



ADVOCATE, EDUCATE, CULTIVATE AND CARE



**Ukrainian National  
Women's League  
of America, Inc.**

# 2023

*Annual Report*





# ANNUAL REPORT

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UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Natalie Pawlenko



Dear Friends and supporters of Ukraine,

This is the third time we have summarized our yearly accomplishments in such a report, and the second one done under the pressure and constraints of wartime in Ukraine. In times like these, the resiliency and efficacy of any organization are put to the test. Much like for our fellow soyuzianky from the generation of World War II survivors, there is no roadmap to navigate the challenges the full-scale war in Ukraine poses for us nowadays: physical, logistical, emotional, and mental.

What guides us on this road? Unlike many exclusively Ukraine-focused organizations here in the U.S., the UNWLA consists of branches and individual members spread across the country. Their perspectives, experiences, and local initiatives pump blood to the heart of the UNWLA. Their effort, combined with organization-wide committees outreach and initiatives on the national level, generates a sizable positive impact on Ukraine and Ukrainians across the globe. Most importantly, UNWLA cares for Ukraine and its people – and we hope that every page of this report will contribute to illustrating this fact.

*In all four pillars of our activity – advocacy, education, culture, and social welfare – we are guided by an unwavering commitment to advocate for Ukraine, educate the community and the world about this beautiful nation, and promote educational access and Ukrainian culture worldwide.*

Every year, we attempt to gather as complete a picture of our organizational impact as possible, reaching across the states to learn more about the activities and initiatives of our branches. The last year of 2023 has been exceptional in this regard. Along with the traditional reporting done by the branches and regional councils of the UNWLA,

I personally visited nearly all of UNWLA branches, either online or in person, as a part of my own leadership commitment to improve communication, build trust, increase understanding, enhance engagement, and identify leadership at different levels in the organization. Discussing the work done at the national level and hearing about the accomplishments at the local level have made for a robust exchange of information, which I am honored to share in this report.

*Just like our membership is dedicated and diverse in age, background, and locale, our programming continues to connect tradition and innovation. The pages of this report will tell you both the story of the Scholarship Program, which is in its 58th year of operation, and our newest collaboration with a Ukrainian non-profit organization that supplies military uniforms to an unprecedented number of Ukrainian women serving on the frontline.*

In both our long-standing programs and new initiatives, we aim for transparency, accountability, and precision as the longest-standing organization of Ukrainian women in the U.S.

So it is our mission, the dedication of our membership, our legacy, and new initiatives, and the trust of individuals and organizations like you that guide us on this journey. Thank you for your support!

NATALIE PAWLENKO  
President

# UNWLA AT A GLANCE

2023

## MISSION AND VISION

Throughout the years, the mission of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America has been to promote and develop educational and cultural initiatives and provide humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians worldwide.

- preserve Ukrainian national identity and cultural heritage by supporting the research and study of Ukrainian history, literature, art, culture, and traditions;
- inform the public about Ukraine and its culture: Ukrainian history, language, literature, and art, as well as Ukrainian social and national ideals and aspirations;
- provide financial assistance to persons of Ukrainian descent within and outside the U.S., specifically for education and research into Ukrainian history and culture;
- initiate and maintain ties with other Ukrainian organizations, as well as with American and international organizations that have educational and charitable objectives, especially women's organizations;
- support The Ukrainian Museum in New York, founded by the UNWLA;
- participate in Ukrainian, American, and international women's movements.

## CORE VALUES

### Christian Ethics

Guided by Christian principles, we uphold values of compassion, integrity, and justice in all our endeavors.

*Established in 1925, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) is the longest-running and largest Ukrainian women's organization in the United States.*

### Political Non-partizanship

Our organization remains impartial and unbiased, prioritizing the common good over political affiliations.

