors, representing their districts, leading Summit teams, and mobilizing local communities.



OchiMedia
Ukraine Action Summit Delegates gathered in front of the U.S. Congress Building



2025 ADVOCACY

RETURN UKRAINE'S CHILDREN



UNWLA's advocacy on behalf of abducted Ukrainian children contributed to the achievement of significant legislative milestones in 2025. In June, Senators Richard Blumenthal and Amy Klobuchar introduced S.2119, the Abducted Ukrainian Children Recovery and Accountability Act. Senator Chuck Grassley also introduced S.Res. 236, which calls for the return of all abducted Ukrainian children as a non-negotiable condition of any future peace settlement. In October, S.2119 passed the Senate as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). In December, the Senate held a landmark hearing titled The Abduction of Ukrainian Children by the Russian Federation. UNWLA's advocacy efforts were also featured on CNN, helping bring national attention to the issue.

SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR JOINED THE UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNEAPOLIS IN JULY, WHERE SHE PRESENTED S.2119 DURING A PRESS EVENT HOSTED WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNWLA'S BRANCH 148.



Senator Amy Klobuchar with Ukrainian children from Minnesota



Senator Amy Klobuchar, Maria Doan, Branch 148 and community leaders at the press event



scan QR code for more

2025 ADVOCACY

BUILDING BROADER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Twenty-nine branches expanded outreach beyond the Ukrainian-American community through meetings with congressional representatives, interviews with local media, participation in public rallies, and engagement with local civic networks. As one of the largest Ukrainian-American grassroots organizations in the United States, UNWLA's greatest strength lies in its nationwide network of active local communities. Across the country, members increasingly stepped beyond traditional community spaces to bring Ukraine's story directly into broader public conversation.

This growing outreach is significant not only because it raises awareness, but because it helps build lasting relationships and understanding beyond moments of crisis. When local communities, elected officials, journalists, educators, and civic organizations encounter Ukraine through trusted personal engagement, support becomes deeper and more sustainable. By leveraging its national grassroots reach, UNWLA continues to strengthen long-term public understanding of Ukraine, its culture, and the importance of continued American support.

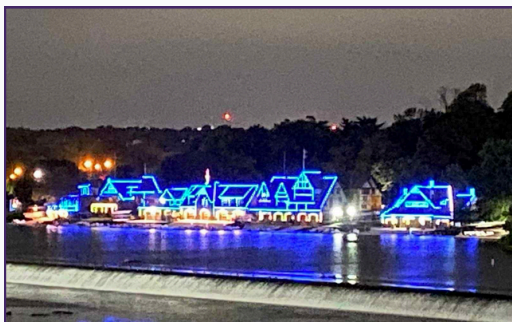


2025 ADVOCACY

UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE DAY CAMPAIGN

On August 24, UNWLA, in collaboration with the American Coalition for Ukraine (ACU), coordinated a nationwide campaign marking Ukraine's 34th Independence Day. To support and amplify community efforts, UNWLA launched a dedicated platform - uaindependence.unwla.org - which served as a central hub for events and resources nationwide. Ukrainian-American communities organized at least 111 events across 39 states – making it one of the largest coordinated Independence Day mobilizations in the diaspora.

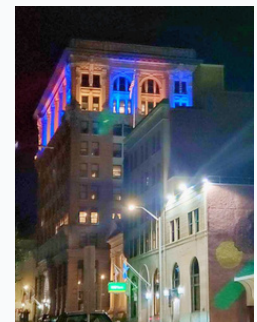
The campaign provided communities with toolkits for requesting gubernatorial and mayoral proclamations, illuminating landmarks in blue and yellow, and organizing public events. At a time when Ukrainians continue to courageously defend their country, these celebrations became powerful expressions of solidarity, cultural visibility, and public advocacy.



Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Regional Council & Ukrainian Federal Credit Union



Branch 147, Austin-San Antonio, TX. Rally attended by the TX-37 Rep. Doggett



Security Building
Branch 145, Binghamton, NY



Santa Clara, CA. Branch 107, North California



Branch 21, NYC, NY



Letter of Recognition from the
Cook County Treasurer
Chicago Regional Council

2025 ADVOCACY

UNITED NATIONS: UKRAINE IS NOT SILENT – A DISCUSSION ON JUSTICE AND RESILIENCE

UNWLA, together with the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO), hosted "Ukraine Is Not Silent – A Discussion on Justice and Resilience" during the annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The event brought together experts on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), community leaders, and members of the Ukrainian delegation to discuss accountability, survivor support, and justice.

The event also featured a presentation of "Ukraine Is Not Silent", a book documenting the systematic use of sexual violence by russian military forces and prison personnel against Ukrainian women, men, and children as a weapon of war.

Opening remarks were delivered by Melanne Verwee, Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, who emphasized the importance of supporting survivors and maintaining international pressure on russia.

