

# Fundacja Happy Kids



## Annual Report 2022

# Contents

<b>Letters from the President and Vice President of the Happy Kids Foundation.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Who we are.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Areas of our work.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Fundacja Happy Kids in numbers.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Activities in Poland.....</b>	<b>6-35</b>
<b>Activities in Ukraine.....</b>	<b>36-40</b>
<b>Acknowledgements.....</b>	<b>41-45</b>

## President's Letter

2022 was a challenging time for us. In addition to the planned activities, a number of completely unforeseen ones arose: the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the evacuation of children from Ukrainian orphanages, and extending support to them in Poland. We took on a huge commitment, but as soon as we learned about Russia's attack on Ukraine and the threat that military action could bring to these defenseless children - we did not hesitate for a moment.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported our work on behalf of Ukrainian wards, from the moment of evacuation until now. Know that all this would have been impossible without your support and commitment.  
Thank you sincerely!

Aleksander Kartasiński, President of Fundacja Happy Kids

## Vice President's Letter

We envisioned 2022 differently at the Happy Kids Foundation. We were prepared for completely different activities, but I am extremely proud that for such unprecedented actions as the need to evacuate and provide support to more than 1,500. Ukrainian children and their Ukrainian caregivers, our organization rose to the occasion.

In addition to the relief efforts for Ukrainian wards, we did not forget about the alumni of our family orphanages and the realization of the goals set for this year. I am glad that we were able to achieve them all.

Thank you for being with us and we can always count on your support.

Ewa Tietaniec, Vice President of Fundacja Happy Kids

# Who we are

## Who we are

The Happy Kids Foundation is a non-profit organization that takes care of abandoned and orphaned children by creating family orphanages for them.



## Our mission

Our mission is to provide equal opportunities for every child to achieve their goals in life, now and in the future.



## Our vision

Our vision is a world in which every child is entitled to the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child and other international standards, treating the child as a subject of human rights.



# The areas of our work

- **Establishment and operation of family orphanages**

For 20 years, we have been committed to safeguarding children deprived of parental care, and we have done so in intimate forms of foster care that are most similar to family forms.

- **Construction of Family Welfare Home**

For wards with disabilities and dysfunctions who are unable to become independent, we are building a Family Welfare Home that will provide a safe haven for them as they enter adulthood.

- **Organization of the Happy Bus holiday campaign**

For the past 12 years, we have been going to Poland during the vacations to provide great fun, entertainment and development for children in rural areas who spend their vacations at home. This would be impossible without our wonderful volunteers.

- **Evacuation and daily support of more than 1,500 Ukrainian foster care children**

The Foundation provides daily support to Ukrainian wards, providing shelter in 14 centers in Poland and helping them meet all their needs.

- **Humanitarian aid to Ukraine**

The Foundation has provided Ukraine with aid in the form of shipments on several occasions: food, cleaning supplies, mattresses or household appliances.

- **Renovations in Ukraine**

In areas of western Ukraine, we are renovating buildings that will shelter more than 1,000 IDPs. More than 500 places are already inhabited.

# Fundacja Happy Kids in numbers

## Foster care in Poland

**21 years of experience**

**17 family orphanages**

**Early 140 wards in family orphanages**

**More than 300 wards in 20 years**

## Evacuations from Ukraine

**2,000 evacuated people**

**78 foster care institutions**

**16 Foundation staff at the border**

**More than 1,000 volunteers involved**

## Ukrainian foster care in Poland

**More than 1,500 Ukrainian foster care children provided with daily support**

**250 caregivers**

**16 Ukrainian centers in Poland**

**More than 70 new employees, including 60 field workers**

## Aid to Ukraine

**1010 places of shelter in buildings renovated in Ukraine**

**More than €1 million in financial and in-kind assistance provided to Ukraine**

**More than 500 inhabited places in renovated buildings**

# Activities in Poland

The year 2022 was full of many challenges, both planned by us and completely unforeseen.

## Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity

We started 2022 by participating in the **30th Finale of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity**. Our wonderful volunteers collected money in several places, including Manufaktura in Łódź, where our School Bus also appeared, providing children with many attractions, as always, and in the Musical Theatre, where a charity auction was organised during the performance of "Climacterium and No More", and one of the auctioned items was a cake prepared by the Foundation.



## Concert for Natalia and Victoria

In February, a charity concert was held at St Mary's Church in Wieruszów, entitled: **"Help to see the future"**, dedicated to the Foundation's charges Natalia and Wiktor, who are struggling with a serious visual impairment of up to 60%. The concert was organised by **Ms Kinga Hudela** - an artist, violinist and, above all, a person with a big heart! We would like to thank **Mr Bartłomiej Dujczyński**, our friend who covers the cost of the girls' treatment!





## Holidays actively spent!

The Foundation's charges spent their holidays actively, taking part in **winter holidays** during which they learned to ski or snowboard.

Children brought up in Family Children's Homes are often burdened with many traumas, so the organisation of free time is one of the most important elements of **therapy**. The winter trips were made possible, among other things, thanks to the **4F Pomaga Foundation**.



## The Princess Ball

We organised a carnival ball for our **Princesses and Knights**, whose special guest was **Karolina Bielawska**- Miss Polonia 2019 (currently Miss World).

With her presence, she fulfilled one of the dreams of our wards and received **a unique crown** as a thank you.