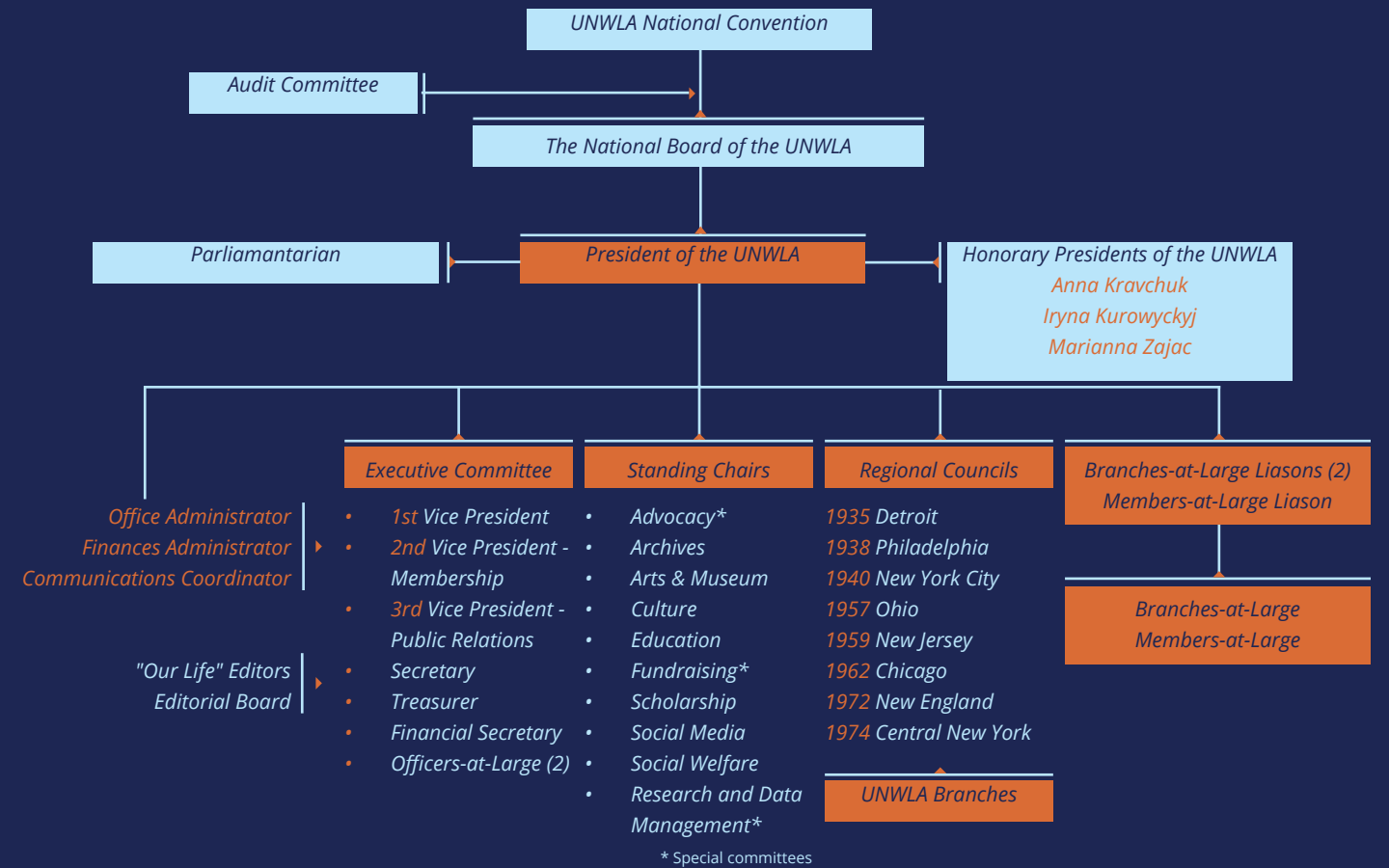
### Religious Tolerance

Embracing diversity, we respect the beliefs and practices of people from all backgrounds, fostering an environment of understanding and acceptance.

### Human Rights

We advocate for the inherent dignity and equality, striving to protect and promote fundamental human rights.

