

My Support for Ukraine

A Little About Me

- My parents are teachers who met and married in the Peace Corps in 1962 and spent their careers working on educational projects in developing countries, so I spent more than half my childhood in Tanzania and Nicaragua.
- I majored in international relations at Harvard, spent a semester at the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, Chile in 1988, and considered a career in the State Department.
- My first job out of college in 1989 was helping Wendy Kopp start Teach for America, and my first job out of Harvard Business School was founding and running the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City with Professor Michael Porter for five years.
- I've been deeply involved with education reform, serving on the board of KIPP NY charter schools for more than two decades and co-founding Democrats for Education Reform, and I co-chair Central Synagogue's criminal justice reform initiative.
- So while a year ago I didn't know any Ukrainians and would have struggled to find it on a map, at many times in my life I've become outraged and/or inspired by something and gotten deeply involved...



Helping Ukraine Win Is a Moral Imperative

- Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and the atrocities Russian soldiers are committing, including mass murder, rape and torture are a moral outrage and crime against humanity



This Is the Greatest Geopolitical Challenge the U.S. and the West Have Faced in Decades

- Anything but a huge defeat for Russia will cripple NATO and be a green light for future aggression, not only by Putin, but dictators everywhere
- In particular, it would increase the chances that China invades Taiwan, which could lead to a nuclear war that ends human civilization
- “If Russia stops fighting, the war ends. If Ukraine stops fighting, Ukraine ends” - Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State
- **So we must do everything we can to help Ukraine completely expel the invaders**

I am Inspired by the Courage, Resilience and Spirit of the Ukrainian People, Who Are Fighting for Their Existence



Ukraine Is Winning

- In only one year, Russia has lost roughly *half* of its conventional military capabilities (tanks, artillery, missiles, ammunition, trained men, etc.)
- Russian forces are suffering nearly *1,000 casualties per day*
- Things are so bad that it's resorted to recruiting prisoners and throwing them, untrained, ill-equipped and unsupported, against entrenched Ukrainian forces in place like Bakhmut, who describe it as a "zombie apocalypse"
- The result is a slaughter in which Russia's casualties in these areas are *5-10 times* higher than Ukraine's – and Ukraine isn't even using its first-line forces, but rather its Territorial Defense Forces
- Here's an inspirational video with clips tracing the history of the war – a good reminder of how everyone thought Ukraine would fall within days, yet look where we are now: <https://youtu.be/IMDEV295Nh8>

Time Is on Ukraine's Side

- While Russian forces continue to be depleted, more and more heavy weaponry is on its way to Ukraine: Leopard 2 and Abrams tanks, Stryker and Bradley armored fighting vehicles, Patriot missiles, Humvees, M113 Armored Personnel Carriers, HIMARS rockets, M777 howitzers, etc.
- So while Ukraine is suffering, *time is on its side*
- I predict a major offensive in a few months, when enough new weaponry arrives, Russian forces are fully depleted and roads become passable, that will result in a *total collapse of Russian forces across a vast front*

I Have Two Objectives

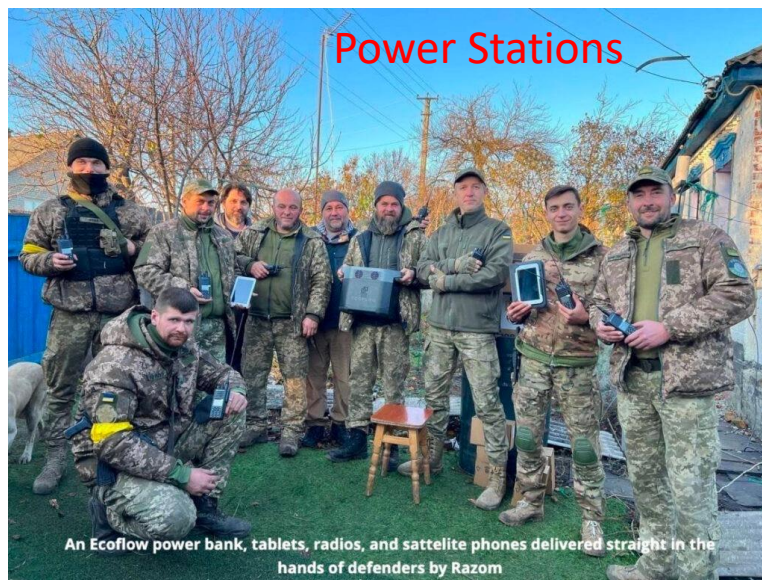
- 1) Help alleviate the suffering of the Ukrainian people
- 2) Help Ukrainian forces defeat the Russian forces