UNWLA was recognized for its members' longstanding efforts to raise awareness about gender equality and support women's rights in Ukraine.



2025 ADVOCACY

TRAGEDY OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN AT THE CENTER OF THE 80TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK CITY

At the 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York City, UNWLA members attended a high-level event with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, First Lady Olena Zelenska, Queen Silvia of Sweden, and other international leaders focused on the devastating impact of Russia's war on Ukraine's children and education.

Speakers highlighted the destruction of schools, constant disruption of learning by air raids, and the forced indoctrination and abduction of Ukrainian children in the temporarily occupied territories. Despite these challenges, Ukrainian educators continue to teach under extraordinary conditions while international partners help provide shelters, devices, and mental health support.

The message was clear: by targeting children and education, Russia is attacking Ukraine's future, making the protection and return of every Ukrainian child both a moral and international responsibility.



2025 EDUCATION

More than 30 years after independence, Ukraine's identity is still too often misunderstood or misattributed – an issue made more urgent by the ongoing existential threat to its sovereignty and culture. In response, UNWLA members work tirelessly to elevate awareness of Ukraine's rich intellectual heritage, past and present.

108
EDUCATIONAL
EVENTS

253+
UKRAINIAN TITLES
ADDED TO U.S. LIBRARY
COLLECTIONS

540
SCHOLARSHIP
REQUESTS
RECEIVED

483
STUDENTS SPONSORED
THROUGH THE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

What changed because of UNWLA:

At a time when Ukraine's history, culture, and identity continue to be misunderstood or misrepresented, UNWLA helped bring authentic Ukrainian voices into libraries, universities, community spaces, and public conversations across the United States. Through educational programs, scholarship support, literary initiatives, and national grassroots outreach, our members helped more people encounter and understand Ukraine through its own history, culture, and lived experience.

2025 EDUCATION

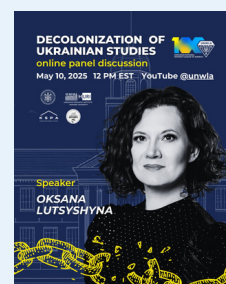
UKRAINE DECOLONIZATION MONTH

Ukraine Decolonization Month is an annual UNWLA initiative dedicated to reclaiming and reaffirming Ukraine's intellectual and cultural heritage. Each year, UNWLA focuses on a specific dimension of Ukrainian thought – from literature and art to scholarship and historical memory – examining how imperial narratives have distorted, appropriated, or erased it. Through expert discussions, educational resources, and community engagement, the initiative raises awareness of this colonial legacy, restores rightful attribution to Ukraine, and equips local communities with the knowledge, language, and practical tools needed to continue this work throughout the year.

The 2025 online panel, “Decolonization of Ukrainian Studies,” brought together scholars and advocates to explore how Ukrainian studies programs can be reimagined and strengthened within academic institutions.



scan QR code for more



Nineteen branches (34%) engaged in decolonization activities, focusing primarily on music, visual arts, and literature. Activities included outreach against mislabeling Ukrainian artists as Russian, participation in civic events and film festivals, and researching content at local museums and libraries. Seventeen of those branches engaged in methods described in UNWLA's Decolonization Toolkit, which was updated and published for branch and community use.

2025 EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

UNWLA's scholarship programs form a cornerstone of its educational mission, supporting students in Ukraine and the United States who are advancing Ukrainian knowledge, culture, and identity.

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORSHIP

The Scholarship Sponsorship Program was founded by the UNWLA in 1967 to support disadvantaged Ukrainian Students. In 2025 483 students were sponsored by UNWLA members and branches.

Total funds directed toward scholarships in 2025: \$110,900.



VOVK FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The 2025 Vovk Foundation Scholarship, administered in partnership with UNWLA, was granted to Nazar Kalyniuk in recognition of his outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements. The value of this scholarship is \$4,000. This award has been made possible through the generosity of the Vovk Foundation, which honors the memory of Ivan Vovchuk, a noted scholar and leader in the Ukrainian community, and his son Andrew.

EVA STASZKIW FUND

The 2025 Eva Staszkiw Fund Scholarship was awarded to Anastasiia Pereverten, a Master's Candidate in Eastern European and Central Asian Studies at Harvard University's Davis Center. The annual \$3,000 award honors Eva Staszkiw's legacy by supporting outstanding students pursuing Ukraine-focused studies in the United States.



2025 EDUCATION LITERARY INITIATIVES

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Eighteen branches (nearly 32% of all branches) partnered with local libraries, resulting in 20 libraries accepting Ukrainian books into their active collections. Nine branches reported a total of 253 distinct Ukrainian titles added. Books were introduced in Ukrainian, English, and bilingual editions, for adults, children, and mixed audiences. Sixteen branches engaged in promotional activities, including assisting with library displays, hosting book clubs, distributing flyers, and collaborating with literary experts.