## UNWLA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



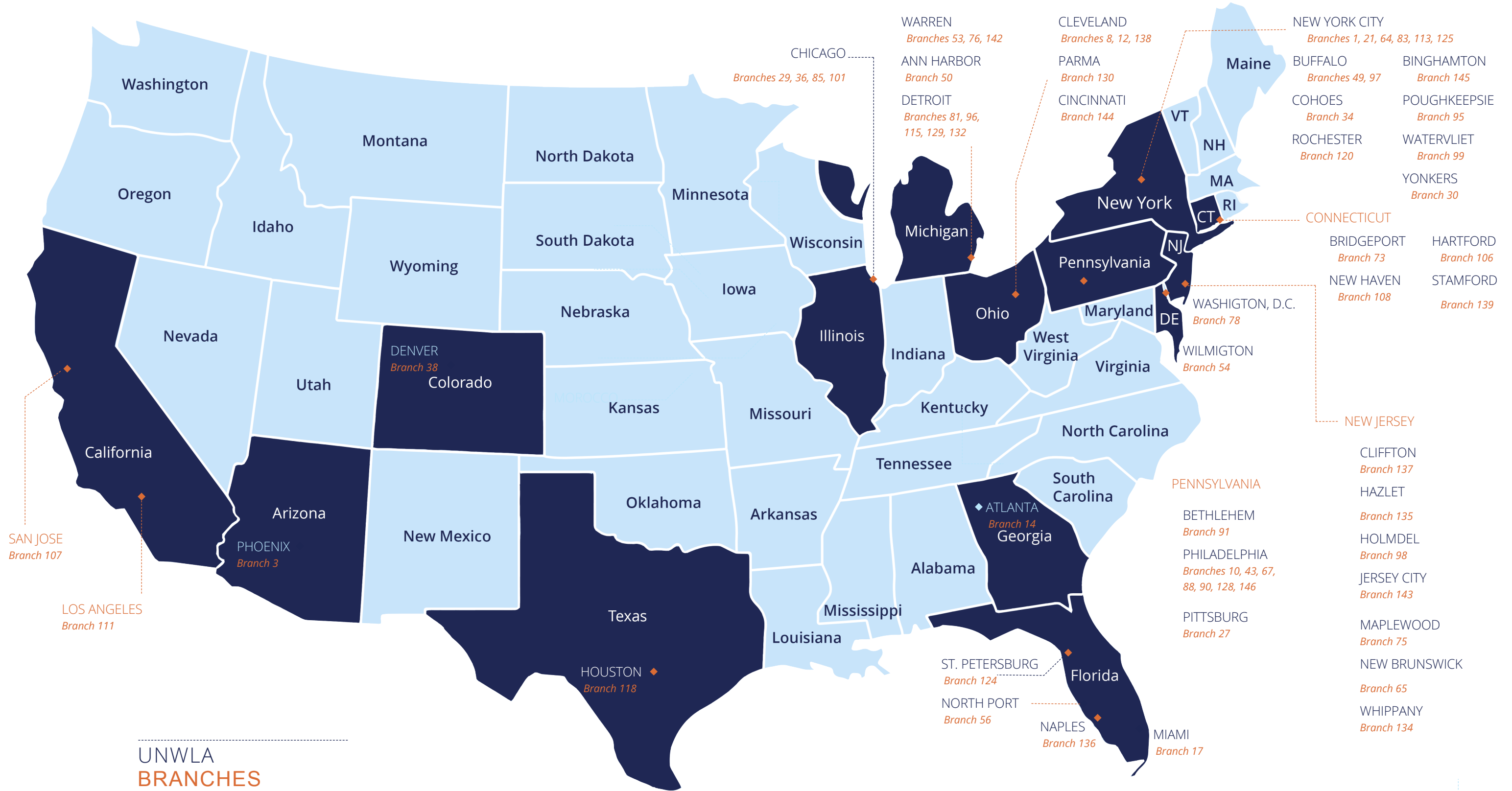
## MEMBERSHIP AT A GLANCE

Membership in the UNWLA is open to any woman eighteen years or older residing in the United States of America who is of Ukrainian descent or who is active in the Ukrainian-American community. Women interested in joining the UNWLA have two types of membership: traditional and membership-at-large.

For each type of membership, the UNWLA offers comprehensive support and guidance. Members meet regularly, advocate, educate, cultivate and care collaboratively, and can serve also as officers, committee chairwomen and members of committees.

Locale is often a deciding factor between traditional and at-large membership. Nevertheless, UNWLA members are united by a common mission, and often collaborate notwithstanding geographical distance.





**UNWLA  
BRANCHES**

◆ Branches in 2023: 64  
Average Growth: 4.7%

◆ Current Branch Members: 1,738  
Average Trend: +22.5%



## MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

### NEW BRANCH 145 IN BINGHAMTON, NY



The new UNWLA sisters, soyuzianky, decided to restart a branch in Binghamton, NY.

Right off the bat, they got to work advocating for Ukraine – they enlisted the support of New York State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo who signed an official proclamation in honor of Ukraine's Independence Day.



### NEW BRANCH 146 IN PHILADELPHIA, PA



The UNWLA has a strong presence in Philadelphia, and a new branch, established at the end of 2023, is a welcomed addition to the UNWLA community. The new UNWLA sisters in Philadelphia began with a caroling season at the offices of elected officials to thank them for their support of Ukraine.



### BRANCH 53, DETROIT, MI, CELEBRATES ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Members of Branch 50 with Natalie Pawlenko (left) holding their honorary certificates for 50 years of membership.

### BRANCH 75 IN MAPLEWOOD, NJ, CELEBRATES ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Members of Branch 75 a gala dinner and dance held on October 21 at the Ukrainian-American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany, N.J.

### BRANCH 17 IN MIAMI, FL, CELEBRATES ITS 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Members of Branch 17 (Miami, FL) with UNWLA President Natalie Pawlenko (left) at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Branch 17 named after Olena Teliha, a notable emigré poet and women rights advocate.

### BRANCH 30 IN YONKERS, NY, CELEBRATES ITS 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Members of Branch 30 (Yonkers, NY) with their esteemed guests at the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Branch 30 named after Lidia Krushelnytska, Ukrainian emigré actress, singer and theatre director. Celebrating their legacy, Branch 30 also received an honorable certificate.



Photo: Oksana Sergeenkova, UNWLA Branch 144 (Cincinnati, OH)  
by Kateryna Klymenko



## A YEAR IN ACTION: ADVOCACY

*Throughout 2023, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America showcased our unwavering commitment to advocacy, remembrance, and cultural appreciation. From the celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day to raising awareness about the Holodomor, UNWLA demonstrated its dedication to serving both the Ukrainian community and fostering meaningful relationships with elected officials.*

The UNWLA Advocacy committee has grown from 10 to at least 40 members, who regularly take part in advocacy meetings and enact our initiatives. And while political advocacy is important, we are also training our members to be advocates in many realms, like education and culture.

### February 2023

- UNWLA joined with Ukrainian World Congress in the “365 Days of Resilience” campaign. We gave members the tools they needed to organize events to commemorate the first anniversary of the full-scale war against Ukraine. Members from California to Florida to New Jersey succeeded in getting proclamations from their local leaders.

- UNWLA Advocacy partnered with SUSTA (Ukrainian American student umbrella organization) and Ukraine Global Scholars to give the students the tools they need to advocate for Ukraine on campus.

### March 2023

- Soyuzyianky participated in the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) “Ukrainian Days” advocacy program from March 8-9th. This advocacy event was an opportunity to meet congressional officers and to promote our immediate concerns for increased security assistance for Ukraine, more sanctions against Russia; designating Russia as a State Sponsor of Terrorism, recognition of the current war and the Holodomor as genocide, recognition of the Wagner Group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).

### April 2023

- As one of the co-organizers of the American Coalition for Ukraine, the UNWLA actively organized the [second Ukraine Action Summit](#), which successfully concluded in Washington, D.C. on April 25, 2023 and gathered over 300 participants from 45 states.



**August 2023**

The advocacy team launched a toolkit to help UNWLA members and leaders to request the proclamation from the local government and organize Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations in their communities.

**October 2023**

UNWLA is a founding member of the American Coalition for Ukraine, and our members are a driving force behind **Ukraine Action Summit** that took place in October 2023. The Summit generated dozens of new co-sponsorships for the bills that the community advocated for, even though legislators were focused on electing a new Speaker of the House.

UNWLA members led four state delegations:

- Marianna Tretiak – Philadelphia;
- Inna Walker – Rhode Island and Connecticut;
- Oksana Bats and Tamara Syby – New Jersey;
- Anna Bereznyak – Texas delegation.

The same month, the UNWLA made a trip to Poland to participate in the **XII Congress of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women Organizations (WFUWO)**. The Congress was an opportunity to both celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WFUWO and to hold the Second International Assembly “Ukrainian Women in the World”, organized by the International Institute for Education, Culture and Diaspora Relations (Lviv, Ukraine).

