

Nova Ukraine

REPORT 2013–2014



SF Bay Area unites to help Ukraine

MISSION

Nova Ukraine is a non-profit organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area that wants to help build a democratic future for Ukraine. Its main goals are to:

1. Support Ukraine in its effort to build a strong civil society and eliminate corruption
2. Provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable groups and individuals in Ukraine
3. Raise awareness about Ukraine in the United States and throughout the world

Over the last several months, the Ukrainian people have endured challenging times. Unable to sit by and watch as the Ukrainian people have been struggling, the founding members of Nova Ukraine have come together to raise awareness about the country's political crisis by holding rallies and engaging in media events. We have raised tens of thousands of dollars under MaydanSF brand to help victims of the bloodshed in Ukraine.

Forging a brighter future for Ukraine will require continued vigilance and work. Nova Ukraine founders are leveraging the friendships, networks, and momentum they have built over the past months. In order to continue to make an impact on the situation in Ukraine, we have decided to create a formal non-profit. This new organization was incorporated on March 24, 2014 and provides humanitarian aid to kids and adults in Ukraine, promotes democratic values in the country, and raises awareness about Ukraine in the US.

Ukraine has the potential to be a democratic and economically vibrant country. With your help, we can assist the Ukrainian people as they build a "Nova" (New) Ukraine.

Get in touch with us:

Email: contact@novaukraine.org

Phone: 408. 203. 4323



NOVA UKRAINE HISTORY

Our story begins back in November 2013 after we learned about failed EU agreement and growing protesters in Kyiv.

Here is a timeline of events taking place in Ukraine and Bay Area.

UKRAINE



**NOV
21**

Ukraine suspends talks with EU about an association agreement; the talks have been going on since March 2013. As a result, 2,000 protesters gather in Kyiv's main square, Maydan Nezalezhnosti.

**NOV
30**

Despite Ukraine's failure to sign the association agreement the day before, several hundred student protesters remain at Maydan. They are attacked and brutally beaten in the middle of the night by riot police (known as Berkut). The following day, around 500,000 people gather in the streets of Kyiv in outrage. Clashes ensue, and more than 100 people hospitalized.

**DEC
25**

Mass protests continue in Kyiv, with more than 200,000 coming out to Maydan every weekend. Demonstrators build massive barricades and block government buildings. In response, the government sponsors violent assaults on activists, opposition party members and journalists. Tetiana Chornovol, a prominent journalist, is brutally assaulted outside Kyiv by thugs after taking photographs of president Yanukovich's mansion.

**JAN
16**

The government passes laws which ban mass protests, criminalize slander, and allow for mass surveillance of citizens.

More than 200,000 people come out in protest. The situation quickly escalates: demonstrators and police throw stones and Molotov cocktails at each other. Three protesters are shot by police. Activists who seek treatment at hospitals start disappearing, including activists Ihor Lutsenko and Yuriy Verbytsky. Lutsenko is found beaten in the woods the next day, and Verbytsky is murdered.

SAN FRANCISCO



2013

November
December

2014

January February March April May

**DEC
8**

A group of activists in the Ukrainian community hears news of the student beatings. They spontaneously decide to hold a rally for the respect of human rights and dignity in Ukraine. Despite the event being advertised only a week in advance through social media and through word of mouth, more than 300 people from as far as Sacramento gather at the rally. An informal organization called "MaydanSF" is created to start collecting donations to help the injured in Ukraine.

**JAN
26**

As the situation in Ukraine worsens, it becomes clear that international pressure on President Yanukovich is needed to prevent a violent crackdown on demonstrators. Spurred by the passing of the January 16 dictatorship laws, our activists — now almost a dozen — hold a second rally in support of Euromaydan. The rally is held in front of the German consulate, and its main message to Chancellor Angela Merkel is "Augen Auf!", or "Open your eyes!" Almost 500 people attend, including local Bay area media.

**FEB
18**

Protesters hold a peaceful march to the parliament where important legislation is about to be discussed. Police attack demonstrators with tear gas and stun grenades, and people fight back with crude weapons and explosives. More than 1,000 are injured in the clashes. Police pursue demonstrators back to Maydan and for several days unsuccessful storming the main camp. Snipers target journalists, ambulances and peaceful passersby, aiming at the neck and the head. Almost 100 people die in clashes with police. In other cities, protesters seize State Administrations and Police Offices; within days the west of the country falls in the hands of protesters.