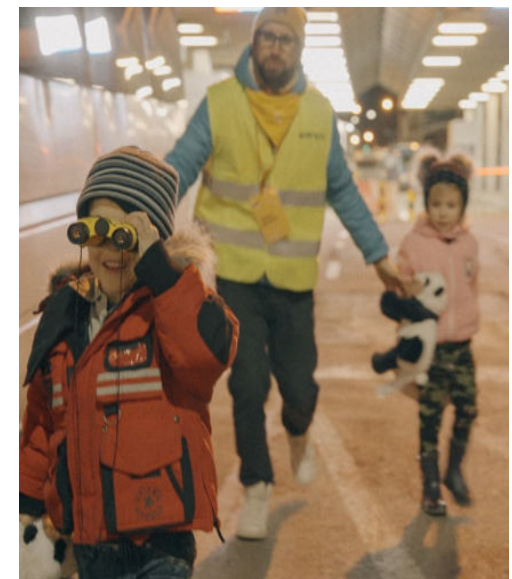


## Outbreak of war in Ukraine

When we learnt of the outbreak of war in Ukraine on **24 February**, we knew that we had to act, because the lives of children, whose welfare is of the utmost importance to us, were at stake. On the very same day, together with **Eurochild**, a children's rights organisation, we started to develop a system of assistance. We were approached by the **Department for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine** as an organisation with many years of experience in foster care issues. Together, we decided to evacuate children from areas affected by or at risk of warfare. The Department for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine prepared the relevant documents for the children with **transfer to a specifically designated place**, so that there would be no confusion of any kind and the evacuation would run as smoothly as possible. This meant that, in addition to organising the evacuation operation, at the same time we were concerned with sourcing places where the evacuated children would be able to live. It depended on we want a stable and reliable partner whom we will ask for support, so we approached the **local**

**government of Łódź** with a request for help. The authorities gave us access to buildings where large children's homes had been located in the past. Another local authority that showed us support was the Pomeranian local authority and private centres, for example in Ossa.

The world's largest sustainable business initiative, the **UN Global Compact Network**, which mobilises private sector actors to provide long-term assistance and responds to ongoing emergencies, has also joined the relief effort.

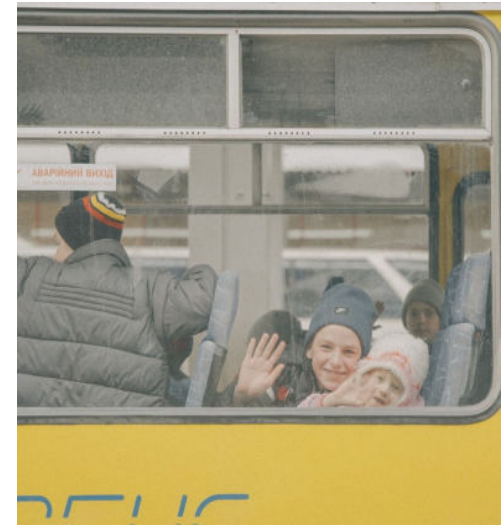


## Evacuation coordination

From 26.02. together with the Mayor of Łódź, **Hanna Zdanowska**, the city authorities, the Department for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the **Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Poland**, we started evacuating children from children's homes and foster care from Ukraine.

The President of the Foundation, Aleksander Kartasinski, received a mandate from the Mayor **to coordinate the evacuation operation**. Thanks to the **support of MPK Łódź Sp. z o.o.**, we set off to the eastern border to help 42 refugees from Ukraine. Among them were 35 children and 7 carers. They settled in the Children's Home on Aleksandrowska Street in Łódź. Overnight, the institution prepared two floors of the house for children aged from one year to teenagers: children's rooms, a living room and a canteen with a dining room.

By then we had received a request to evacuate another 500 orphans from Lviv, Odessa, Khrust, Kherson and other cities.



Subsequent activities followed in an avalanche. By 4 March, we had managed to help **more than 2,000 refugees** from Ukraine. We evacuated children from: Kharkiv, Kherson, Lviv, Odessa and Volhynia. They found a safe space in the Łódzkie, Dolnośląskie, Pomorskie and Lubuskie Voivodeships. A number of organisations supported us during the evacuation by providing means of transport and accommodation.

On 7 March, a particularly challenging evacuation operation took place due to the age of the refugees. At the time, we evacuated more than 150 people from the Kiev region. Among the evacuees were as many as 86 toddlers: about 20 babies and children up to 5 years old. We filled 3 buses, which, with a stop in Belchatow, set off for the Slupsk district in northern Poland. That day we evacuated a total of more than 310 people, including from Zaporozhye and Zhytomyr, as well as 11 dogs. Some of the refugees were sent, among others, to Łódź.

From 1 March to 18 March we were a team of **16 Emergency Response Team members** at the border, during this time we carried out 17 evacuations of children from care with carers and foster parents, rescued mothers with their children. When there were no transports we helped coordinate local refugee assistance centres, worked with local authorities, fire brigade, police, etc., organised transports of medicines across the border.



### Summary

We assisted in the evacuation of more than **2,000 civilians**, including more than **1,500 children** from children's homes and foster care and their caregivers from **78 foster care institutions in Ukraine**, including Kharkiv, Kherson, Lviv, Kyiv, Odessa, Poltava, Zhytomyr. More than **1,000 committed volunteers** supported us in these activities.



## Scale of needs

The scale of the needs arising from our activities was and is enormous:

- **Renting premises**, adapting them to the needs of the residents, providing furniture and textiles, white goods, paying for utilities and the use of the premises, the frequent need for renovations,
- **Clothing**- children often arrived in only winter clothes, the entire wardrobe had to be replaced. Many thanks to **Zalando** and **Smyk** for their support!
- **Cosmetics and cleaning products**- with such a large group of children they wear out almost immediately,
- **Food**- we have children in our care from a few to several years old who have different nutritional needs,
- **Taking out insurance for children and caregivers in case of illness or accident**,
- **Psychological and psychiatric care and support** to help children cope with the trauma of war and having to leave their own country,
- **Transport**- to doctors, rehabilitation, dental appointments,- Medical care, medication, dental care, rehabilitation. We have also taken in children with disabilities and dysfunctions who require rehabilitation, the right equipment for it and special medical care. They have set up a **Mobile Medical**

**Team**, consisting of: a psychologist, paediatrician and paramedic,

- **Education**- books, learning aids and equipment, hiring additional Ukrainian-speaking staff,
- **Organisation of games and entertainment** so that the children spend their time actively and not wasting it thinking about the war,
- **Purchase of cars for the centres** so that they can move around without problems when needed.