**November 2023**

UNWLA advocacy effort focused on organizing commemorative events across the United States and educating local communities on the Holodomor. Section “Cultivate” of this report focuses more on our organization's impact on this subject.

**December 2023**

Signs of appreciation, rooted deeply in Ukrainian culture, provide an opportunity to nurture relationships with elected officials' offices – the key to successful advocacy. UNWLA members delivered Christmas-themed thank-you gifts for supporting Ukraine in 2023 to many congressional offices in D.C. Some branches also caroled in the local offices of their elected officials.

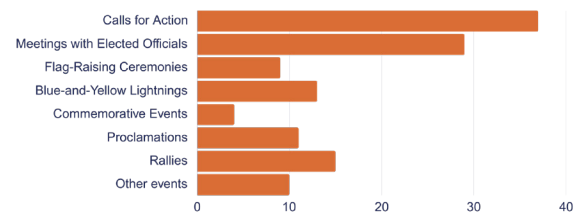


Figure 1. Advocacy events, organized by UNWLA Branches in 2023 (self-reported)



Photos left page. From top to bottom:

Participants rallying in support of Ukraine on the occasion of the first anniversary of russian full-scale invasion.

UNWLA delegates at the WFUWO Congress (from left): Valentyna Tabaka, Natalie Pawlenko, Marianna Zajac

UNWLA members in Pennsylvania with Representative Madeline Gay Scanlon, PA-5.



RETURN UKRAINE'S CHILDREN

In February 2023, the State Department issued a briefing describing the russian abduction of Ukrainian children. On the same day, Yale Conflict Lab issued a detailed report analyzing camps and re-educational programs of Ukrainian children launched by russia. In 2023, in response to the confirmed thousands of cases of illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to russia, UNWLA launched

an advocacy campaign called “Return Ukraine's Children.” It aims to build awareness of the issue and advocate among elected officials to formalize recognition of the crimes by the U.S. government. The official kick-off of the campaign aligned the UN session titled “Gross Human Rights Violations due to the Aggression Against Ukraine” attended by UNWLA members. On February

21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Congresswoman Susan Wild introduced a resolution condemning the illegal abduction of Ukrainian children to the russian federation (H.Res.149,) and on April 17, 2023, Senator Gary Peters introduced the Senate version of the Resolution (S.Res.158.) In November of the same year, House Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Resolution and recommended it for a vote by Congress.

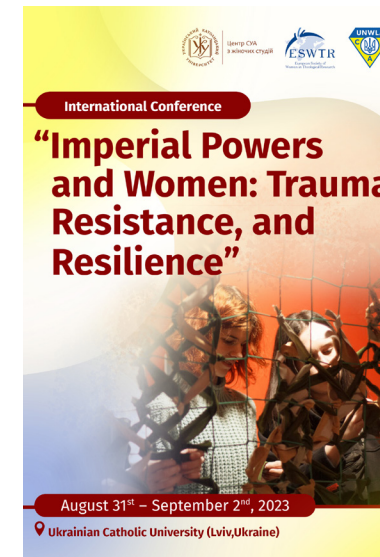






## A YEAR IN ACTION: EDUCATION

*The Ukrainian National Women's League of America continues to invest in educational opportunities in Ukraine, offer scholarships to students and further the knowledge about Ukraine and its people worldwide.*



### IMPERIAL POWERS AND WOMEN

#### Conference Co-sponsorship

Founder of the Women Studies Program at Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine), the UNWLA continues to support women-centric scholarship. The conference "Imperial Powers and Women: Trauma, Resistance and Resilience" explores, among other topics, what religious and spiritual resources women can refer to amidst atrocities.

### 2023 GRANT

#### WOMEN STUDIES PROGRAM

# \$10k

In May 2011, during the XXIX Convention of the UNWLA, it was decided to create a permanent fund of \$100,000 to develop the Women's Studies program at the Ukrainian Catholic University. The program's grand opening took place on September 3, 2012. Since then, the UNWLA Center of Women Studies at UCU is an active hub of scholarship and discussion, focusing on training students, popularizing women's studies, developing joint research and educational projects with global partners, publishing scientific research, and implementing social-conscious projects.

TOTAL  
EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES  
**\$23,470**



# HOLODOMOR

THE GENOCIDE OF THE UKRAINIANS



## A HISTORY WITH SOURCES

VICTORIA A. MALKO

### HOLODOMOR COMMEMORATION

#### Book Co-sponsorship

The year of 2023 marked the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holodomor. Along with organizing many commemorative events across the United States, the UNWLA, together with the Naftali Foundation, co-sponsored the publication of the book *Holodomor, the Genocide of the Ukrainians: A History with Sources (2023)*.

#### About the author

Dr. Victoria A. Malko is a faculty member and founding coordinator of the Holodomor Studies in the Department of History at California State University, Fresno.