**FEB
22**

Members of government, including President Yanukovich, hastily flee to Russia. On February 23, parliament impeaches Yanukovich.

**MAR
16**

A referendum on the status of Crimea is held. Official results state that 95% of Crimean voters choose to join Russia; the official turnout is 99%. Three days later, Putin signs treaty absorbing Crimea into Russia, marking the first time the Kremlin expands the country's borders since World War II.

**APR
12**

Pro-Russian gunmen take over government buildings in the town of Sloviansk, in Eastern Ukraine. Soon, government buildings in nearby Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv are also occupied. The Ukrainian government launches an anti-terrorist operation, which frees part of the occupied locations. Still, the centers of several towns remain under the control of separatists.

**MAY
25**

May 25. In spite of months of armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine between the Ukrainian armed forces and terrorist groups, the country holds presidential elections in which Petro Poroshenko is elected to replace former president Yanukovich. The elections are widely recognized in the West because of the highest democratic standards.

**FEB
22**

The events of February 18th led to the most violent day of clashes since Ukraine's independence and shocked the Ukrainian community. On only a few days' notice, MaydanSF activists organize a rally in front of City Hall. The morning of the rally, news of President Yanukovich's impeachment becomes known, and the event turns into a celebration of the victory of Euromaydan as well a remembrance of those who died in the protests.

**MAR
2**

In reaction to the real threat of war between Ukraine and Russia, the Russian and the Ukrainian communities join together for a demonstration in front of the Russian consulate in San Francisco. This event highlights the support of ordinary Russians for Ukraine's democratic struggle. Several media stations cover the protest and take interviews with many of the MaydanSF organizers.

**MAR
9**

As Russia's military operations in the Crimea escalate, the need for concrete support from the West becomes evident. The Ukrainian community gathers once again in front of Pier 1 to demand support from the United States in the form of sanctions and diplomatic pressure on Russia.

**MAR
23**

What initially was meant to be a quick flash-mob in the end gathers more than 200 people in San Francisco's Union Square. In response to the recent annexation of the Crimea, demonstrators form a huge circle around the Dewey Monument, expressing in that way their support for Ukraine's unity.

**MAY
10**

As a way to symbolically support the unity between the East and the West of Ukraine, more than 300 people hold a march across the Golden Gate Bridge. The march gathers supporters for as far as Los Angeles. Afterwards, the crowd holds a rally, where a thirty meter long Ukrainian flag is unfurled.

**MAY
25**

Nova Ukraine volunteers work at the Ukrainian consulate to ensure that voters abroad get the chance to cast a ballot in the elections. Petro Poroshenko earns the most votes in the San Francisco electoral district.

NOVA UKRAINE ACTIVITIES IN THE US

DECEMBER 8 | UKRAINIAN EMBASSY OF SF

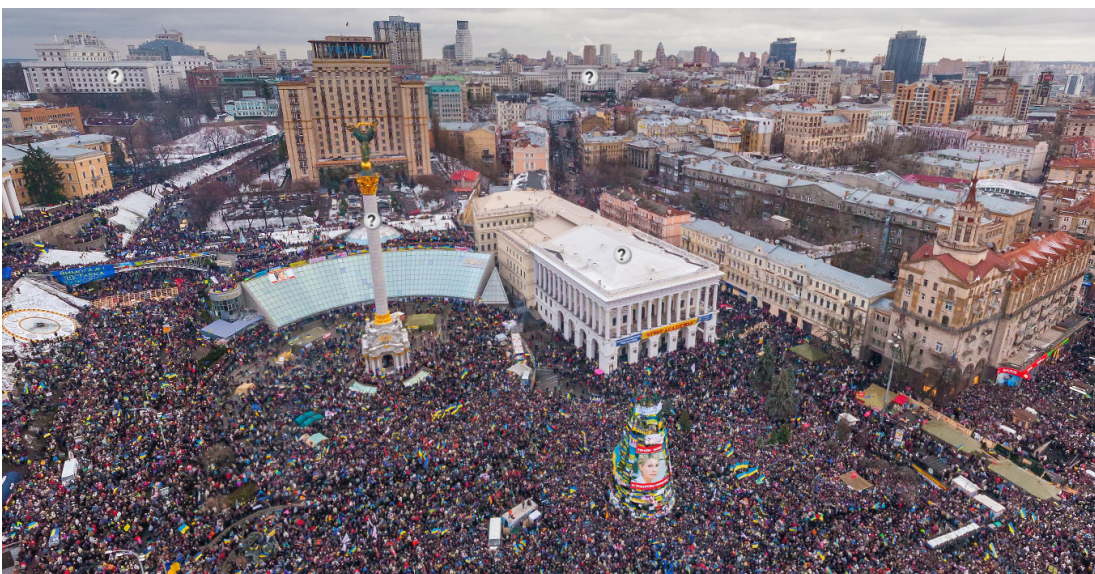
Goal: Protest Yanukovych's decision to turn away from Europe and his violent crackdown on protesters in Kyiv.