## Continuation of distance learning

The children were able to continue their learning remotely thanks to the support we received from **Microsoft**. Thank you!



## Mobile Medical Team

In April, we set up a **Mobile Medical Team** consisting of: a doctor, a psychologist and a paramedic. The team made its debut in a Ukrainian centre in Duszniki-Zdrój, examining **more than 70 children** from children's homes, their carers and Ukrainian families living in the neighbourhood.

The team periodically visits the centres, carrying out regular examinations of the children.



## Magdalena Boczarska and Piotr Adamczyk in a spot for the Happy Kids Foundation

Magdalena Boczarska and Piotr Adamczyk, together with the **Great Hearts Team**, created a spot for us in which they talked about us and the possibilities of supporting us by, among other things, **donating 1% of your tax**.

The spot was created in no time at all, thanks to the personal commitment and sensitivity of those involved in its creation.



## Meeting with Dita Charanzová - Vice-President of the European Parliament

Representatives of the Happy Kids Foundation: Aleksander Kartasiński, Aleksandra K. Wiśniewska, Przemysław Macholak and Łukasz Tomik had the honour of meeting **Ms Dita Charanzová - Vice President of the European Parliament** of the 8th and 9th terms, Czech politician and diplomat. The conversation, which took place in Warsaw, touched on the situation of Ukrainian children from orphanages in Poland, the evacuation processes of the youngest victims of the war, and the provision of aid by the Foundation directly in Ukraine.



## Smile therapy thanks to "Clowns without borders"

We prepared a pleasant surprise for **Ukrainian children** from orphanages who are staying in Łódź and Rawa Mazowiecka - a visit from **Clowns Without Borders from Sweden**. During six shows, the artists provided little and slightly older refugees with a large dose of laughter - much needed in their current difficult life situation.

Clowns without borders is an initiative that brings together volunteers, i.e. professional clowns, acrobats, musicians and other circus artists who perform all over the world for people affected by wars, armed conflicts, natural disasters, while providing them with emotional support through laughter.

Thanks to this visit, kids from Ukrainian orphanages were finally **able to feel like children** and **forget about past experiences for a while**.



## Happy Kids Foundation on Good Morning TVN

We started May 2022 in the studio of Dzień Dobry TVN. The good spirit and also a friend of Happy Kids **Magdalena Boczarska** and the president **Aleksander Kartasiński**, in conversation with the hosts **Małgorzata Ohme** and **Filip Chajzer**, talked about why it is worth helping.

President Kartasinski also talked about what the evacuation of Ukrainian children from orphanages looked like, the current assistance provided to young refugees, the needs and challenges of long-term support for Ukrainian wards.



## All4Kids Charity Race

Charity Race 2022 is the next edition of a charity race based on **fun and sporting competition**.

The bike and run race started on **23 May** and lasted for **7 days**. Teams of 5 people from the companies that joined the race competed against each other and fought to achieve the longest distance. Each kilometre gained by the team was converted into cash in accordance with an established index, which was then credited to the collection account for the educational and development workshops for children in the care of the Joanna Radziwiłł Foundation "**Opiekuńcze Skrzydła**".

Due to the situation in Ukraine, the aim of the campaign was extended to include additional support for our Foundation, which actively **helps evacuated children from Ukrainian orphanages**.

## International Embroidery Day

Since the beginning of the Russian onslaught on Ukraine, the embroidery is more than that - it is **a symbol of one's own identity**, which Ukrainian neighbours are defending against **'Russian denazification'** by making a great sacrifice.

We were delighted to be able to take part in this important celebration and watch our **Ukrainian Friends** proudly display their national shirts. The event was organised on the initiative of director **Galina Jovika** of the staff of one of the Volyn orphanages evacuated to Łódź. Among those invited were the president Alexander Kartasiński and the staff and volunteers of the Happy Kids Foundation.

In Ukraine, the embroidered shirt is part of the folk costume. Ukrainians wear them for **important family** events and religious and even state holidays. Embroidered shirts have so far usually been worn by people of the

patriotic, demonstrating their national affiliation. Nowadays, they are worn by everyone as they have become one of the most important national symbols.

**International Embroidery Day** is celebrated every third Thursday in May.



## Foster Parenting Day

On 31 May, young and old crowded into an open day organised by the Happy Kids Foundation to mark **Foster Parenting Day**. The doors to their home - the Family Children's Home in Zgierz - were opened by **Katarzyna Blar**, a foster mum, as well as the director of the facility and her fantastic family.

Guests at this family event were welcomed by President Aleksander Kartasiński. The event was attended by foster families from the family orphanages of the Happy Kids Foundation, children from the orphanages together with their carers evacuated from Ukraine and currently residing in Łódź, as well as representatives of the **TCC Global Foundation**: Katarzyna Białoń, Joanna Bruś, Kamila Kobiera and Sebastian Knap.

The event was also attended by people not associated with the Foundation who **are considering becoming foster parents**. They had the opportunity to talk directly to the directors of the

family children's homes and the specialised staff of psychologists and educationalists of our Happy Kids Foundation.