### TWO REGIMES

#### Book Co-sponsorship

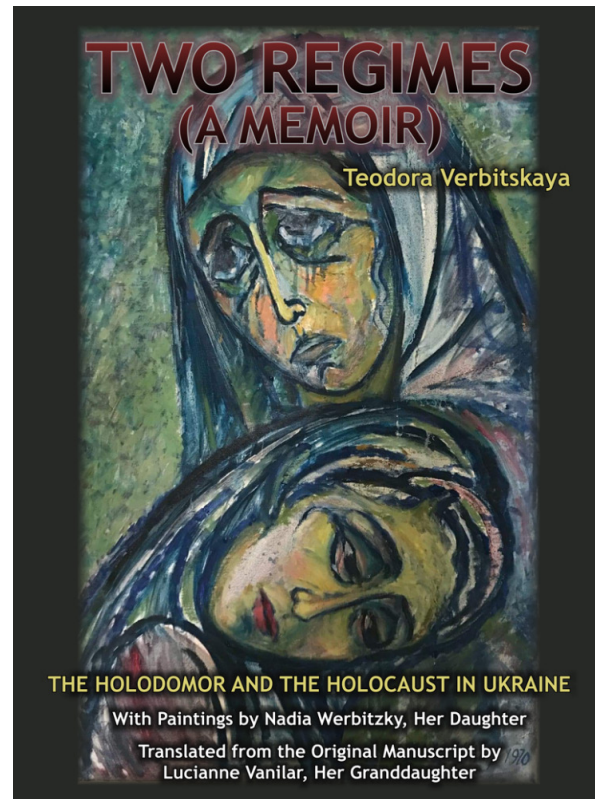
*Two Regimes* is the life's work of two Ukrainian women: a mother, Teodora Verbitskaya, who wrote about her life from 1920 to 1945, and her daughter Nadia Werbitzky, a trained artist.

Witnessing both the Holodomor and the Holocaust in Ukraine, their story hung by a thread until rescued by American women Mimi Shaw and Kelly Bowen. Now, these artifacts have evolved into a valuable educational resource for grades 4-12.

Grants from UNWLA and the Naftali Foundation ensured the publication of the manuscript by Kendall-Hunt Publishing. A copy of the book was hand-delivered and accepted into the library of Yad Vashem in Israel.

#### About the authors

Teodora Verbitskaya, born in 1920, navigated the regimes of Stalin and Hitler in Ukraine. "Two Regimes" is her personal account, complemented by her daughter Nadia Werbitzky's artwork.

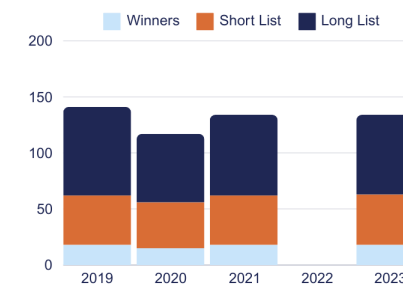


## IN NUMBERS:

# UKRAINIAN NATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVE PROJECTS COMPETITION DEDICATED TO WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

### GROWTH

The annual competition, hosted at Zaporizhzhia National University, has consistently attracted submissions over the years, signaling sustained interest. The momentum was interrupted in 2022 due to the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

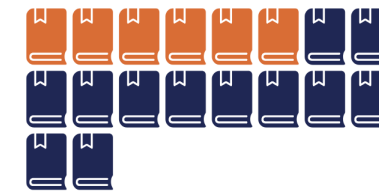


### SELECTION

- Step 1: Submissions**  
Students work with their faculty advisors to produce a creative or research project.
- Step 2: Long List**  
Esteemed experts from literary, theater, and artistic studies convene to judge submissions.
- Step 3: Defense**  
To facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue, the host institution hosts a public projects defense.
- Step 4: Short List**  
Winners are announced based on rating system: first place is given to the projects rated 45-50 points, second - to 40-44, third - 35-44.

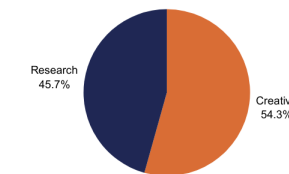
### RECOGNITION

Every year six best works from the short list receive monetary prizes from the UNWLA: \$500 for the first place, \$300 for the second, and \$200 for the third.



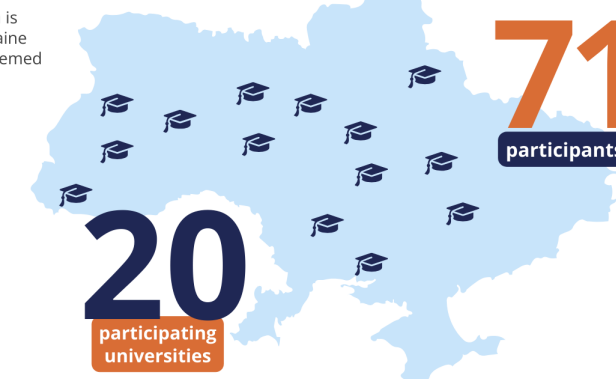
### FOCUS

Every year, students are encouraged to submit creative interpretations of Shakespearean themes or focus on expanding the existing body of scientific research on Shakespeare across different fields. In 2023's long list, creative projects prevailed only slightly.



### SCOPE

The geography of the competition is robust: students from across Ukraine participate in this Shakespeare-themed exchange of research and ideas.





GRADUATE STUDENT AT HARVARD IS SELECTED FOR THE FIRST VOVK FOUNDATION/UNWLA SCHOLARSHIP

**A Ukrainian-American student in the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, has been selected by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) as the first recipient of an inaugural \$4,000 scholarship offered in partnership with the Vovk Scholarship Foundation.**



Photo courtesy of Maria Kulchyckyj.

Maria Kulchyckyj is pursuing a master's degree in public policy at a prestigious school focusing on democratic reform in Ukraine. "I want to use the knowledge gained from graduate studies to join international development teams engaged in reconstructing Ukraine," says Ms. Kulchyckyj. "I strive to be a senior U.S. government advisor to Ukraine and assist Ukraine in becoming a full member of the European Union and other Western alliances."