Attendance: 500

Money collected: \$2000



A group of activists in the Ukrainian community hears news of the student beatings. They spontaneously decide to hold a rally for the respect of human rights and dignity in Ukraine. Despite the event being advertised only a week in advance through social media and through word of mouth, more than 300 people from as far as Sacramento gather at the rally.



JANUARY 26 | GERMAN CONSULATE OF SF

Goal: Call upon Germany, Europe, and the West to put pressure on President Yanukovych to respect the protesters' rights in Ukraine.

Attendance: 400

Money collected: \$2000



In response to new draconian laws enacted in Ukraine and horrible acts of kidnapping and tortured, we demonstrated near the embassy of Germany - demanding sanctions from Europe's most powerful country.

Rally's main message to Chancellor Angela Merkel is "Augen Auf!", or "Open your eyes!"



FEBRUARY 22 | CITY HALL OF SF

Goal: Celebrate the removal from power of President Yanukovych and honor those who sacrificed their lives during the protests.

Attendance: 600

Money collected: \$5000

Media coverage: ABC, NBC

This demonstration coincided with the peak of the violence in Ukraine. We gathered in front of the San Francisco City Hall to mourn over a hundred innocent killed people and address the US government and demand that United States takes an official stance on the events in Ukraine to protect Ukraine from a possible intervention from Russia.



MARCH 02 | RUSSIAN CONSULATE OF SF

Goal: Request US support in resolving the Russia Ukraine conflict over the Crimea

Attendance: 150

Money collected: \$1000

In reaction to the real threat of war between Ukraine and Russia, the Russian and the Ukrainian communities join together for a demonstration in front of the Russian consulate in San Francisco. This event highlights the support of ordinary Russians for Ukraine's democratic struggle. Several media station cover the protest and take interviews with many of our organizers.



MARCH 09 | JUSTIN HERMAN PLAZA

Goal: Request US support in resolving the Russia Ukraine conflict over Crimea

Attendance: 150

Money collected: \$1000

As Russia's military operations in the Crimea escalate, the need for concrete support from the West becomes evident. The Ukrainian community gathers once again in front of Pier 1 to demand support from the United States in the form of sanctions and diplomatic pressure on Russia.



MARCH 23 | UNION SQUARE OF SF

Goal: Symbolically support the unity of Ukraine by forming a circle around Union Square.

Attendance: 200

Money collected: \$1500

What initially was meant to be a quick flash-mob in the end gathers more than 200 people in San Francisco's Union Square. In response to the recent annexation of the Crimea, demonstrators form a huge circle around the Dewey Monument, expressing in that way their support for Ukraine's unity.



MARCH 29 | UNION SQUARE OF SF

Goal: Honor the heroes who died in clashes with the police during Euromaidan.

Attendance: 100

Money collected: \$1000

Ukrainian Community Members gathered to honor the fallen heroes, light a candle and pray for those who died defending the freedom and integrity of Ukraine.