UKRAINIAN BOOK CHALLENGE

In December 2025, UNWLA partnered with the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) and the HUCUS Foundation to launch the Ukrainian Book Challenge — a social-media driven campaign encouraging readers to purchase at least one book in English about Ukraine or by a Ukrainian author. Historian Timothy Snyder endorsed the initiative, noting that every book sold is a vote for Ukrainian culture.



TRANSLATING UKRAINE SUMMER INSTITUTE

UNWLA was a sponsor of the 2025 Translating Ukraine Summer Institute, held July 7–18 at the Ossolineum in Wrocław, Poland. This international program brings together translators, scholars, and educators committed to elevating Ukrainian voices in the global cultural space through high-quality literary and academic translation.



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A Poet in the Times of War: "Becoming a Tree From Which Madness Will Never Gather Fruit"

Oksana Lutsyshyna for UNWLA

setry, along with the documentary prose, became a leading genre of Ukrainian literature during the war. They say that poetry has more in common with philosophy than with fiction. It does not engage in lengthy descriptions but dives into the depths of emotions and ideas instead, and established connection between them. It deals with the untranslatable and verbalizes the ungraspable. The four poets I will talk about in this essay could not be more different as people and as writers. Mikolaj Krzyzowski and Victoria Amelina were killed by enemy fire. Borys Umanetskyi vanished after a mission, and there is still hope that he will return one day. Volodymyr Vuklenko lived under Russian occupation and was tortured and shot by the enemy. Vuklenko and Amelina were soldiers. Umanetskyi and Krzyzowski were part of the armed forces. We owe them all a debt: we must not only remember their times but also read their words.

I was fortunate to call Victoria Amelina my close friend. I met Borys Umanetskyi at a literary festival. I was Facebook friends with Volodymyr Vuklenko for a long time, and read his poems for many years: we interacted a few times. I have never met or spoken with Mikolaj Krzyzowski, but read his poetry since the start of the full-scale invasion. Yet each of them is dear to me, and each of them I will miss for a lifetime. Their poems now are like letters that a family member sent to all of us from the very center of hell – not in order to disturb us, but in order to explain, and describe, and comfort by saying "I am here, and nobody is ever alone."

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

UNWLA featured "A Poet in the Times of War: Becoming a Tree from Which Madness Will Never Gather Fruit" — a special essay written by Ukrainian author Oksana Lutsyshyna for the UNWLA website, highlighting the intersection of literature, resistance, and Ukrainian identity during wartime.

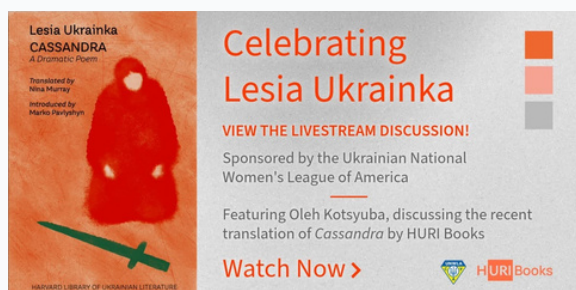


Scan to read
the article

2025 EDUCATION

PRESERVING LESIA UKRAINKA'S HERITAGE: CASSANDRA

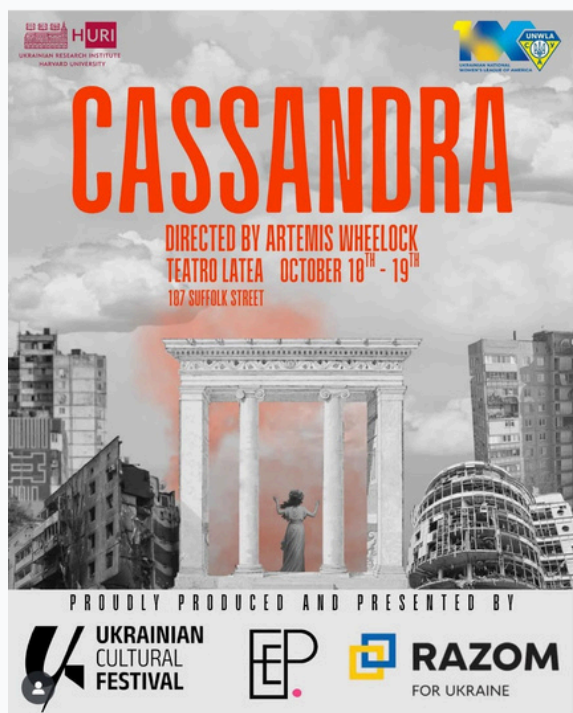
In 2025, UNWLA supported a series of virtual readings and the New York stage production of *Cassandra* by celebrated Ukrainian writer Lesia Ukrainka. Spearheaded by Razom for Ukraine as part of the Ukrainian Cultural Festival: Against the Grain, the project introduced American audiences to one of the most powerful works of Ukrainian modernist literature. The production culminated in the American theatrical premiere of *Cassandra* at Teatro LATEA, bringing Lesia Ukrainka's timeless reflections on truth, war, and moral responsibility to the stage. UNWLA proudly supported the initiative alongside Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, helping amplify Ukrainian culture and literature through contemporary performance and public dialogue.