*The Vovk Foundation/ UNWLA Scholarship award of \$4,000 is granted to persons of Ukrainian descent who have completed their first year at an accredited U.S. university as full-time students and maintain a very high academic standing. It is being offered for the first time in 2023.*

"This is a very challenging scholarship program," affirms UNWLA president Natalie Pawlenko. "It aims to identify and

develop potential leaders of the Ukrainian community in the United States with the appropriate skills to influence government policy. We are very pleased to partner with the Vovk Foundation in this regard."

The Vovk Foundation honors the memory of two patriarchs: Ivan Vovchuk, a noted scholar, writer, and leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), and his son Andrew, an accomplished engineer and technologist. "We are thrilled to partner with such a storied and successful organization as the UNWLA to administer a scholarship program for students of Ukrainian heritage," states Dr. Zenovy S. Wowczuk, Vovk Foundation President. "It is our intention to work in concert with UNWLA to have a permanent endowment that will allow for not only multiple scholarship awards but also highlight the involvement and engagement of students in their heritage and culture."

An active member of the Ukrainian-American community in Washington, D.C., Ms. Kulchyckyj completed her bachelor's degree (magna cum laude) in International and Global Studies and Health: Science, Society and Policy at Brandeis University. Her extensive studies and work experience have provided her with a strong background in public health. Ms. Kulchyckyj has also received honors and awards recognizing her participation in a wide range of activities including data collection for public health research and fund raising. In February 2022, she led an online fundraiser that donated more than \$20,000 to humanitarian aid organizations in Ukraine, including \$2,000 to help a military hospital in Lviv to purchase an X-ray machine.

In addition to the Vovk Foundation/UNWLA scholarship, Ms. Kulchyckyj is a 2023 co-winner of the Eva Staszkiw scholarship, also administered by the UNWLA.

Photo next page:  
Andriyana Baran (left) and Maria Kulchyckyj (right)



THE EVA STASZKIW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

2023 RECIPIENTS

*The American shore welcomed Eva Staszkiw from Europe in 1910. Like many young immigrants before her, she was unable to get a better education, but always valued it and understood how empowering it could be in a young person's life. A devoted Soyuzianka and advocate for educational opportunities, Staszkiw was committed to supporting those who wanted to pursue Ukrainian studies. "We desperately need them now," she was recorded saying. "We need young educated people able to share the truth about Ukraine everywhere." When she died, the UNWLA was honored to receive an endowment to further expand support of Ukrainian studies in the USA.*

Two exceptional women have been selected as recipients of the 2023 UNWLA Eva Staszkiw Memorial Scholarship: Andriyana Baran from Ukraine and Maria Kulchyckyj from the U.S. The winners received a \$3000 award each to support them in their studies.

Andriyana completed her bachelor's degree in Ukrainian Language and Literature at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, followed by a master's degree with a focus on Applied Linguistics. Andriyana is pursuing a language acquisition and culture studies graduate program at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, USA). She has participated in exchange programs and teaching internships in Ukraine and Poland. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and teaching assistantship at the University of Kansas.

Andriyana has discovered that there is "a giant need" to familiarize the world with Ukrainian culture, which has been in the shadow of Russian culture for centuries. Thus, she is focusing more on cultural studies to become an expert who can explain and promote Ukraine to the world. Andriyana describes it best: "I have a goal to become an expert and to speak up, spreading interest in Ukrainian studies and educating people. I believe that I should never stay silent about who I am (Ukrainian), and I should continue to raise awareness about Ukraine, its history and culture anywhere I go."

Maria grew up as an active member of the Ukrainian-American community in Washington, D.C. She completed her bachelor's degree magna cum laude in International and Global Studies and Health: Science, Society, and Policy at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Maria's extensive studies and work experience have provided her with a strong background in public health, and her goal is "to formulate public policy to help people live health-ier, safer, and financially prosperous lives." Maria has received honors and awards for participating in various activities, including data collection for public health research and fundraising. "I am pursuing a master of Public Policy degree to understand better how to spread the benefits of democracy and bring necessary resources to those in need through the making of public policy so that future generations of Ukrainians can live in a more secure, prosperous, and healthier environment."



## UNWLA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Since its inception in 1967, the UNWLA Scholarship Program supported over 5,000 students of Ukrainian descent globally and ensured continuity in their educational pursuits. The success of the program has been made possible through the generous support of the UNWLA, its branches, individual branch members, sponsors, and

In 1993, merely two years after Ukraine had proclaimed its renewed independence, the UNWLA scholarship program was expanded into Kyiv with the help of Soyuz Ukrainok (Ukrainian Women's League) of Ukraine. The scope of the new program was unprecedented, as the UNWLA Scholarship Program aids students of Ukrainian descent globally, from elementary to postgraduate levels. In 2023, 384 scholarships were granted, with 341 to Ukrainian students and 43 to those in Brazil. Recipients, recommended by educators, benefit from the program until the completion of their studies. By expanding its eligibility pool, the UNWLA Scholarship Program lowers the barriers for underinvested students to get the support they need to advance academically.

Operating with a remarkable 15% administrative cost and an all-volunteer committee and leadership, the program sustains its mission through the benevolence of sponsors and benefactors. Many UNWLA Branches regularly sponsor Ukrainian students and hold annual events to raise funds. Thanks to the generous contributions of our individual and branch sponsors, the program completed its 56<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of awarding stipends.

In 2022, for the first time in the program's 57-year history, the UNWLA was forced to suspend payments to students in Ukraine because of Russia's full-scale invasion. However, by late March of 2022, a plan to get funding to students despite the extreme circumstances came into action. As of now, thousands of students have continued their school and university studies with supplies and support from over 1,000 donors over the years.