The Foundation provided a **number of attractions for the youngest participants of the event**. Inflatables, large-format puzzles, a photo booth and many other attractions awaited them.

In addition, students of the **Academy of Music in Łódź** - **Natalia Darkowska** and **Victoria Yakymchuk** from the class of **Dr Bernadetta Grabias** - prepared a concert of works from the opera and musical repertoire. The artists were accompanied by **Maksymilian Piekarski**, a lecturer at the Academy of Music in Łódź.

### 13th Polish and Ukrainian Children's Home Football Championships

On 5 June, the 13th Polish and Ukrainian Football Championships for Children from Children's Homes took place at the **Hutnik Stadium in Warsaw**.

This year, the Happy Kids Foundation became **co-organisier of the sports and cultural event**, which has been successfully run by the Hope for the World Cup Association for many years. As many as **700 players** from **70 orphanages** - Polish and Ukrainian - played on the Warsaw pitch at the same time. The young players were cheered on by Polish football stars, who also played in the Poland-Ukraine Friendship Match. The tournaments were accompanied by a picnic with attractions for the public.

This year's event was special - not only did a record number of young players take part, but it was also the **first time** that young footballers from Ukraine played their tournament in Poland.

Czesław Michniewicz was the **Guest of Honour** at the Championship, and Dariusz Dziekanowski, Tomasz Kłós, Jacek Krzynówek, Tomasz Jarzębowski, Tomasz Sokołowski and Jarosław Majdan ran onto the pitch during the Friendship Match.



Sternik Szczecin Champion of Poland, Andriievo-Ivanivka 1st Champion of Ukraine - these are the winners of gold medals in the 13th Polish and Ukrainian Children's Home Football Championships. Silver medals were won by the teams Horyzont Kołaczkowo (Poland) and Perlynka (Ukraine), bronze was won by players from the Polish Kutno and Ukrainian team Lider Rowy.



The Children's Fire Brigades Olympics aims to promote the fire brigade formation, Wieruszów and everything connected with the Voluntary Fire Brigade. The event was organised by the Voluntary Fire Brigade of Wieruszów and co-organisers included the **General Board of the Polish Association of Fire Brigades**, the Wieruszów Poviát and the Gmina of Wieruszów.



## Happy Bus sets off for the 12th time in Poland under the slogan: "We all laugh in the same language"

On 2 July, the **12th edition** of the Happy Bus campaign was inaugurated in Łódź at Park na Zdrowiu.

The much-loved attractions awaited the children, namely: buses transformed into figurations, inflatables, mega blocks, face painting, glitter tattoos and colourful hair braids.

Our Happy Buses then set off **across Poland** to bring joy to children in different areas of the country, primarily in small towns and villages. This year, the Happy Bus schedule included **3 routes**: north, south and east.

There were, as usual, plenty of activities for the children and, of course, participation in the **fun was free!**

Everything was overseen by our wonderful volunteers, including international students recruited, among others, in cooperation with the **AISEC Association**.

Thank you **Pepco** for your support in organising this year's Happy Bus!





## We are building a Family Nursing Home in Opatów!

In July, we began construction of a Family Nursing Home for alumni of family foster homes **struggling with disabilities and dysfunctions** that prevent them from becoming independent.

We were inspired by the stories of our charges, such as Damian, Kuba and Paul. When they reached the age of 25, they would have had to be placed in a Nursing Home, which we wanted to prevent because it would have meant losing all the progress they had made up to that point.

We want to create a safe haven for them. A place where they will be cared for and looked after by carers. A place full of warmth, closeness and a family atmosphere. A place that will allow them to maintain the progress they have made so far. Finally, a place where we want to get them **active professionally**, because we know that work is very important to them.

The home will accommodate **8 mentees** and **2 carers**. Each mentee will have their own room, access to a kitchen, bathroom and shared living room. We aim to welcome the first residents as early as **spring 2023**.

The house is being built with material support received from **Wienerberger**.



## Social Active Day 2022 - Vienna Life TUnŻ S.A. Vienna Insurance Group shoulder to shoulder with the Happy Kids Foundation!

Vienna Life TUnŻ S.A. Vienna Insurance Group provided the youngest Ukrainian wards of Happy Kids with a day full of **unforgettable experiences**.

Dozens of the company's employees, as part of employee volunteering, visited the Ossa Conference and Training Centre on 14 July, which is home to the most numerous group of almost **600 evacuated children** with their guardians.

It was there - at the Ossa Hotel - that Vienna Life together with Happy Kids organised this year's "Social Active Day". The day was filled with numerous attractions: the youngest charges of Happy Kids participated in games under the supervision of experienced animators, while older charges were provided with integration, arcade and "time" games.

Our friends from Vienna Life also took care of the catering for the kids. Special food trucks organised for the occasion served delicious treats to the kids: ice cream, lemonade, hot dogs or burgers prepared especially by the kitchen from Ossa.

On that day, everyone was a child - carefree, smiling and with a new - brighter - view of the world. Thank you!



## Birthday of Lodz: Happy Bus on Piotrkowska Street

On the first weekend of August, we celebrated **Łódź's 599th birthday**, which means that there was a lot of fun for the inhabitants. We, too, decided to take part in the celebration by providing entertainment for the youngest participants. The Foundation's Happy Bus stood at 33 Piotrkowska Street on Sunday and, despite the bad weather, brought a lot of fun to the kids.



For visitors to the Happy Bus, wards from orphanages in Ukraine prepared handmade surprises: bracelets, pendants and earrings.

## Meeting of the Happy Kids Foundation Team

On 4 August, at the "Agat" Hotel in Łódź, we had the opportunity - **after many months of intensive work** - to meet the (almost) entire Happy Kids team live!