Live online reading



Reading at the Ukrainian Museum, NYC



Cassandra play at the Ukrainian Cultural Festival, NYC, 2025



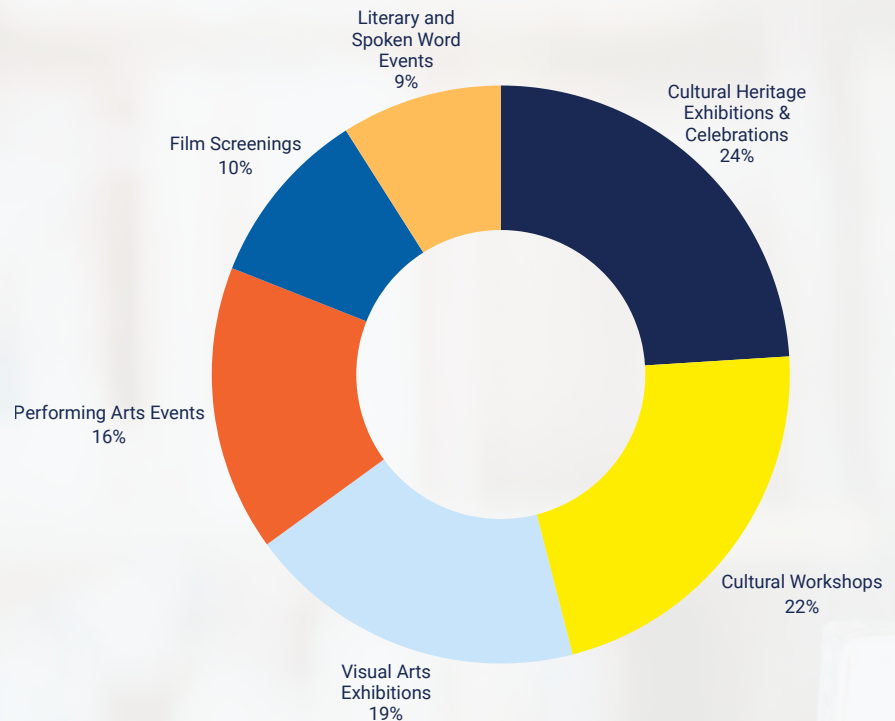
Scan to watch recording of online reading

2025 CULTURE

Ukrainian culture – both its deep heritage and its living, evolving expression – remains central to UNWLA's mission, particularly at a time when it faces ongoing efforts to erase and misrepresent it. In our centennial year, cultural programming became a powerful expression of continuity, resilience, and presence across communities nationwide.

380
CULTURAL
EVENTS

91%
OF BRANCHES
HELD AT LEAST
ONE CULTURAL
EVENT



What changed because of UNWLA:

At a time when Ukrainian culture continues to face erasure and distortion, UNWLA helped bring Ukrainian music, literature, art, and cultural memory into public spaces and communities across the United States. Through performances, exhibitions, literary initiatives, and cultural partnerships, our members ensured that Ukrainian culture was not only preserved, but actively experienced, shared, and celebrated by new audiences around the country.

2025 CULTURE

UKRAINIAN MUSIC COMPETITION AT CARNEGIE HALL

On January 10, 2025, the second annual Gala Concert of the winners of the Second Ukrainian Music Competition in the USA took place in Carnegie Hall, New York City. Young talents from across America – including Ukrainian refugee children – performed works by Ukrainian classical and contemporary composers. The competition, dedicated to conductor Yuriy Kerpatenko – killed by Russian occupiers – celebrates Ukraine's musical heritage while providing a platform for the next generation of musicians to study, perform, and champion Ukrainian music. Roksolana Kit received the grand prize for her performance of Antin Rudnytsky's Piano Sonata. UNWLA prizes were awarded to 12-year-old pianist Ivan Shelest and violinist Angelina Todoriko.



"Today, these young talents prove that music is stronger than any weapon. Their melodies are the voice of our history, resounding even in the hardest times. We thank them for that!"

Natalie Pawlenko,
UNWLA President

2025 CULTURE

KOVALIV LITERARY PRIZE

Through the Kovaliv Prize, established in 1967, UNWLA reaffirmed its enduring commitment to advancing Ukrainian literature and intellectual life. The 2025 laureates were Iya Kiva, who received First Prize in Poetry for *The Laughter of an Extinguished Bonfire*, and Liudmyla Taran, who received First Prize in Prose for *Scandal*. In December, UNWLA hosted an online meeting with the laureates.