The fastest way to end the humanitarian crisis is for Ukraine to win the war

Since the Start of the War, I Have Raised More Than \$15 Million to Support Ukraine



Vehicles

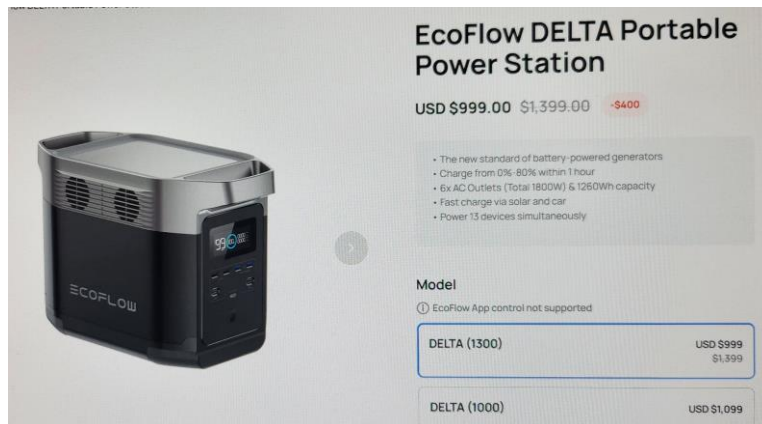


Power Stations

An Ecoflow power bank, tablets, radios, and satellite phones delivered straight in the hands of defenders by Razom



Large Generators



Level-Four Body Armor

Night Vision Scopes



The Human Carnage Is Horrific

- Wounds from modern weaponry are devastating
 - See this video from a field hospital near Bakhmut:
https://www.instagram.com/reel/CpLiD8_vMM0/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D
- Getting soldiers treatment quickly is the difference between life and death
- There has been a 30% increase in Ukrainian casualties in the past month
- Many now have bullet wounds, indicating hand-to-hand combat in places like Bakhmut
- And it will only get worse, as Russia is ramping up attacks



The Largest Operator of Ambulances on the Front Lines Is a Wonderful Charity Called MOAS

- MOAS was founded and is run by a 41-year-old American entrepreneur and humanitarian named Chris Catrambone, who's in Ukraine right now.
 - Here's an in-depth 2015 article about him and one of his previous humanitarian endeavors: [The millionaire who rescues migrants at sea](#)
- For security reasons, Chris and MOAS have kept a low profile, but they are currently operating a fleet of 30 ambulances and 100+ medical staff across the entire front line in eastern Ukraine, exceeding what even the Red Cross is doing.
- Since the war started, they have saved over 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers' lives, provided primary healthcare services to over 20,000 civilians in liberated areas with their mobile medical hospital, and trained over 20,000 civilians and military combat medics. More information is on their [website](#).

Compounding the Problem of More Casualties Is That Ambulances Are Breaking Down and Getting Into Accidents

- The roads are so bad near the front lines that four ambulances have been totaled and urgently need to be replaced



As a Result of the Severe Shortage of Ambulances, Wounded Soldiers are Suffering and Dying

- There are three classes of injuries: green (aren't going to die), yellow (will die soon if not treated), and red (will die immediately if not treated)
- MOAS hasn't missed any reds and are getting to almost all the yellows, but is having trouble getting to the greens without any box ambulances
 - Greens are NOT simply broken arms and legs – most are artillery injuries in which pieces of the body are missing (e.g., they're amputees)
 - While they may not be dying, they can't be transported without medical assistance
 - They need to be taken from places like Bakhmut to a major hospital in Dnipro – a 3.5-hour drive – but that the military won't take them that far

To Address the Urgent Need, I Purchased a Brand New Fully Stocked 4x4 Toyota Land Cruiser from DIAC Medical in the Netherlands on February 10, and They Delivered It in Record Time, Only *Seven Days* Later



I posted an eight-minute video I took of Jesse from DIAC Medical describing the ambulance and everything in it: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=TIY7TVqTPWA&si=EnSIkaIECMiOmarE>

The New Ambulance Is Already on the Front Lines Near Bakhmut, Saving Lives



While 4x4 Vehicles Are Best, Ambulances and Other Vehicles Are Needed As Well, So I Ordered All 10 DIAC Had in Stock, Which Will Be Delivered to the Border in Record Time on March 7
Total cost: \$800,000 (a friend is independently buying another, delivered next month)



These two VW Ambulances



Four Mercedes Sprinter Vans



In addition to the 10 I'm buying, a friend is buying this and delivering it himself in April

Each MMU has a big waiting room, self-contained power and running water, and 2 private surgical rooms each with operating tables

Two Mobile Medical Units (MMUs)



Two Rapid Response Vehicles (fully equipped Mitsubishi 4x4s, but no room for a stretcher)

Half the Cost of the Ambulance Is the Advanced Medical Equipment Inside

Monitor/defibrillator, ventilator, infusion pump, wheeled stretcher, etc.



