

July 5, 2021



OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

People of Ukraine Newsletter

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About The People of Ukraine Foundation

The American Foundation “People of Ukraine”. The Foundation was founded in 2016 – established for humanitarian and educational purposes and is qualified as a public charity. We are dedicated to strengthening U.S.- Ukraine bilateral relations and to improving the quality of life of Ukrainian combat veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for freedom.

Meeting with Ambassador Markarova

On June 17, 2021, we were honored to meet with Oksana Markarova, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United States, to discuss projects managed by the American Foundation People of Ukraine. During this very warm and productive meeting we agreed to deepen cooperation on multiple projects that will assist military veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much defending freedom from aggression against the Ukrainian people.



We are in complete agreement with Ambassador Markarova to accelerate our programs to assist Ukrainian veterans and their families to succeed in civilian life after military service. Looking forward to new initiatives and cooperation!

“Among other things, they teach Ukrainian veterans English language and computer literacy.

We planned a lot of mutual work”

-Ambassador Markarova

Left to right: Borys Kremenetskyi, Defense Attaché; Tetyana Shea, President of the People of Ukraine Foundation, Ambassador Oksana Markarova, Vladyslava Bondarenko, Counsellor, Oleksandr Nemchenko, Program Manager of the People of Ukraine Foundation, Ruslan Falkov, Third Secretary

Our Recent Projects

Hire Combat Veterans of Ukraine Initiative

is designed to improve professional qualification skills so that veterans can compete successfully in the local job market. Our Foundation advocates on their behalf for employment opportunities.

Participants: This year our two programs consist of 58 combat veterans, nine of whom have disabilities.



Oleksandr Darmoros- Combat Veteran of Ukraine
(lost sight on both eyes and left leg)
English Language Program Graduate

"I am very thankful to People of Ukraine Foundation for this professional free English Language Course. Also, I would like to thank people, who support this Foundation. It is very important for our veteran community." - Oleksandr Darmoros

English Language Course for Combat Veterans & Families
Ласкаво просимо!

Диалогі & Граматика | Стратегію Швидкого Вивчення Мови | Американські Випадки | Резюме Англійською Мовою & Працевлаштування

People of Ukraine

English Language Course for Combat Veterans and Families

online course since September 2019. Each course duration is 20 weeks and includes 40 lessons.

Each lesson is designed to provide differentiated learning for each specific participant in order to accelerate the learning process as much as possible. For instance, our blind veteran is assisted with a supplementary audio reading book program as well as recorded audio of our classes. Instruction are conducted online using “zoom” video conferencing program, designed for high-quality online meetings with a large number of veterans.

Basic Computer Skills for Combat Veterans and Families

online course aims to develop and improve basic computer literacy. This new skills have application for everyday use as well facilitating resume building and enabling second careers in an office setting. Disabled veterans benefit substantially by acquiring these critical skills to excel in a civilian setting.

Veterans and their families learned the essential computer programs: Word, Excel, Power Point. They also got acquainted with Photoshop and learned how to work with Good Drive. Many of the participants began applying the newly acquired skills in their civil careers and plan to expand their knowledge.

Запрошуємо Ветеранів Війни та їх Родини на Комп'ютерні курси

Курси розраховані на початковий рівень володіння комп'ютером, та мають на меті ознайомити з основними офісними програмами: Word (Ворд), Excel (Ексель), Power Point (Пауер Пойнт) та Photoshop (Фотошоп).

Для участі в курсах наявність комп'ютеру та програм є бажаною, але **не обов'язковою**, якщо є смартфон, або планшет.

Від слухачів потрібні:

- Наявність смартфона або планшета або комп'ютеру, з підключенням до Інтернету
- Одна година часу на тиждень
- Бажання та увага

Після проходження курсів, слухачі будуть розуміти як:

- Підготувати документ у програмі Word та підготувати його до друку
- Працювати з таблицями та основними функціями в програмі Excel
- Створювати презентації в Power Point
- Почати обробляти фотографії за допомогою програми Photoshop

People of Ukraine

Special Thanks to our Sponsors:

Chopivsky Family Foundation and US-Ukraine Business Council! We really appreciate your generous support to help these deserving veterans. Togeth-er we can make a difference in these veterans' lives, strengthen society, and demonstrate gratitude to those who have selflessly served to protect Ukrainian independence!

English language initiative aims to help Ukrainian combat veterans enter civilian life

US-based NGO seeks to empower Ukrainian military personnel with new language and professional skills



Seven years since the outbreak of hostilities with Russia, Ukraine is still coming to terms with the implications of a conflict that has left its mark on many different aspects of contemporary Ukrainian society. One of the most immediate challenges is meeting the medical, psychological, and material needs of a generation of veterans with representatives in virtually every city, town and village across the country.

Ukrainian military veterans transitioning into civilian life often face many difficulties. Research shows that veterans who had an emotionally traumatic experience while serving or those who suffered a serious service-related injury can face particularly significant challenges as they attempt to reintegrate and reengage.