PUBLICATION HONORING SAVYNA SYDOROVYCH



UNWLA proudly supported the publication of a book dedicated to Savyna Sydorovych (1895–1972), a distinguished researcher of Ukrainian cultural heritage and pioneer of art education rooted in Ukrainian traditions. The book was presented on November 13, 2025, at Lviv Polytechnic National University, with greetings from UNWLA delivered via Zoom by National Cultural Chair Oksana Piaseckyj.

MUSEUM ENGAGEMENT

Currently, there are 289 dues-paying Ukrainian Museum members across all branches, with 36 branches (64%) having at least one member. In addition, 13 branches collaborated with their local Ukrainian museums or galleries outside NYC.



CULTURAL DECOLONIZATION

The Cultural Committee continues to collaborate with branches and Members-at-Large to inspire community members to take meaningful steps toward reclaiming Ukrainian cultural heritage from Russian influence. The Cultural Decolonization Toolkit remains a valuable resource supporting communities in these ongoing efforts.

2025 SOCIAL WELFARE

Guided by a century-long mission of service to Ukraine and its people, UNWLA has consistently responded to moments of greatest need through humanitarian action. Today, that work continues with urgency—supporting hospitals, caring for children and families, and providing critical assistance to the women defending Ukraine on the front lines.

\$586,416

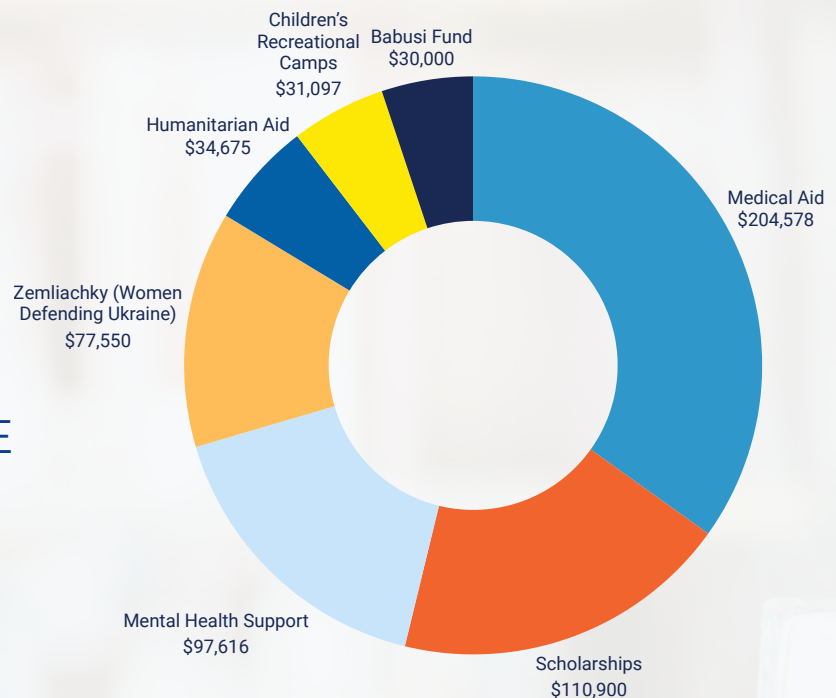
TOTAL
HUMANITARIAN AID
PROVIDED IN 2025

82%

OF BRANCHES
SUPPORTED AT
LEAST ONE
NATIONAL INITIATIVE

104

LOCAL
HUMANITARIAN
INITIATIVES

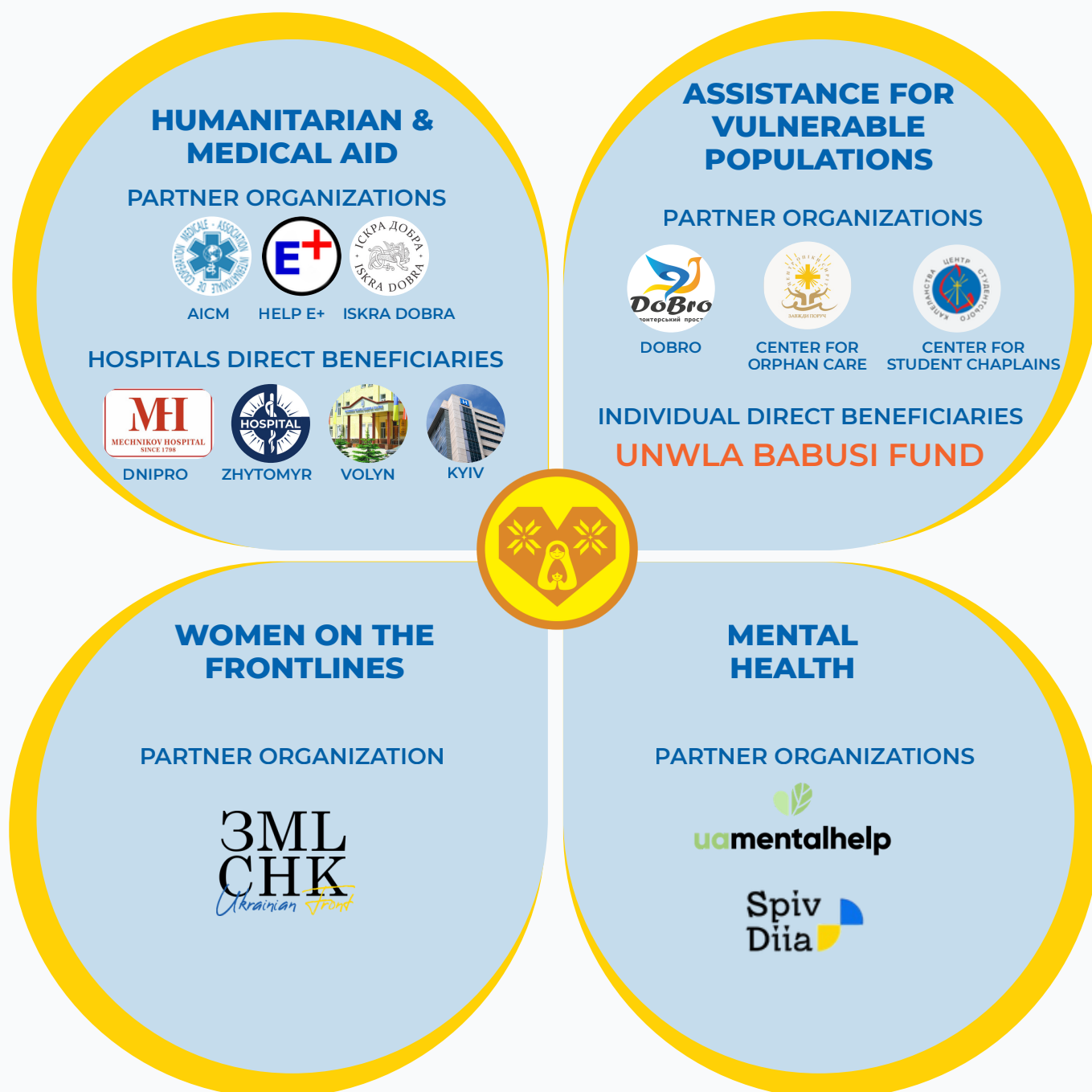


What changed because of UNWLA:

As one of the largest Ukrainian-American grassroots organizations in the United States, UNWLA delivered meaningful, sustained support to women, children, the elderly, and front-line communities at a time of ongoing existential threat to Ukraine's people and future. Through medical aid, mental health programs, humanitarian assistance, and long-standing initiatives such as the Babusi Fund, our members helped meet urgent needs while sustaining dignity, stability, and hope.

2025 SOCIAL WELFARE

UNWLA relies on the network of vetted partners in Ukraine to deliver aid where it is needed the most



2025 SOCIAL WELFARE

MEDICAL AID: \$204,578



DNIPRO



ZHYTOMYR



VOLYN



KYIV