MEBER Snake Plus 895 Vacuum Mattress + Integrated Head Immobilizer



ZOLL X Series Monitor/Defibrillator



LAERDAL Suction Unit



DRAEGER Oxylog 3000 Plus Ventilator



B.BRAUN Perfusor Space Infusion Pump



I Also Committed to Buy 15 More 4x4 Land Cruiser Ambulances Similar to the One I Bought Last Week, But With an Extended Roof

- The higher roof allows the vehicle to hold more supplies and equipment and, more importantly, for patients who might not make it to the field hospital, allows the doctors to stand up and treat the most severe injuries on the scene and/or during transport
- DIAC is ordering 18, so we have the option to buy as many as three more if I can raise the money
- These will be, without doubt, the best ambulances for rugged areas not just in Ukraine, but in the *world*
- Unfortunately DIAC won't be able to get these ambulances to us for three months because there are no 4x4 Land Cruisers in Europe, so they have to import them from Dubai
- Cost for 15: \$1.75 million (\$117,000 each)



To Complement the Ambulances, I am Also Ordering Sets of a 4x4 ATV (with trailer) and Motorcycle

- These are needed to get wounded soldiers out of the trenches or the middle of a battleground city like Bakhmut to a Mobile Medical Unit or an area where they can be transferred to an ambulance
- Note that the trailer can accommodate two injured men
- Each set is \$10,000
- I have purchased five and am seeking funding for 20 more



Donating Ambulances Are an Especially Valuable Gift

- We can source and deliver them quickly, sometimes in only one week
- They literally start saving lives from the day they're delivered
- They can be used for many purposes, not just moving injured soldiers from the front lines to field hospitals
 - Move stabilized patients to major hospitals in large cities
 - Transporting food, clothing, etc.
- They can quickly be moved to where they're most needed
- They retain much of their value over time
- After the war ends, they will still be extremely valuable to a rebuilding Ukraine for many years

Since I Was Going to Poland to Deliver the Ambulance, I
Figured I Might As Well Bring Other Needed Supplies
I ended up bringing 16 massive 70-pound bags weighing a *half ton*



A collection of medical supplies is arranged on a paved surface. In the foreground, there are two large clear plastic bags filled with white packets, each labeled with a blue crescent moon and the text "First Aid Kit". To the left of these bags are two red first aid kits with white Star of Life symbols, and a smaller red first aid kit with a white Star of Life symbol. To the right of the red kits is a large clear plastic bag with black straps. In the background, there are two more red first aid kits with white Star of Life symbols, and a blue first aid kit with a white Star of Life symbol. The supplies are arranged in a cluster, with some items partially overlapping.



I Brought 87 Down Jackets, Vests, Boots, Gloves, Long Underwear, Sleeping Bags and Mattress Pads, Plus 1,000 Hot Hands



The NY Hospital for Special Surgery Donated 12 Pallets of Hospital Gowns, Sheets and Drapes

I brought 340 gowns and 240 sheets (one pallet), and HSS has already shipped the rest



Money Is Only the First of Four Necessary Steps

- Many people who seek to help Ukraine think that they can just donate money and make a difference
- In reality, raising money only the first – and, often, *easiest* – step
- The second step is acquiring products: for example, good luck finding an ambulance in Europe
- Step three is getting the products from the source – often hundreds or even thousands of miles away – to where they're most needed, at a reasonable price and in a timely fashion (typically measured in *months*)
- Lastly, the products need to be delivered to people/organizations/soldiers who will use them effectively to make a difference on the ground, helping suffering people, repelling the invaders, etc.
- Each of these three steps are prone to corruption, theft, and/or charlatans selling overpriced crap

I Think I Have Solved the Last Three Problems

- I think I have solved all three problems after a donation
- For every person who's given me money – nearly \$5 million in the last three weeks – I can look them in the eye and tell them that *every penny* has been spent efficiently to make a huge impact in record time, with no leakage or overhead
- I can say this with confidence because I have built relationships with a few incredible people and organizations over the past year, monitor every expenditure, and have personally been to Ukraine to observe how the money is being spent
- For example, to my knowledge, no-one has ever committed to buying an ambulance on a Friday, owned it on Monday, shipped it from Amsterdam to Poland on Wednesday, personally delivered it into Ukraine on Friday, and had it operating on the front lines four days later, saving this man's life:



Of My Two Goals, Alleviating Suffering and Helping Ukraine Win the War, I'm More Focused on the Latter

- I think it's wonderful to supply Ukraine with food, ambulances, warm clothing, Hot Hands, medical and hospital supplies, generators, etc.
- This alleviates human suffering, which is *very* important
- But I want to *end* the suffering – and the only way to do that is to help the Ukrainian forces drive the Russian forces out of their country and win the war
- I have no ability to provide Leopard 2 and Abrams tanks, Stryker and Bradley armored fighting vehicles, Patriot missiles, Humvees, M113 Armored Personnel Carriers, HIMARS rockets, M777 howitzers, etc.
- But I *am* doing other things to help Ukraine's military that I can't put in writing, so if you're interested in learning more, please contact me directly at wtilson@tilsonfunds.com or (646) 258-0687

How to Donate

You can make your donation to Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors (TAPS), a well-established U.S. 501(c)3 charity founded and run by Bonnie Carroll, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. TAPS's tax ID number is: 92-0152268

- 1) You can make an online donation [here](#) quickly and easily (check the box for “Make this an honor or memorial gift” and enter my name)
- 2) Or, here are the wiring instructions:

TAPS Ukraine
Capital Bank, MD
2275 Research Blvd, Suite 600
Rockville, MD 20850
Routing Number: 055003340
Account Number: 118572768
Memo: For Ukraine ambulances

- 3) Or, you can make a check out to “Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors” and mail it to:
Bonnie Carroll
TAPS
3033 Wilson Blvd., Third Floor
Arlington, VA 22201
Memo: For Ukraine ambulances



Thank you!!!

Appendix A:

I Had One of the Wildest Coincidences of My Life in Lviv

- I was only in Lviv for a few hours, stopping first at a hotel to have lunch and deliver part of our half-ton vanload of cargo to one charity, and then we drove 10 minutes to a warehouse to drop the rest of it off for the other two charities.
- As we pulled into the parking lot, I saw a sign and realized that this was the warehouse of the Howard Buffett Foundation and the person meeting me, Yuliya (see photos), was the head of the foundation in Ukraine! Regular readers know how much of a Warren Buffett fan I am, and I had even recently sent him an e-mail complimenting him on his son's great work in Ukraine.
- What are the odds that in a country larger than France, with hundreds (thousands?) of NGOs, I would, by random coincidence, end up there?!
- Howie has been buying tens of millions of dollars of generators for Ukraine, helping offset the power outages resulting from Russian attacks on the country's infrastructure (see this 60 Minutes story on this that aired last Sunday: [Electricity, heat and water under attack in Ukraine](#)).
- Here's a picture of Yuliya and me in front of a bunch of smaller generators (Yuliya said they cost \$8,000 to \$10,000 and can power things like a field hospital or community center).
- Lastly, on the right is a picture of me in the warehouse with a small fraction of the supplies I brought.



Appendix B:

Observations of Western Ukraine

- MOAS sent a van and a driver to pick us up at our hotel in Poland near the border on Friday morning. From there it was a 10-minute drive to the border station, where there was no line for passenger cars (versus a mile-long, full-day line for trucks). We quickly passed through first the Polish then Ukrainian checkpoints and soon were on our way to Lviv, the seventh largest city in the country with a population just over 700,000, which was 90 minutes away.
- I've never been in a country at war, so wasn't sure what to expect...
- On the one hand, Ukraine is a huge country... and all of the fighting is in the east, about 800 miles away. Here's a map showing our starting point (Hotel Trojka) and the driving route one would take through Lviv and Kyiv all the way to the battleground city of Bakhmut, which is hell on earth right now (that's where the ambulance I donated is operating).
- So even though western Ukraine is very safe and far from the fighting, I certainly expected to see some signs of war: empty roads, streets, and stores, soldiers, military vehicles, and checkpoints, and so forth.
- But there was nothing. It was about as exciting and scenic (it was a gray, cold day) as driving from New York City to Philadelphia and back...
- Here's a 55-second video (<https://youtu.be/9T6Lx5KQ58k>) of three clips I took with my GoPro – the last few seconds are of us hearing an air raid siren while we were having lunch, but everyone ignored it as it was just a routine test.
- And here is a collage of pictures I took with my GoPro (which isn't much of a camera, but for security reasons we had to have our phones off – not just in airplane mode – the entire time we were in Ukraine).