We travelled from different parts of Poland **to discuss plans for the development** of the Foundation and, above all, to answer the question "what can we additionally do to help even more children?".

The meeting was attended by, among others: Aleksander Kartasiński - President of the Foundation, Radosław Wiśniewski - Founder and Chairman of the Foundation Council, Professor Robert Kozielski - Member of the Foundation Council, representatives of the Board of Directors: Ewa Tietaniec - vice-president, Ewa Seweryńska, Marcin Łuźniak and Przemysław Macholak; directors of family orphanages of the Happy Kids Foundation, representatives of teams working in centres for Ukrainian children, as well as administrative staff and colleagues.



## Nuveen Global volunteers at the Happy Bus stop in Łódź!

As part of employee volunteering, **Nuveen Global volunteers** took part in the Happy Bus stop in Łódź. They decided to join the campaign because they are close to our holiday mission: **every child should spend the summer carefree and having fun**. They also wanted to show support for children from Ukrainian orphanages who had to flee the war.

The Nuveen team was able to see how fantastic and necessary the **Happy Bus holiday project** is. We are delighted that the Happy Kids coordinators and volunteers had the opportunity to meet and work together with the Nuveen volunteers!

Many thanks for this energetic time spent together!

## Summary of the Happy Bus action in Ossa

On 30 August, our three Happy Buses with volunteers parked in Ossa to meet **more than 500 wards from Ukrainian orphanages** who are temporarily staying at the CKS Ossa. Thus, the 12th edition of the Happy Bus under the motto **"We all laugh in the same language"** made history.

This year we visited as many as **42 locations in Poland**. We spent **800 hours with toddlers** and their families. We brought joy to **more than 25 000 children**. The project involved **80 volunteers** from all over the world and more than **50 entities**.

As Ossa was the last place on the map of Happy Bus 2022, the point of the programme could not miss a summary of the project and a gala dinner with the people without whom this project could not take place - the **VOLUNTEERS!** We were all able to reminisce about the beginnings of the action, its progress, small and big successes, interesting meetings

along the route, including with **traveller Michał Leksiński** in Garczyn or **automotive influencer Paweł Młodziejewski**.

Each of the volunteers present received a certificate, as well as a prize for their great work: **a trip to Suntago Water World**.



## First meeting of the Happy Kids Foundation Strategic Board

During the closing ceremony in Ossa, another historic event took place. We inaugurated the Foundation's Strategic Council. In one place we gathered people for whom: the welfare of children is a priority, they want to really help and change the world of children together with us, they know that together we can achieve more. The invitation to join the Council was accepted by:

- \* Kamila Kobiera (TCC global)
- \* Dani Mieloszyk (TCC global)
- \* Małgorzata Rybak - Dowżyk (T-Mobile)
- \* Krzysztof Krawczyk (CVC Capital Partners)
- \* Marta Kowalska (CVC Capital Partners)
- \* Olga Bereza (Wienerberger AG)
- \* Monika Błaszczuk (Wienerberger AG)
- \* Krzysztof Adamski (Donateo)
- \* Beata Morkowska-Krzciuk (Norsk Hydro)
- \* Joanna Tauber (Tauber Promotion)
- \* Jacek Chwedoruk (Rothschild & Co)
- \* Anna Mierzwicka (Rothschild & Co)
- \* Monika Kupiec (Rothschild & Co)



The newly formed **Council** will co-create the work of Children's Aid with us and support us as an advisory voice in important decisions. The business experience of the different sectors is invaluable to us and we very much hope to use it in discussions about our long-term goals and dreams.

At the first meeting of this important opinion-forming body, we addressed the issue of foster care.

We talked about the events of the past months related to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, the evacuation of children from orphanages, helping refugees both in Poland and Ukraine, as well as challenges for the future.

The Foundation was represented by Radosław Wiśniewski - Chairman of the Foundation Council, Aleksander Kartasiński - President of the Foundation, Ewa Tietieniec - Deputy President of the Foundation, Przemysław Macholak, Marcin Łuźniak - members of the Council, as well as employees of the organisation: Agnieszka Zych-Grzelak - coordinator of the centres where Ukrainian children reside, Dominik Hauser - employee of the Mobile Medical Team and Tatiana Fomenko - psychologist.



## Film competition: "Through the keyhole at the Happy Kids Foundation Family Children's Home"

In order to bring home the values of foster care, the Happy Kids Foundation decided to organise **a film competition** entitled "Through the keyhole in a family foster home". The competition was open to the organisation's professional families, and the prize was a week's stay in Italy for the



winning house. The competition was held on 8 September.

The Foundation's wards: were tasked with submitting a short video depicting their 'ordinary day'. The winner was the Foundation's Family Children's Home in Łódź, located on Czahary Street.

Justyna, Jagoda (age 7), Weronika (age 10), Kuba (age 11), Weronika (age 12), Alan (age 14), Oskar (age 13), Radek (age 14), Nikola (age 16) together with their carers: Ania and Marcin Mroczek, went on a trip to Italy in September, sponsored by Rainbow Tours.

The competition jury, in addition to misters: **Rafał Maślak** and **Rafał Jonkisz**, were Ewa Tietaniec (Vice President of the Happy Kids Foundation), Izabela Kartasińska (Happy Kids Foundation), Kamila Basińska (Telewizja Toya), Karolina Gąsiorowska (Rainbow Tours) and the head of the Łódź PR agency Joanna Berlińska.

