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PRESS RELEASE:

SIR JULIAN LEWIS MP SHOWS SUPPORT FOR NEW FOREST FOR UKRAINE'S PLANS TO SEND 650th GENERATOR



On 31st May 2025 Sir Julian Lewis MP made a special visit to New Forest for Ukraine's Aid Hub at Ampress Lane, Lymington to hear about the Ukraine aid charity's plans for additional aid for the rest of the year including sending a 650th generator by the end of the year.

Meeting Mandy Haynes, Head of New Forest for Ukraine and John Allison, its former Head, Sir Julian heard how the charity is maintaining an increased level of supply in the face of continuing attacks on Ukraine making something in the region of 5 million people now displaced and thousands of injured and amputees.

Mandy and John provided an overview of the whole donation, sorting, packing and transport process covering a wide range of goods including mobility and care aids, hygiene and sanitary products, food and non-prescription medical supplies. Mandy also described how NFFU supports maternity units and elder care centres, showing Sir Julian examples of hand-made boxes of baby clothes and toys for new mothers.

Mandy explained how NFFU is currently focusing on what is needed in a hot Ukrainian summer where temperatures can reach 40 degrees. It does this through regular liaison with vetted NGO teams in Ukraine to stay on top of needs on the ground and to get assurance of delivery.

Showing Sir Julian examples of generators donated locally and being serviced at NFFU's Aid Hub, ready for transport, Mandy went on to explain that NFFU is already planning for winter where Ukraine expects more attacks on its energy infrastructure to take out electricity supplies. NFFU volunteers may spend up to 30 hours servicing and restoring a used generator and she explained that where NFFU has funds, it will also purchase new generators to send immediately to Ukraine. So NFFU is appealing for the purchase of new generators or the funds to purchase them and send them to Ukraine. At the same time it is also asking anyone with an unwanted generator to be prepared to donate it so that NFFU volunteers will service and send to Ukraine.

Sir Julian Lewis MP said:

“What is so impressive is the huge generosity of those who donate medical equipment, clothes and other goods week after week and the amazing efficiency with which their donations are delivered to people who need them most. There is a splendid feedback system which enables recipients to let the charity know that the donations have arrived and are giving huge benefit to those who depend on our generosity.

With a tough winter yet to come this year for Ukraine, NFFU are hoping to reach their target of 650 generators for Ukraine. If you have one of those gathering dust in your attic or garage, then please consider making it available.”

Mandy Haynes, Head of New Forest for Ukraine said:

“The spirit and commitment of our supporters from the New Forest and beyond is really moving. We are consistently astounded by people's willingness to support. But the sad fact is that despite the tenacity and can do of the Ukrainian people, their needs are massive and continuing as attacks on them continue. So we have to plan for this year and beyond to provide them with the support they need which in large part also helps them to do even more themselves.

Priority goods they need continue to be everyday goods such as long-life, ambient, tinned and dried foods, baby food and products, first aid, non-prescription medical products and hygiene and sanitary items. Just a tin of soup and a bar of soap makes a difference.

But as we look to winter, we know that every generator we can send will support families and communities in the face of attacks on their power, light and heat. So we would ask if anyone can spare a donation of a new or a used generator that will go to a community in Ukraine which will share it.”

Notes to Editors:

1. New Forest for Ukraine is a registered charity in England and Wales No 1208709
2. Started in February 2022, became a charity in June 2024
3. Has sent over 500 tonnes of aid to Ukraine to identified partner NGOs
4. Over 45 articulated lorries and 170 vans sent
5. Staffed entirely by volunteers, it gathers donations from the South and across the UK and sends to Ukraine via selected transport and distribution partners
6. Website: <https://www.newforestforukraine.org>

7. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/470934037919815/>
8. Registered Office: 76 Swallow Drive, Milford on Sea, Lymington, SO410XG, Hampshire

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