



Annual Report



2023



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President's Letter

As 2023 came to a close, the war in Gaza raged on as millions of Palestinian civilians were displaced, unhoused, hungry, injured or killed. Millions of Ukrainian civilians were still refugees or remained in harms way as violence from the Russian invasion continued. Hawaii still reeled from the horrific wildfire that swept through Maui. The rubble remained at the Turkey-Syrian border from the catastrophic earthquake that struck in the beginning of the year. These events - and a myriad more - can cast a pall of hopelessness on our activities and certainly make writing this end-of-year letter highlighting our achievements difficult.

But at this distressful moment I am reminded of these words by Martin Luther King, Jr.

“With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.”

Success is often borne from disappointment, King reminds us, and only through our constant and vigilant struggle can we push through this disappointment to overcome these challenges and find the hope - and the peace - that all of us deserve.


In the following pages of this 2023 Annual Report, you'll read of some of the activities and programs that Operation USA undertook this past year. You'll see highlighted many of our tireless partners and our steadfast supporters. And you'll appreciate some of the issues that OpUSA, a now 44 year old professional humanitarian aid agency, continues to tackle.

But make no mistake: tackling these issues is not for the “professionals” only.


We all as human beings bear responsibility to help those in need, to provide for those in distress and to do our part - great and small - in making our world better. We are all humanitarians and you, dear supporter, through the simplest act of reading this report, have accepted this responsibility.

Together, we do our part to make our world hopeful. And together, we are indeed stones of hope hewed from such desperate mountains.

We thank you for your continued support and we thank you for being a humanitarian.



Richard Walden
President & CEO



Michael Mahdesian
Board Chair



Ukraine War at 2 Years

2023 marked the second year of Russia's invasion into Ukraine – a calamitous war that continues to devastate Ukrainian civilians. As the year ended, the United Nations estimated that nearly 10,000 civilians have been killed and almost 18,000 injured. Approximately 6 million Ukrainian refugees have been recorded throughout Europe and another 3.7 million remained internally displaced within Ukraine.

Russian forces have targeted hospitals, schools and other civilian infrastructure. Widespread accounts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the mass abduction of children prompted the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant for Putin. In total, the UN estimates over 14 million Ukrainians were in need of humanitarian assistance by year's end.

At the very onset of the war, OpUSA mobilized our resources, worked with our donors and quickly supported aid groups helping Ukrainian civilians. This past year saw us deepening our commitment to our partners on the ground that are serving the needs of Ukrainian people .

With the continuing commitment of our many donors, corporate partners, and foundations, OpUSA was able to provide the aid so desperately needed. And only through the dedication and bravery of our non-profit partners working in Ukraine were we able to meet the humanitarian needs of thousands of civilians throughout Ukraine by ensuring aid was delivered efficiently and effectively, even under these extreme circumstances.

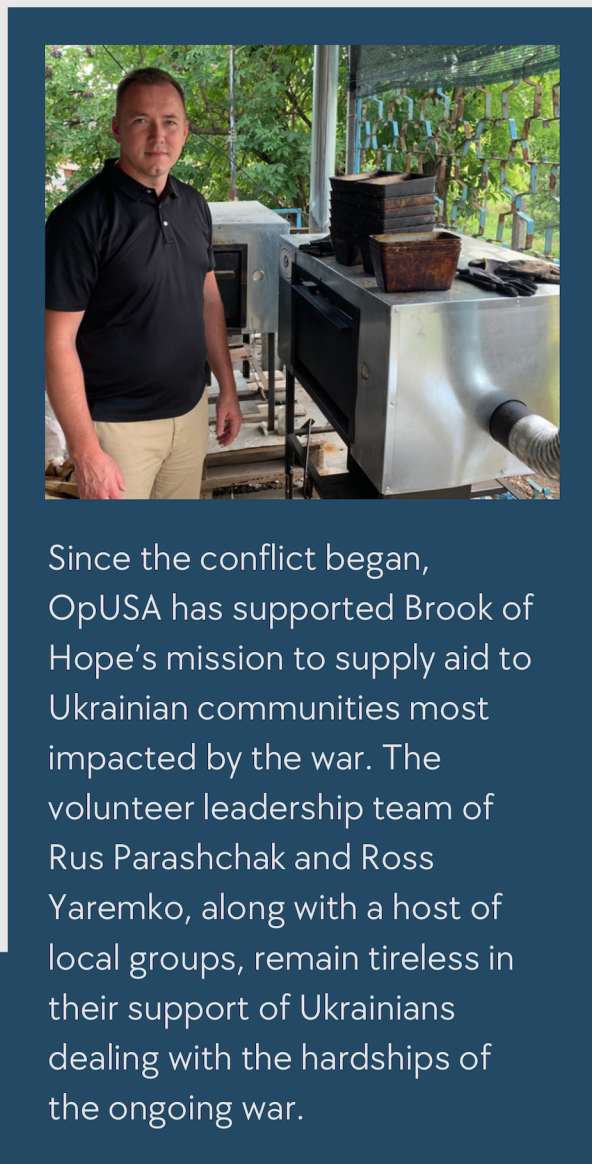
The end of 2023 did not bring an end to the war but with the continuing support of our donors and the steadfast work of our partners, OpUSA remains firmly committed to helping Ukraine for as long as this humanitarian crisis lasts.