“

The school year has started here. But we still don't go to school (we study online). There are no lessons because of the air raids. We sit in a shelter and wait for the bombing to stop. But I still study well. I got excellent grades in math and Ukrainian. After my dad got injured, we see him very rarely. He is always in hospitals. Recently, he was fitted with a hearing aid and finally he can hear. But the doctors cannot get all the shrapnel out of his eyes, so he can hardly see. Our life is different than before the war. My mom says we should be grateful for everything we have, and I am grateful to you for helping me. Thank you very much for your help.

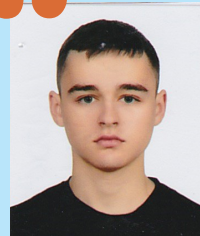
**Milana**

3<sup>rd</sup> grade of primary school Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine

I would like to express my gratitude to you for your financial assistance and support during this difficult time. In fact, no words are enough to fully express my gratitude to you. Since the beginning of the war, my life, as well as the lives of many Kherson residents and all Ukrainians in general, have changed dramatically. Our house in Kherson was destroyed, and fortunately all my relatives survived. Being under occupation for a long time, my parents were forced to leave my home

town of Kherson. After completing the 9th grade remotely, I entered Ivano-Frankivsk school. I am now in my second year, majoring in healthcare. I dream of becoming a surgeon to save the lives of sick people with God's help.

“



**Taras**

2<sup>nd</sup> year of pre-medical program Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine



In 2023, the UNWLA awarded **384** scholarships and organized **101** educational events.

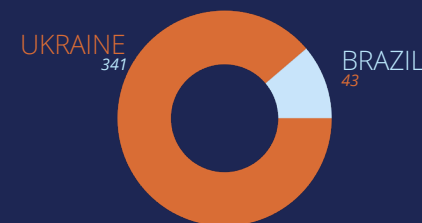


Figure 2. Scholarships distribution between students from Ukraine and Brazil (UNWLA Scholarship Program)



Figure 3. Educational events, organized by UNWLA Branches in 2023 (self-reported)



## A YEAR IN ACTION: CULTURE

*Decolonization, promotion of Ukrainian cinema, screenplays and exhibits were the prominent themes in our culture-focused work in 2023.*

### DECOLONIZATION OF UKRAINIAN CULTURE

UNWLA fully supports Ukraine's decolonization movement and is dedicated to fortifying Ukraine's position both globally and within its borders. To inspire UNWLA members and leadership, Tetyana Filevska, the creative director of the Ukrainian Institute in Kyiv, held a workshop session titled "Decolonization of Ukrainian Culture: Who, When, How."

During the session, Ms. Filevska shared practical approaches to engaging with cultural institutions, tapping into available academic resources on culture via databases

and a wide array of insightful recommendations and strategies to empower this essential decolonization effort.

The "Reclaiming Our Cultural Heritage" toolkit/handbook, subsequently created by the UNWLA in the summer of 2023, provides a guide to Ukrainian culture, including visual arts, music, film, dance, cuisine, and literature, identifying those that have been erroneously portrayed as "russian" and provides pathways to correct misinformation. It is available to the public on the website [unwla.org](http://unwla.org).

### BILINGUAL STAGING OF "HUNGER"

In 1961, Bohdan Boychuk wrote "Hunger," a play about the Holodomor, featuring two characters, Man and Woman, who confront their beliefs amid immense loss. Rediscovered by theatre director Emma Denson in February 2022, the play was adapted into a bilingual performance with literary scholar Maria Rewakowicz, incorporating a previously unstaged prologue ballet.

Denson premiered the adapted play at the Origin First Irish Festival in NYC in October 2022. The project involved a team of Ukrainian artists and featured original music by Virko Baley. Following successful showings at the Irish Arts Center, the Ukrainian Museum, and Mississippi State University, Denson secured funding from the Ukrainian Museum in NYC to stage another reading, using its facilities for rehearsals.

UNWLA contributed financially to advance Denson's vision of developing "Hunger" into a full-length play and bring Ukrainian and American artists together to highlight this historical event.



### CULTURE-FOCUSED BRANCH EVENTS

Type of Event	Count
Book Events	4
Exhibits	32
Festivals	13
Film Screenings and Discussions	6
Performances	11
Social Events	52
Workshops	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136</b>

## PROMOTING UKRAINIAN CINEMA

In a testament to UNWLA's commitment to amplifying Ukrainian voices, the organization issued monetary grants to enable screenings of the two impactful film projects. With a funding of \$2,500, the screening of "A Rising Fury" took place on October 31, 2023, in New York City. This is the second tranche of funding, following the 2022 campaign in support of Ukrainian filmmakers. The documentary chronicles

the journey of a Ukrainian couple from the Maidan protests in 2013 to the frontline of the war following Russia's invasion in 2022. As co-sponsors of the screenings, UNWLA played a pivotal role in bringing this story to audiences, culminating in a thought-provoking Q&A session with producer Lesya Kalynska and Yale History Professor Timothy Snyder, moderated by UNWLA President Natalie Pawlenko.

Additionally, with a financial contribution of \$4,000, our support extended to "Mariupol: Survivors," a poignant documentary capturing the resilience of three women. This film sheds light on the atrocities of the war and the urgent need for justice. By backing projects like these, UNWLA remains steadfast in its mission to promote Ukrainian voices and the truth about the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine.



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA

## SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN MUSEUM

The Ukrainian Museum in New York City proudly showcased two remarkable exhibits, both financially supported by UNWLA. "Lesia Khomenko: Image and Presence" marked Khomenko's inaugural solo museum exhibition in North America, delving into exploration of identity and politics, amidst the backdrop of the Russian war in Ukraine.