While military service provides veterans with countless skills and opportunities to build their abilities, figuring out how to translate these into profitable employment in civilian life can be a complex and daunting task. For many veterans, the transition process could be improved by focusing and developing broader life skills.

The US non-governmental organization “People of Ukraine” is attempting to tackle this issue with its “Hire Military Veterans of Ukraine Initiative.” The goal of this initiative is to empower Ukrainian military veterans and their spouses to succeed in the civilian workforce, while at the same time recognizing their distinguished contribution to a free and prosperous Ukraine.

Why are these Ukrainian military veterans of value to prospective employers? There are many widely recognized reasons. Ukraine’s veterans often excel at leadership and

teamwork. Military experience produces individuals who work to earn the respect of their peers and understand how to bring people together to pursue common goals. They know how to lead by example as well as through direction, delegation, motivation, and inspiration.

They also often have a range of transferable talents and knowledge. Veterans typically have well developed problem-solving skills and a demonstrated ability to quickly learn new skills and concepts. They offer integrity and understand the importance of accountability in the workplace. In addition to dealing successfully with the standard issues of personal growth, many Ukrainian veterans have also triumphed over great adversity.

While the Ukrainian government provides some benefits for the country’s military veterans, the state does not typically help develop broader life skills such as English language proficiency and basic computer literacy. However, these tools can significantly improve employment prospects.

Because many veterans transition back into the civilian workforce between the ages of 30 to 40, they must acquire or improve their professional qualifications and skills in order to compete successfully on the local job market. With this in mind, the People of Ukraine Foundation has been providing an English language learning program for Ukrainian military veterans since September 2019 using the web-based video conferencing tool Zoom.

Each course duration is 20 weeks, which includes 40 lessons. Lessons are held twice a week, with each lesson including 45 minutes of direct instruction. Education materials are professionally developed, designed, and organized with eye-catching presentation slides for this unique training audience. During each class, additional materials are integrated such as videos, audio books, effective language learning applications, internet programs, and a range of visual tools. Lessons include creative dialogues and various genres of reading materials along with an additional focus on stimulating publications, idioms, and quotes.

Now in its second year, this tailored English language learning program continues to see an increase in participants. The initiative aims to improve participant

communication skills and English language knowledge in order to facilitate their successful transition to civilian careers.

In addition to the English language component, the program has also demonstrated positive results beyond language skills. Many participants report developing greater confidence and poise. Veterans also say the course helps them to better understand the specific requirements to move forward in their transitions to civilian life. Furthermore, the participant network created over "Zoom" facilitates a sense of community that some veterans lack after completing their service.

This year, our English Language Program included 32 military veterans and family members. Some participants had physical disabilities and one was registered blind. Despite these challenges, all proved to be very active, capable, resilient, hardworking and focused people who believe that life continues after demanding military service. The program they completed included resume-building assistance in English, language completion certificates, and advocacy for employment.

With tens of thousands of Ukrainians leaving military

service and seeking to move on with the next stage of their lives, this program is currently in high demand throughout the combat veteran community. There is therefore an urgent need for increased financial support so that it can be expanded to meet demand. More professional language instructors are needed to assist as well as volunteers for conversational practice.

Another important program under development is "Basic Computer Skills for Military Veterans and Families of Ukraine." As the name suggests, this program aims to develop and improve basic computer literacy among Ukrainian military veterans. These new skills have a range of direct applications and everyday uses as well facilitating resume-building and enabling second careers in an office setting.

The foundation seeks support from employers who are interested in hiring deserving veterans. We also welcome sponsors interested in helping to broaden the English language program and support the launch of the new computer literacy initiative.

[Link to the Article in BUSINESS UKRAINE: HERE](#)

Past Activities and Projects

In May 2021, participated in the conference **"Ukraine in Washington and Beyond: Powering Partnerships Through Innovation and Start-Ups"**. Our foundation is a member and active partner of FOUN (Friends of Ukraine Network) in the US-Ukraine Foundation.

US Book Project: Our Foundation is organizing free shipment of 30,000 educational books, fiction and non-fiction literature to Ukraine's schools, orphanages, colleges and libraries. These books were collected with assistance of many US schools, US Department of Education. In Ukraine our sponsor Nova Poshta will deliver books free of charge.

Sonevitskiy's Music Library Donation: Together with US-Ukraine Business Council our Foundation organized a donation and shipment of famous music library (1,500 books and records) from the USA to Lviv Catholic University.

Upcoming Project

Veteran Entrepreneurship and Start-up Program

Business management and financial planning skills will be taught by American and Ukrainian business experts. This program will also help in networking and creating a community of veteran entrepreneurs, while advocating for their interest and needs.

These programs are in high demand throughout the combat veteran community. Therefore, there is an urgent need for increased financial support so that it can be expanded to meet the demand of those who have sacrificed so much for their country. **Your donations are truly needed and appreciated.**

Please **donate** [HERE](#):

Contact us:

Email: people.of.ukraine@verizon.net