Medical supplies were delivered to hospitals in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, and Dnipro, including contributions toward the purchase and delivery of generators. Through partnerships with AICM, Initiative E+, and Mechnikov Hospital, UNWLA funded purchase of essential supplies including albumin, IFAK kits, blood transfusion kits, wound VAC systems, and external fixators.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT: \$97,616



helped Karina not only develop communication skills — it gave her faith in herself. And when a child believes in themselves, they can achieve anything!



Mental health support has emerged as a critical pillar of UNWLA's long-term response to the war. Russia's ongoing war continues to take a profound toll on the mental health of Ukrainians — both those living under constant threat at home and those forced to seek refuge abroad. In response, UNWLA supports sustainable programs providing professional psychological and psychiatric care to Ukrainian women and children affected by war, displacement, and prolonged trauma.

Through our partnership with UA Mental Help, UNWLA's support in 2025 enabled 2,020 psychological consultations and 87 psychiatric consultations, reaching over 400 women and children across Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora in Europe.

UNWLA's partnership with SpivDiia focuses specifically on children's mental health in Ukraine. In 2025, SpivDiia reported more than 11,000 children receiving mental health support through its programs.

2025 SOCIAL WELFARE



WOMEN DEFENDING UKRAINE: \$77,550

Nearly 70% of branches financially supported the Women on the Front Lines initiative – the most widely supported program across the organization. Funds provided uniforms and other necessities for Ukrainian women serving on the front lines. More than 100 women received specialized uniforms and protective gear through UNWLA's partner in Ukraine. In addition to the UNWLA branches, 2 Regional Councils, and numerous individual donors contributed to this vital program.



HUMANITARIAN AID: \$34,675

Through our partners in Ukraine, UNWLA provided hygiene kits and essential supplies to hospitals and families in need in Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Sumy and other communities heavily affected by the Russian shelling. Thirty-two branches and Regional Councils contributed to these efforts, supplemented by individual donations.