## **Socially responsible fashion, i.e. the wards of the Happy Kids Foundation in the Top Secret show during the final of "The Look of the Year"**

"The Look Of the Year", which is the oldest and most prestigious modelling competition in the world. It has been looking for new faces to conquer the fashion world for more than three decades. It is held in **50 countries** around the world, including Poland. On 18 September, this year's final of the Polish edition of 'The Look of the Year' took place at the Monopolis in Łódź. Thanks to **Top Secret**, the event, which was the beginning of the careers of many fashion icons, this year took on a completely new and unique dimension. In the show of the brand's new collection on the catwalk, we could see the charges of the Happy Kids Foundation Family Orphanage.

The brand did not stop there. In all Top Secret shops, there were cans at the checkouts - a collection for the Happy Kids Foundation was launched. The funds collected went to help children in and in Ukraine. The company also made its warehouses available.

## **Empowerment housing**

The Happy Kids Foundation has launched an empowerment housing programme for former alumni who are entering adulthood.

The aim of the programme is to support young adults in their transition to **independence**. Young adults are responsible for the accommodation they receive - they are expected to keep it tidy, take care of the equipment and furnishings it contains. The aim is to teach them respect and responsibility for themselves, their possessions and their surroundings.

The residents of the emancipation flats do not bear the costs of their maintenance. These rest with the Foundation. The aim is to help former alumni enter the adult world and focus on their studies (in the case of studies) or work and develop their career path.

## Enormous power in small gestures - collection for the construction of a Family Care Home

Throughout October and November a collection campaign took place in **Auchan shops**. The aim of the collection was to build a Family Welfare Home for children leaving foster care who, because of their disabilities and dysfunctions, are unable to become independent.

The collection could be fed by making **microdonations** when shopping. This was possible thanks to the campaign partner **Donateo**.

Over the course of 2 months, donors supported us with a total of more than **900,000 zł**, bringing us decisively closer to our goal of welcoming the first Family Nursing Home residents as early as spring 2023.

**Thank you!**



**Wybuduj z nami Rodzinny Dom Pomocy Społecznej**

dla Kuby i Pawła oraz innych podopiecznych Fundacji Happy Kids

Przełącz bezpiecznie mikro-datek przy okazji codziennych zakupów:

1. Wybierz zbliżeniową płatność kartą lub smartfonem
2. Zatwierdź zielonym przyciskiem
3. Twoja pomoc trafia bezpośrednio na konto fundacji!

#MocDobrychGestów

Powered by **donateo** **Auchan**

The poster features a red background with a circular inset showing two young boys, one with glasses, smiling. Below them is a close-up of a payment terminal screen displaying 'Kwota: 5,00 zł' and a green 'TAK' button. The text is in white and green, with the Auchan logo at the bottom right.

To encourage Auchan customers to support the collection, every Saturday in October and November, our wonderful volunteers visited Auchan shops with a Happy Kids Zone, designed for children, featuring their favourite attractions.



## 10 weeks of fantastic fun, thanks to the Flying Seagulls!

The Flying Seagulls is a team made up of musicians, clowns, magicians and skilled entertainers. Their main aim is to **restore childhood to children** who have had to give it up too soon as a result of traumatic events.

The project aims to bring joy, smiles and fun to children who are going through a difficult time in their lives. A skilled team of clowns, musicians and entertainers creates a safe environment for them to have fun and laugh despite difficult life circumstances.

The Flying Seagulls visited us in October and for **10 weeks spent time with our Ukrainian charges**, visiting them in centres across Poland.

The Flying Seagulls believe that everyone, regardless of their past or current circumstances, deserves a childhood filled with warm, unforgattable and happy memories of play filled

with warm, unforgettable and happy memories of play filled with unbridled joy. When working with children, they always start the day with play that is suitable for everyone. The ideas are simple and safe, yet full of energy. Through play, children can relax and relive their childhood in a peaceful way.



## International Indoor Football Championships of Children from Children's Homes in Poland

The Polish International Indoor Football Championships for Children from Children's Homes took place in October at the Municipal Sports and Recreation Centre in Warsaw's Bemowo district. The event was organised by **Stowarzzenie Nadzieja na Mundial** under the motto: '**Children against war**'.

Teams from different parts of the world took part in the sporting event: Poland, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Germany, Croatia and Portugal. Our eastern neighbour was bravely represented by children staying in Ossa, who are supported on a daily basis by the Happy Kids Foundation.

The aim of the championship was to show international solidarity and also to appeal to the public to end the war. The event was made possible, thanks to the Biedronka chain of shops, which has been supporting tournaments for more than a decade organised as part of the "**Hope for the World**

## Cup' project.

We are delighted that Happy Kids was a co-organiser of the event and contributed its share to the realisation of this unique event.



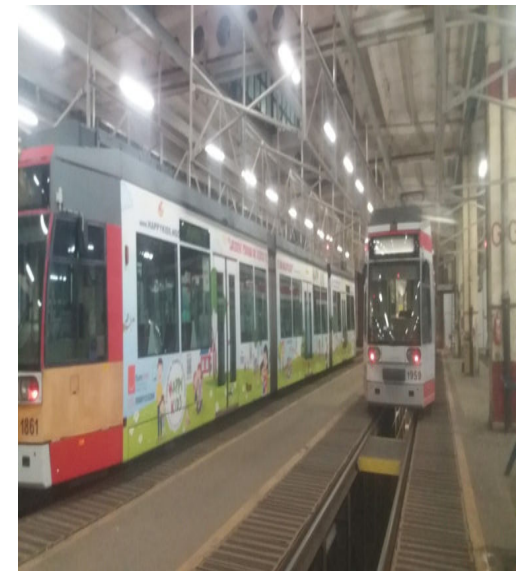
## Joint action by MPK Łódź and Happy Kids Foundation on the occasion of International Children's Rights Day

On 20 November, we celebrated International Children's Rights Day. On this occasion, the Happy Kids Foundation together with **MPK - Łódź sp. z o.o.** planned an action aimed at drawing attention to the subjectivity of children: their rights and the role of adults. The slogan **"Humanity should give children the best it has"** appeared on the tram.

