

# **Message from the President**

August 6th, 2008

## **The Chamber's Disaster Relief Fund**

### **Recent Flooding in Western Ukraine**

#### **A Call to Chamber Member Companies and Individuals to Engage and Assist**

Dear Chamber Members,

As you are aware, many parts of Western Ukraine have been recently ravaged by floods which have killed many and displaced even more Ukrainians. This latest natural disaster has closed roads, hospitals and schools, washed away bridges, disrupted electricity and telecommunications services as well as supply routes for food, drinking water, medical supplies and other necessities. More information about the disaster in Ukrainian can be found here: <http://karpatyos.info/>.

Both the Prime Minister and President have sent out appeals to Ukrainians and foreigners alike to help in this time of need.

Many Chamber Members are actively participating in the relief effort by providing both in-kind donations as well as funds to assist in addressing the most urgent and pressing needs such as food, water, medical supplies and tools and equipment for disinfecting buildings. A lot needs to be done and the Chamber, in conjunction with other NGOs as well as the diplomatic and donor community, stands ready to further help in this time of need.

The Chamber is working with the U.S. Embassy to identify needs and coordinate donations of supplies and funds that will be distributed in a timely fashion to those impacted by the disaster.

The Chamber has established a Disaster Relief Fund and all money donated into that fund will be disbursed under the guidance and recommendations of the U.S. Embassy here in Ukraine which currently has a team in Western Ukraine assessing the most urgent needs. The Chamber's Board of Directors CSR Committee will coordinate fund disbursement and PricewaterhouseCoopers will provide a report regarding the utilization of donations within the Chamber's Disaster Relief Fund.

The Chamber is also working with our Members to identify possibilities for them to donate in-kind goods. Examples of needed items include but are not limited to:

- Food items
- Water
- Personal hygiene items
- Medical supplies including vaccinations against hepatitis
- Rubber gloves, disinfectants, scrub brushes, brooms, plastic garbage bags, etc.
- Equipment including: generators, dryers, small bulldozers, etc.
- Construction materials

**Please feel free to contact me directly ([chamber@chamber.ua](mailto:chamber@chamber.ua)) to discuss how**

**your organization can get involved in either donation of funds or through in-kind contributions.**

If your organization is already involved in the disaster relief effort, on behalf of the Chamber and the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian employees and their families among our Membership, we sincerely thank you. Please take a moment and let us know what you are doing so that we will be aware and we will do our best to ensure that your efforts are not unnecessary duplicated.

*The need is great, the Chamber Membership has the necessary resources and we look forward to working with you to do our part as the private sector to help our fellow Ukrainians who are suffering. This difficult situation can turn for the better with your engagement and generosity. Please get involved today.*

Regards,

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