2025 SOCIAL WELFARE

CHILDREN'S RECREATIONAL CAMPS: \$31,097

Over 300 children and families from occupied and front-line communities attended summer and winter camps in Ukraine's Carpathian mountains to rest, recharge, and rediscover joy. In January 2025, a week-long winter camp in Yaremche served 45 families from the Pokrovsk and Zaporizhzhia areas, organized with partners from the Volunteer Center Dobro. Twenty-seven branches contributed, with a Members-at-Large initiated campaign contributing an additional \$10,489.



BABUSI FUND: \$30,000

Established in 1956 to support women once imprisoned by the Soviet regime, this program now provides financial assistance to elderly women across Ukraine. In 2025, stipends were distributed to 300 Ukrainian women during Easter and Christmas. Seventeen branches contributed to this enduring program of care.



HURRICANE RELIEF IN THE U.S.

In late 2024, Hurricanes Helene and Milton tore through Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina, leaving a trail of devastation. The UNWLA responded swiftly, raising \$10,000 to assist those impacted. UNWLA is grateful to Feeding America for their continuous and reliable partnership in helping communities impacted by the hurricanes.





2025 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2025 marked the centennial of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America – a once-in-a-century milestone that galvanized our membership and reenergized our mission. Founded on June 1, 1925, by eight visionary women, UNWLA celebrated 100 years of empowering Ukrainian women, preserving cultural heritage, and fostering community service within the Ukrainian-American diaspora. Our centennial was not only a celebration of the past, but a reaffirmation of UNWLA's role in the century ahead.

CENTENNIAL GALA: LEGACY IN MOTION

On October 19, 2025, UNWLA celebrated its centennial at New York's historic Bohemian National Hall, in the city where the organization was born. The event featured Legacy in Motion, a powerful multimedia performance bringing to life 100 years of courage, sisterhood, and commitment through original storytelling, music, and rare archival imagery. A special message from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised UNWLA's century of solidarity. Ambassador of Ukraine to the U.S. Olga Stefanishyna, Andrii Melnyk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, joined the celebration, as did Orystslava Sydorchuk, President of the Ukrainian Women's League of Ukraine.



2025 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

A CENTURY OF COMMITMENT: THE UNWLA STORY

UNWLA published its landmark centennial history book, *A Century of Commitment: The UNWLA Story (1925–2025)*, by Dr. Martha Kichorowska Kebalo. Generously sponsored by the Orest and Lidia Bilous Family Foundation, the book chronicles UNWLA's remarkable journey from its founding through decades of advocacy, humanitarian aid, and cultural and educational initiatives. A book launch and signing was held at The Ukrainian Museum in New York in September 2025.



2025 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

CENTENNIAL POETRY CONTEST

As part of the centennial celebration, UNWLA organized a National Poetry Contest, inviting members and supporters to reflect on a century of sisterhood, service, cultural preservation, and devotion to Ukraine. The contest became a heartfelt tribute to the enduring spirit of Soyuzianky and UNWLA's century-long legacy of unity, resilience, and commitment to Ukraine.

THREADS OF UNITY QUILT

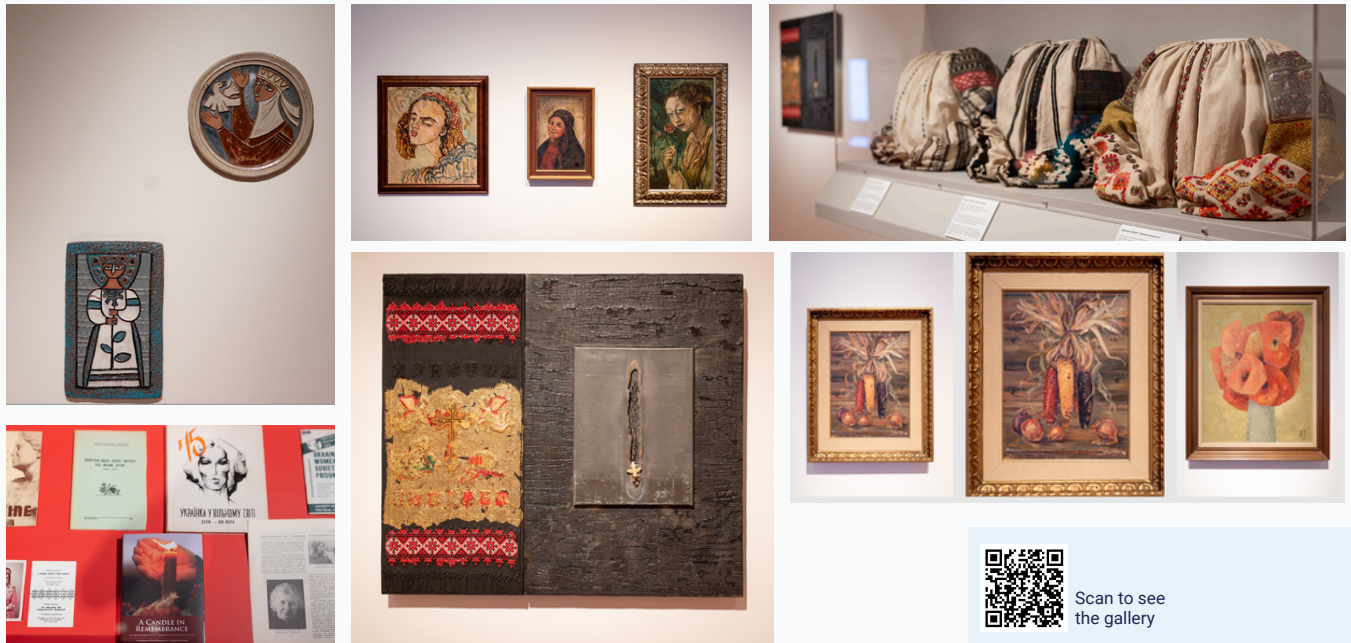
One of the most moving moments at the Centennial Celebration was the unveiling of the Threads of Unity quilt – 101 embroidered squares individually created by UNWLA members, symbolizing connection and sisterhood across generations. Each 8" x 8" square featured Ukrainian embroidery, weaving, or fabric artwork, woven together into a stunning wall hanging. The Threads of Unity Quilt was initiated by Members-at-Large and coordinated by Lisa McDonald, a Member-at-Large from Wyoming, and is now on permanent display in the UNWLA offices at 203 Second Avenue, New York City.