On **International Children's Rights Day**, there was an installation of the advertisement. The branded tram set off on the Łódź tracks a day later and will run on a variable route throughout the year in order to reach as many people as possible with the message. The slogan on the vehicle makes it clear that it is **the responsibility of adults** to ensure that the youngest children are cared for, protected, helped in difficult situations, given opportunities to develop and defended against exploitation.

In addition, Happy Kids volunteers on **23 and 25 November** educated tram passengers about children's rights and talked about the Foundation's activities. Gifts were prepared for the youngest passengers.

It is up to all of us to decide what the world and the future of children will look like!





## Artistic workshops for Ukrainian wards at the Grand Theatre in Łódź

On 20 November, **nearly 100 Ukrainian toddlers** and youngsters evacuated by Happy Kids took part in an art workshop organised by the Łódź Opera.

The workshop was aimed at Ukrainian children (aged 4 to 18) staying in centres in Łódź. The event was held as part of a campaign to help Ukrainian citizens, organised by the Marshal's Office in Łódź.

The youngest had the opportunity to participate in ballet, orchestra, set design and vocal classes.

We are delighted that so many people were involved in organising this **special day** for the children.

The children were delighted with the workshop. Each of the prepared attractions aroused their interest.



We are happy that together with Łódź Opera we could give them so much happiness!

## Every child deserves a dream gift - an unforgettable Santa Claus at the Grand Theatre

On 4 December at the Grand Theatre in Łódź, on the occasion of the performance of **'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'** to the music of **Bogdan Pawłowski**, a special event was held for **800 Polish and Ukrainian children in foster care**. The audience included the wards of the Happy Kids Foundation from Family Children's Homes, but also toddlers from Ukraine evacuated by Happy Kids at the beginning of the war. All under the motto: **"Every child deserves a dream gift"**.

The performance began with the guests being welcomed by the President of the Foundation, Alexander Kartasiński. Then our interpreter Olya Hubka translated the Fairy Teller's speech into Ukrainian so that all the little spectators were introduced to the world of fairy tales. And so we moved on to the main attraction, the performance by dancers and musicians that captivated the entire audience.

At the end of the event, together with DHL Express Poland employees, we handed out gifts straight from Santa to our little guests, because, after all, "every child deserves a dream gift".



## Second Meeting of the Happy Kids Foundation Strategic Board

On 4 December, another meeting of the **Strategic Council of the Happy Kids Foundation** took place. It summarised the Foundation's activities to date for the benefit of Ukrainian children residing in Poland, as well as activities undertaken in Ukraine, i.e. **humanitarian aid** and **renovation of buildings** providing shelter for internally displaced persons.

Marta Gasik, who represents **Microsoft**, has joined the Strategic Council.

We know that with this support we can do anything.  
Thank you for being with us!

## Michał Leksiński wyrusza na Antarktydę

In December, Michal Leksinski, who is a Friend of the Happy Kids Foundation, set off to conquer Antarctica. The aim of Michal's expedition was to climb the Vinson Massif, which is over 4,800 metres above sea level.

This is **7 of the 9 Summits of the Earth**. Michael is climbing them for the charges of the Happy Kids Foundation, as part of the 7 Happy Summits campaign. The traveller is also an ambassador for the Happy Kids Foundation's Family Care Home building campaign.



## All4Kids Christmas Gifts- Father Christmas is on the move!

In December, before Christmas Eve, Father Christmas embarked on **a Christmas tour to visit all the wards of the Happy Kids Foundation.**

With great joy, as every year, the role of the Saint was played by President Alexander Kartasiński, who prepares for it with great care and attention, because he knows that the kids look forward to this special meeting all year round.

In order to get the presents to all the children in time, the chairman was replaced with dignity by Marcin Witczak, an employee of the Foundation. Santa is accompanied this time too by a host of Elves made up of Happy Kids staff and volunteers.

We would like to thank all the companies and their employees for getting involved and giving our wards the presents of their dreams!

## Christmas at Happy Kids!

Christmas 2022 was special because our tables were filled with unexpected guests for whom we opened our hearts and homes. We proved the importance of friendship and caring for those most in need.



We enter the New Year full of hope for a better future and motivated to keep going!



## Activities in Ukraine

In addition to support activities for children in foster care evacuated to Poland after the outbreak of war, we conducted activities in Ukraine. Evacuations and day-to-day support for children were described in the previous chapter. This one will discuss such activities as humanitarian aid and building repairs.

### Agreement with Ukrainian partners for direct aid in war country

During President Kartasiński visit to Ukraine in May, meetings were held with representatives of the authorities of territorial communities in the Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia regions, among others, in order for the Happy Kids Foundation to organize humanitarian aid directly in the country.

This was another important part of the **project to support Ukraine's neighbors**. It focused on modernizing and adapting infrastructure for orphanages, which in the future will house children from war zones and children evacuated from Ukraine to Poland.



The Ukrainian side stressed the need to limit as much as possible the movement of children outside their homeland,

in order to minimize further trauma associated with adaptation to new conditions in a foreign culture. To this end, agreements were signed **between Ukrainian partners** and the **Happy Kids Foundation**.

### **President Kartasiński meeting with Ukrainian Deputy Minister Iryna Vereshchuk**

During a visit to Kiev in November, Alexander Kartasinski, president of the Happy Kids Foundation, met with Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk.