Since the beginning of the war, OpUSA has granted over \$1M to programs that feed and heal, that house and rebuild, that educate and support thousands.

This year we granted **\$415,000** to groups providing health, shelter, education and food to hard hit communities throughout Ukraine.

Partner Spotlight: **Brook of Hope**



Since the conflict began, OpUSA has supported Brook of Hope's mission to supply aid to Ukrainian communities most impacted by the war. The volunteer leadership team of Rus Parashchak and Ross Yaremko, along with a host of local groups, remain tireless in their support of Ukrainians dealing with the hardships of the ongoing war.



Turkey-Syria Earthquake

On February 6, 2023, a devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Turkey, causing widespread death and destruction throughout both Turkey and neighboring Syria. The quake, one of the deadliest in the region's modern history, caused a staggering 50,000 deaths in Turkey and 6000 in Syria. Many more were seriously injured or made homeless and millions of people—many of whom were already vulnerable after years of conflict—were directly affected.

Operation USA quickly sent shipments of several tons of supplies for distribution to impacted communities. Additionally, through the generosity of individual donors and corporate partners like Honeywell, we made cash grants to community-based partners aiding affected families in both Turkey and Syria.

In response, we granted \$325,000 to groups aiding Turkish and Syrian communities, including:

- Karam Foundation
- Support to Life
- Mavi Kalem
- People in Need
- AHBAP Turkey
- Yanindayziz Derneği



Maui Wildfires

In August of 2023, wildfires overtook the Hawaiian island of Maui, destroying homes and businesses, killing and injuring thousands and displacing thousands more.

Operation USA sent multiple shipments of emergency supplies including work boots, tents, diapers, drinking water, clothes, and baby formula and more.

Additionally in support of the many displaced, OpUSA's relief and recovery efforts also included cash grants to local Hawaiian-based organizations dedicated to the recovery of their hardest-hit communities.

Nagorno- Karabakh

In September, Azerbaijan invaded the independent republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, forcing the mass evacuation of 100,000 ethnic Armenians from the republic into Armenia.



This exodus led to severe shortages of food and water as well as inadequate healthcare. While this event remained largely out of the media, OpUSA responded with a cash grant to aid the humanitarian needs of the Armenian refugees. As always, we remain guided not by the news coverage but by the humanitarian needs on the ground.



Gaza

At the end of 2023, the war in Gaza had raged for nearly 3 months and the toll on civilians has been horrific. During that time, over 20,000 Palestinians in Gaza were killed and over 50,000 injured. Over 1.9 million - upwards of 85 percent of the population - had been displaced and 500,000 faced starvation. Sadly, those numbers have only grown. These statistics – as bleak as they are – do not begin to convey the horror of the situation for the millions of civilians trapped in the territory.

With infrastructure destroyed, sanitation decimated and diseases rampant, the conditions for civilians in Gaza are nothing short of “inhumane,” according to the World Health Organization.

The protection and provision of care to civilians is more than just a requirement under the Geneva Conventions – it is a moral imperative.

Operation USA is a humanitarian aid agency, guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Like our colleagues, we exist to help those suffering through emergencies. And like our colleagues, we call for an end to the attacks on medical facilities and civilian targets, the establishment of a legitimate humanitarian corridor, a ceasefire and a path towards peace.

As of this report, this call tragically has gone ignored.



2023 was yet another busy year for Operation USA's In-Kind program. **We shipped nearly \$2.4M of donated supplies across 4 continents** in response to floods, fires, earthquakes, political strife and war. We partnered with community organizations and INGO's working on the frontline.

Internationally, we continued our material aid support in Ukraine, working with trusted partners to provide Ukrainian civilians with much needed food, clothing and medical supplies throughout the year. We provided essential medical and surgical material to Turkish and Syrian communities devastated by the earthquake in February. We also supported at-risk communities throughout Central America through the delivery of women's and children's clothing and other supplies via our longtime nonprofit partners El Salvador Foundation and El Piche.

In the United States, we shipped over half a million dollars of shelter, cleanup, and infant supplies - including baby formula, wipes and diapers to the communities devastated by the Maui wildfires in August. Our long-time partner Honeywell donated thousands of pairs of workboots to help in the ongoing cleanup efforts. We also continued our COVID prevention efforts by distributing Lysol wipes to community partners throughout California. This program - still very much relevant - was made possible through our partnership with manufacturer Reckitt and USC's Institute on Inequalities in Global Health and Keck School of Medicine.



Partners

Operation USA is extremely proud to recognize the many groups we partnered with this year.