2025 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

THE WREATH

The Wreath: A Century of Ukrainian Women Beyond the Ocean opened at The Ukrainian Museum in New York (September 2025 to January 2026), tracing the legacy of Ukrainian women in the diaspora and highlighting UNWLA's central role in preserving culture, advancing civic engagement, and sustaining community life across generations.



UKRAÏNKY

UKRAÏNKY, a landmark historical and art exhibition organized in collaboration with the Museum of the Ukrainian Diaspora in Kyiv, celebrated the strength and impact of Ukrainian women through both archival materials and contemporary artistic expression, featuring works by 13 Ukrainian-American women artists and underscoring the enduring connection between the diaspora and Ukraine.



2025 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

UKRAINIAN WEEK IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

On February 3, 2025, UNWLA, in collaboration with the Kyiv Public School of Administration, the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, and Zemliachky, hosted the conference “Empowering Legacy and Future of Women-Led Organizations in Ukraine and the U.S.” The event celebrated the history, highlighted the current impact, and explored the future of women-led organizations in both countries, bringing together women civic leaders and NGO representatives.



Scan to read the article

For the occasion, UNWLA and Zemliachky created a visual exhibition “A Brief History Of Ukrainian Women’s Activism.”



Women in Action

1850 Women's emancipation in Europe and the USA took on organizational forms after 1850 when the implementation of democratic reforms did not automatically lead to gender equality. At that time, for the first time in history, women established a number of local and later international organizations aimed at expanding women's civil and political rights and recognizing organized womanhood as a subject of public and political life.





1917-1921 In 1917 and 1921, women's organizations in Ukraine united to form the Union of Ukrainian Women. Milena Rudnytska, leader of the Union in Galicia, used international connections to bring the 1932-1933 Holodomor to the League of Nations' attention.



1925 In June 1925, in New York City, five Ukrainian women's groups came together to create the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.



1948 In 1948, UNWLA became a founding force in establishing the **World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations**, which continues to coordinate the activities of Ukrainian women's organizations worldwide. Its representatives stand alongside Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the UN, keeping the world's attention on Russia's war crimes and Ukraine's fight for justice.



Strength in Unity

Over the past ten years, following the Revolution of Dignity and Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, UNWLA has made significant efforts to increase humanitarian aid deliveries to Ukraine, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations receive assistance amid the horrors of war. Through collaboration with Ukrainian women-centric NGOs and its own legacy initiatives, UNWLA has supported displaced children, single women retirees, hospitals, and women serving on the frontlines. By fostering leadership and resilience, the organization empowers Ukrainian women to be strong leaders and partners in rebuilding their country. UNWLA remains committed to its mission to Advocate, Educate, Cultivate, and Care for Ukraine.



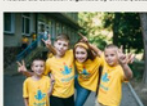
UNWLA members collecting humanitarian help for Ukraine.



Medical aid collection organized by UNWLA, 2022



A Ukrainian female service member in Pokrovsk, who received a female uniform from Zemliachky



Ukrainian children during the recreational camp co-funded by the UNWLA





UNWLA IS A CENTURY STRONG AND
LOOKING FORWARD!

TOGETHER WITH YOU, WE WILL
CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE, EDUCATE,
CULTIVATE, AND CARE, STRENGTHENING
SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE AND BUILDING A
BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO
COME.