The meeting was also attended by the head of the administrative-military authority and her deputy, both from the Ivano-Frankivsk region - one of the three regions where, the Foundation carries out **repairs to infrastructure for children in foster care**. During the meeting, topics concerning **further support** for our eastern neighbors were discussed.

### **Conference in Ukraine on children staying in Poland**

In December, a conference was held in Ivanofrankivsk under the theme: "**Children of Ukraine in Poland**".

Topics discussed included: problems in care, differences in the care systems of Poland and Ukraine, health, social and education systems, methods of care and legal protection, planning further cooperation between the Happy Kids Foundation and the Ukrainian authorities, proper communication and ideas for implementing provisions.

They also discussed **actions** and **solutions** to support the operation of centers where children from Ukrainian orphanages have found shelter.

The initiator of the meeting was Chairman of the Happy Kids Foundation- Alexander Kartasiński.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of:

- \* The National Social Welfare Service of Ukraine,
- \* The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine,
- \* The Departments of Service in Children's Affairs,
- \* The Ministry of Health Protection of Ukraine,
- \* The Ministry of Education and Science,
- \* The Ministry of Culture and Sports of Ukraine,
- \* The departments of the regional authorities of Kyiv, Zaporzhye, Odessa, Kirovohrad, Volyn, Rivne, Poltava, Cherkassy, Khmelnytskyi,
- \* Municipal and regional military administrations.

The joint conference made it possible to:

- \* summarize the cooperation to date,
- \* identify further priorities and opportunities for the Foundation, regarding support for Ukraine,
- \* define the scope of activities on assistance to Ukrainian children.

The next step is **to develop a joint agreement on further cooperation** between the Happy Kids Foundation and the Ukrainian authorities, which will allow the best possible daily support of Ukrainian children, residing in Poland.



## Summary

We are in constant contact with **the authorities in Kiev**. There is a lot of work ahead of us for Ukrainian children from orphanages staying in Poland and a lot of work in Ukran itself, in the form of further humanitarian aid and building renovation.

## Humanitarian aid

We visited Ukraine several times in 2022, providing support in the form of donations. In total, we donated more **than 200 pallets of products**, including cleaning products, food, mattresses, blankets, bedding, household goods such as washing machines, fridges and microwaves.



However, this was a drop in the ocean of ever-increasing needs. Russia's relentless attacks to **destroy Ukraine's key infrastructure** led to further problems. The lack of electricity was one of the most serious, as it prevented people from heating their homes or flats, lighting them or even charging their phones **to stay in touch with loved ones**.



We passed the autumn and winter period with the challenge of ensuring that our eastern neighbours **survive it**. We organised and donated warm clothing to Ukraine: winter boots and jackets, socks, jumpers, gloves, heat generators, rechargeable torches, pot and wood cookers.

The Ukrainian side also requested **buses**, as theirs were confiscated by the military after the outbreak of war.

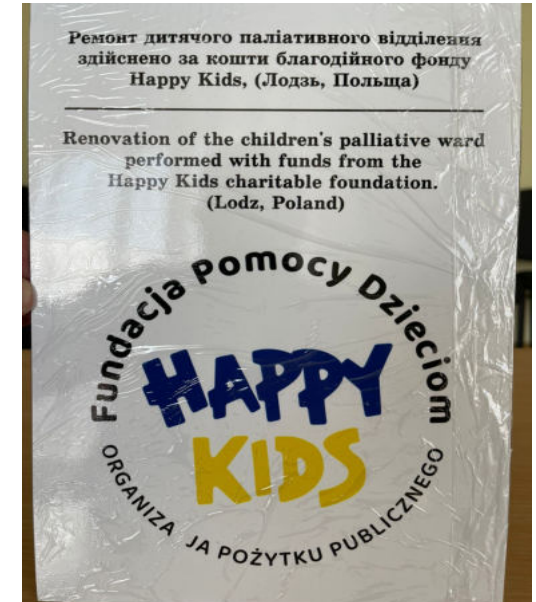


## Building renovations

We have been renovating buildings in safe parts of Ukraine that will provide shelter for more than **1,000 people**. They will house, among others, internal refugees who had to leave their homes because of the hostilities. At the moment, more than **500 people** have found shelter in them, primarily: children from orphanages, mothers with children and senior citizens.



We carried out renovations to **10 centres in 9 localities**, such as Lviv, Vitvitsa, Sadzava, Vynohradiv, Berhomet, Jezupol, Translator, Nadwórna, Kolomyja.



Most of the buildings were in very poor condition and required extensive renovation to make them fit for use.

The cost of these activities exceeded **€1 million**.

# Thank you for being with us!

Effective helping is difficult, helping alone is impossible

## Strategic Council



Hydro



## Humanitarian organizations



# Thank you for being with us!

Effective helping is difficult, helping alone is impossible

## Donors



ALLEN & OVERY



AMBER  
INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP

Baker  
McKenzie.



300  
BRAINS



BREVE®

B/S/H/



Chellaram Foundation



DACHSER



Deloitte.



# Thank you for being with us!

Effective helping is difficult, helping alone is impossible

## Donors





# Thank you for being with us!

Effective helping is difficult, helping alone is impossible

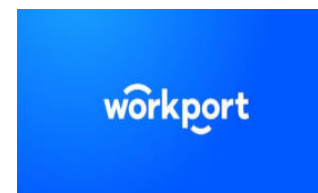
## Donors



# Thank you for being with us!

Effective helping is difficult, helping alone is impossible

## Donors





# Fundacja Happy Kids

**ul. Żniwna 10/14, 94-250 Łódź**

**tel.: +48 695 122 624**

**mail: [biuro@happykids.ngo](mailto:biuro@happykids.ngo)**

**<https://www.happykids.org.pl>**

**KRS: 0000133286**