- Ahbap
- Airlink
- Amity Foundation
- Asian Pacific Counseling & Treatment Centers
- Brook of Hope
- Cambodia Health Care Professionals of America
- Casa De Migrante
- Catholic Charities Santa Rosa
- City of West Hollywood
- Comite Salvadoreno El Piche
- Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County
- COPE
- Corazon Healdsburg
- Culver City School District
- Delancy Street
- El Proyecto Del Barrio
- El Salvador Foundation
- Father Francis Jeyasegaram
- Gang Alternative Program
- Honeywell Hometown Solutions
- ILWU
- Kaiser Permanente
- Karam Foundation
- Krakow Food Bank
- La Luz Center
- Miami Diaper Bank
- Mavi Kalem

- Ninos en Alegria
- Nuestra Comunidad
- Outright International
- People in Need
- Port of Los Angeles
- Por Un San Lorenzo Mejor
- Reach for Home
- Roads
- RJC Foundation
- Universal Health Foundation
- White Pony Express
- Yanindayiz Dernegi



2023 Major Contributors

We are only as strong as our supporters! We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, corporations, foundations and groups that supported us throughout 2023.

Individuals

Parker Andrews	Gerard and Paige	Christine and Jamie
Karen Apwah	Fassig	Langowski
Karen Bakken	Jane Ferrero	Gary Larsen
Rephah Berg	Jeff Franklin	Thomas Lehrer
Allen Bollinger	John Fries	Steve Levitan
Fred Braddock	Cameron Geddes	Sheri Lytle
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Kai Buehler	Susan Hagen	Michael and Jessica
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Jonathan Estrin	Linda Fassig-Knauer	Jeffrey Punim
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Thomas Chatt and
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John and Ruth
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Roger and Evelyn
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and Stephen
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John Tombs
Michael Vogl
Ricardo and Janet
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John Yoder
Kimberly Zimmerman

Corporations, Foundations and Groups

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Foundation of America
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of New Jersey
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Anna Kolber

Yike Li

Ake Lu

Thomas Mackinnon

Mary Marzluf

Laura McCreary

Manuel Melendez

James Oldknow

Ronald Powell

Stephen Richards

Lucy Stanley

Joe Sullivan

Pavana Tiriveedhi

Jason Togyer

Kyle Travis

Alexander Veale

Chris Wichtendahl

Carol Wilcox

Cathynn Wilkinson



Special Thanks

The following were instrumental in providing us the support, guidance and partnership for us to meet our mission in 2023.

Julie Andrews
Mayor Karen Bass and Staff
The California Endowment
Ambassador Eric Garcetti
Tracy Gordon

The Mahdesian Family
Sanjay Srinivasan
Heidy V. Torres
Volant Charitable Trust



Statement of Financial Position

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	WITH DONOR RESTRICTION	TOTAL
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	890,698	1,306,851	2,197,549
Inventory	624,371	-	624,371
Total Current Assets	1,515,069	1,306,851	2,821,920
Operating lease right of use assets	106,871	-	106,871
Deposits	6,931	-	6,931
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,628,871	\$1,306,851	\$2,935,722
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	32,285	-	32,285
Operating lease obligations - current	92,273	-	92,273
Total current Liabilities	124,558	-	124,558
Operating lease obligations	15,888	-	15,888
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$140,446	-	\$140,446
NET ASSETS			
Without donor restrictions	1,488,425	-	1,488,425
With donor restrictions	-	1,306,851	1,306,851
Total net assets	1,488,425	1,306,851	2,795,276
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,628,871	\$1,306,851	\$2,935,722

Statement of Activities

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	WITH DONOR RESTRICTION	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUES			
<i>Support</i>			
Contributions	477,794	885,665	1,363,459
In-kind donations	360,000	5,366,725	5,726,725
Total support	837,794	6,252,390	7,090,184
<i>Investment Return</i>	21,327	-	21,327
<i>Net assets released from donor restrictions</i>			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	7,194,679	(7,194,679)	
Total net assets released from donor restrictions	7,194,679	(7,194,679)	
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$8,053,800	(\$942,289)	\$7,111,511
OPERATING EXPENSES			
<i>Program Services</i>			
Philanthropy	10,422,206	-	10,422,206
<i>Supporting Services</i>			
Management and General	192,437	-	192,437
Fund Raising	95,026	-	95,026
Total supporting services	287,463	-	287,463
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,709,669	-	\$10,709,669
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(2,655,869)	-(942,289)	(3,598,158)
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	4,144,294	2,249,140	6,393,434
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$1,488,425	\$1,306,851	\$2,795,276

Our Staff

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Richard Walden*

Skip Whitney

Julie Yannatta *

** Managing Board member*

Our Mission

Operation USA supports health and education programs in order to help children and families at home and abroad recover from disasters and endemic poverty.



Our Commitment



Every day, we strive to meet the needs of under-served and overlooked populations. Working with partners around the world, we empower communities to recover, build resiliency and thrive in the face of pervasive obstacles during a time of unprecedented global need.



Operation USA

give and it gets there

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