

# The Beckmead Trust Newsletter



## 'Leading Croydon Academy Trust pulls together to support Ukrainian Refugees'

High-performing education provider The Beckmead Trust successfully delivered supplies almost 2,000 kilometres to Poland's border with Ukraine to help refugees there.



The supplies included re-usable cutlery, toothbrushes, nappies, sanitary items, towels, thermal clothing, first aid and medical kits, baby wipes, sleeping bags, torches, antiseptic, painkillers, hats and gloves, baby toys, power banks, toiletries, bandages, baby formula, thermos flasks, and water bottles.

The supplies have all either been donated by communities around the Beckmead schools or bought with donations given by businesses, individuals and members of staff.

Beckmead was founded in Croydon, where it runs three academies for children and young people with special educational needs. It also runs academies in Brent, Harlow and Hailsham.

The Fountain in Cowden, a pub close to where Jonty and co-organiser Adrienne Cherrywood live, initiated an amazing effort to raise money and gather supplies from the

local community.

Events included a raffle that raised hundreds of pounds

*Dr Jonty Clark OBE, the Chief Executive of The Beckmead Trust who was one of the team of six drivers who drove a total of 2,850 miles in 52 hours said:*

"The Beckmead Trust is about helping others and no one can fail to be moved by the plight of the Ukrainian refugees who have lost almost everything. This is the very least we can do to help them in their time of need.



"Since we put the call out, people all around our schools have been so kind – donating money so we can buy goods or donating the supplies themselves.

The trust has set up a Just Giving page which can be found here:

[https://www.JustGiving.com/crowdfunding/Beckmead-express-to-Ukraine?utm\\_term=58bXkbyrz](https://www.JustGiving.com/crowdfunding/Beckmead-express-to-Ukraine?utm_term=58bXkbyrz).

**We raised £11,421 and are eternally grateful for your support THANK YOU!! The volunteer team of drivers themselves funded all the petrol costs and channel tunnel fees to ensure that every donated penny was spent on humanitarian relief.**



## Reflections of first trip

The trip was very moving, especially as we got close to Lublin where we saw coaches of displaced people on the move and military columns of armoured vehicles heading towards the conflict. As well as meeting some extraordinary people who are working full time to alleviate the distress and suffering, we had the surreal experience of sharing a service station stop with a Polish tank regiment.



*Jonty and Adrienne are with John Herring, one of The Beckmead Trustees who was part of the driving team. This picture was taken in the warehouse close to the border where the supplies were delivered*

## Next Steps

The Beckmead Express will roll to the border again at the end of May, since the first delivery - food has become an issue for the outlying villages supplied by the network from Lublin. The next trip will take ready meals, sauces, cereals, rice, noodles, porridge, canned soup, canned vegetables, meat and fish, jams, preserves, energy bars, coffee, dried fruit and nuts.

Donated items will be collected from the schools and delivered to the border by The Beckmead Trust Express at the end of May.

*Please note all donations need to be on site at one of our schools no later than the 27th May where possible please*



All travel expenses will be met by the volunteer driving team. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your love and continued support.

All enquiries should be sent to [information@beckmeadtrust.org](mailto:information@beckmeadtrust.org)