Following this, "Maria Prymachenko: Glory to Ukraine" captivated visitors with over 100 masterpieces: paintings, ceramics, embroideries, and children's books. From October 2023 to April 2024, Prymachenko's vibrant creations celebrated Ukrainian heritage and her artistic ingenuity, supported by the unwavering dedication of UNWLA to the Museum.



*Grateful to stand united in cultural preservation at the Ukrainian museum in New York City. Guests from New York City Branches of the UNWLA on a special museum tour, alongside Museum Director Petro Doroshenko (left), celebrating UNWLA's enduring commitment as founders. April 29, 2023.*

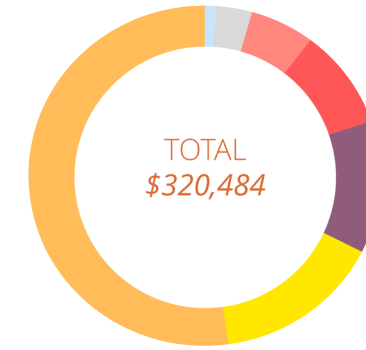


## KEY FIGURES HUMANITARIAN AID

Medical and Non-Medical Impact



“Boxes, pallets, shipments - new words to measure goodwill. Thank you for supporting Ukrainian communities in need!”



### SOCIAL WELFARE EXPENDITURES

- 66.7% Humanitarian Aid
- 19.9% Humanitarian Response to the Kakhovka Dam Disaster
- 15.6% Repair and Re-equipment of 25 Ukrainian Hospitals
- 12% Recreational Camps for Children, Care for Orphans
- 7.8% Pediatric Burn Mission 2023
- 4.4% Financial Support of Ukrainian Elderly Women
- 1.3% Support of Prostir Nadii, Mental Health and Trauma Therapy Center

### MEDICAL AID COMMERCIAL VALUE \$2,440,839 USD

Ukrainian doctors and medical leadership in all our partner hospitals in Ukraine commend the crucial role UNWLA-provided medical aid and supplies have played in helping them treat the influx of patients amidst the ongoing war.

Items delivered	Quantity	Value
Albumin 20% 100 ml	1,355	\$ 1,219,500.00
Blood Analyzer Getein	1	\$ 4,500.00
Water Supply Unit	1	\$ 5,500.00
Duo Canister 800 CC	120	\$ 18,000.00
Part to Blood Analyzer Getein	1	\$ 4,500.00
XLR8+ Y Connector	2,647	\$ 26,470.00
XLR8+ Green Foam Kit Medium	3,150	\$ 267,750.00
XLR8+ Silver Foam Kit Medium	1,200	\$ 180,000.00
XLR8 Canister 800 CC	1,000	\$ 150,000.00
XLR8+ Canister 1100 CC	2,415	\$ 362,250.00
XLRA+ Canister 400 CC	115	\$ 17,250.00
XLR8+ Abdominal Foam Kit	60	\$ 30,000.00
Wound Vac XLR8+ Genadyne	20	\$ 155,119.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,064</b>	<b>\$ 2,440,839.80</b>

- **Albumin** is a vital component in treating critically ill patients, helping stabilize blood volume and support organ function.
- **Wound vac devices** are essential for managing complex wounds, reducing the risk of infection, and expediting healing processes.
- Keeping the supply of **canisters and foam kits** steady enables thousands of patients to receive expedited and effective treatment for gaping wound care.



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA

## SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### PEDIATRIC BURN MISSION 2023

In May 2023, Dr. Fuzaylov, a renowned pediatric burn specialist, led a mission to Poland supported by a \$25,000 grant from the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA). The mission aimed to provide critical care and relief to Ukrainian children affected by burn injuries. Collaborating with medical professionals from different countries, they have brought hope and healing to 19 young lives during this year's mission.

This is not the first mission underwritten by the UNWLA. For over twelve years, the

"Doctors Collaborating to Help Children" (DCTHC) initiative led by Dr. Hennadiy Fuzaylov. Traditionally, the mission took place in Ukraine, but due to the Russian war in Ukraine, it was forced to relocate to Poland. Firstly, it sought to offer specialized medical treatment to Ukrainian children with life-threatening burn injuries, including surgeries, wound care, and rehabilitation. Secondly, it aimed to enhance the knowledge and expertise of the medical staff accompanying the children and their families from Ukraine through training programs and workshops.



*Dr. Fuzaylov with his patients in Poland. Photo by Mandi Wright, Detroit Free Press.*

### \$25,000 GRANT FOR KAKHOVKA DAM DISASTER RELIEF

Devastation caused by the explosion at the Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine left thousands of families homeless not to mention a devastating loss of life. To mitigate the disaster, UNWLA care packages were delivered to survivors. They contained first aid kits, stretchers, hygiene products, water canisters, water filters, purifying tablets, beds and bedding, kerosene and stoves.

### \$31,000 GRANT FOR A FRONT-LINE HYGIENE UNIT

Under combat conditions, Ukrainian defenders need the means for basic comfort and hygiene. Portable facilities can be deployed quickly and easily to different locations as military operations shift and evolve. Oksana Bilozir, Ukrainian artist and musician, was instrumental in facilitating UNWLA humanitarian deliveries to the frontline.



*Running water, boilers and portable laundry machines – all these facilities, packed into a mobile unit, are already providing necessary comforts for combat units at the frontline.*



UNWLA

203 2nd Avenue,  
New York, NY 10003

**Phone**  
212-533-4646

**Fax**  
212-533-5237

**Email**  
office@unwla.org

**Website**  
www.unwla.org