LIST OF EUROMAYDAN FALLEN HEROES

1. Yuriy Verbytskyi, Lviv
2. Pavlo Mazurenko
3. Serhiy Nigoyan, Dnipropetrovsk
4. Mikhail Zhyznenski, Belarus
5. Roman Senyk, Lviv Region
6. Bohdan Kalyniak, Ivano-Frankovsk
7. Serhiy Synenko, Zaporizhia
8. Serhiy Bondarev, Kyiv
9. Valeriy Brezdenyuk, Vinnyitca Region
10. Serhiy Didych
11. Antonina Dvoryanets, Kyiv Region
12. Oleksandr Kapinos, Ternopil Region
13. Zurab Khurtsia, Georgia
14. Volodymyr Kishchuk, Zaporizhia
15. Andriy Korchak, Lviv Region
16. Volodymyr Kulchytskyi, Kyiv
17. Volodymyr Naumov, Donetsk Region
18. Oleksandr Plekhanov, Kyiv
19. Ihor Serdyuk, Kremenchuk
20. Serhiy Shapoval, Kyiv
21. Vyacheslav Veremiy
22. Yakiv Zaiko, Zhytomyr
23. Andriy Chernenko, Poltava Region
24. Yuriy Paskhalin, Cherkasy Region
25. Dmytro Maksymov, Kyiv
26. Vitaliy Vasytsov, Bila Tserkva
27. Serhiy Baidovsky, Novovolynsk
28. Serhiy Bondarchuk, Starokostiantyniv
29. Mykola Dziavulsky, Khmelnytskyi
30. Ustym Holodniuk, Ternopil Region
31. Eduard Hrynevych, Volyn Region
32. Serhiy Kemsky, Kerch, Crimea
33. Ihor Kostenko, Ternopil Region
34. Ivan Kreman, Kremenchuk
35. Andrii Movchan, Kyiv
36. Roman Nikulichev, Kyiv
37. Dmytro Pahor, Khmelnytskyi
38. Yuriy Parashchuk, Kharkiv
39. Anatoliy Korneyev, Khmelnytskyi
40. Andriy Sayenko, Fastiv
41. Yosyp Shylinh, Drohobych
42. Viktor Chmilenko, Bobrynets
43. Vitaliy Smolinsky, Cherkasy Region
44. Bohdan Solchanyk, Lviv Region
45. Igor Tkachuk, Russia
46. Bohdan Ilkiv, Lviv Region
47. Roman Tochyn, Khodoriv
48. Oleksandr Tsariok, Kyiv Region
49. Oleh Ushnevych, Drohobych
50. Roman Varenytsia, Yavoriv
51. Nazar Voytovych, Ternopil Region
52. Anatoliy Zhalovaha, Lviv
53. Anatoliy Zhrebnyh, Lviv Region
54. Bohdan Vaida, Lviv Region
55. Volodymyr Chaplinsky, Obukhiv
56. Ihor Dmytriv, Ivano-Frankovsk
57. Andriy Dyhdalovych, Lviv Region
58. Roman Hurik, Ivano-Frankovsk
59. Vitaliy Kotsyuba, Lviv
60. Oleksandr Khrapachenko, Rivne
61. Vasyl Moysei, Volyn Region
62. Valeriy Opanasyuk, Rivne
63. Volodymyr Pavliuk, Kolomyia
64. Leonid Polyanskys
65. Oleksandr Shcherbaniuk, Chernivtsi
66. Maksym Shymko, Vinnytsia
67. Ivan Tarasiuk, Volyn Region
68. Ivan Bliok, Lviv Region
69. Mykola Pankiv, Lviv Region
70. Vasyly Prohorskiy, Kyiv
71. Viktor Shvets, Kyiv Region
72. Volodymyr Zhrebnyi, Lviv Region
73. Liudmyla Sheremeta, Khmelnytskyi
74. Yevhen Kotliar, Kharkiv
75. Ivan Horodniuk, Rivne Region
76. Andriy Tsepun, Kyiv
77. Maksym Mashkov
78. Maksym Horoshishin, Cherkasy
79. Georgiy Arutiunyan, Georgia
80. Volodymyr Melnychuk, Kyiv
81. David Kipiani, Georgia
82. Victor Chernets, Cherkasy
83. Oleksandr Scherbatyuk, Chernivtsi
84. Volodymyr Topiy, Lviv Region
85. Volodymyr Zubok, Chernihiv Region
86. Viktor Khomyak
87. Viktor Prokhorchuk
88. Andriy Zhanovachiy
89. Volodymyr Boykiv
90. Oleksiy Bratushko, Sumy
91. Ihor Batchinsky
92. Mykola Tarshchuk
93. Mykola Semisiuk, Khmelnytskyi
94. Ihor Pehenko, Kyiv Region
95. Vladyslav Zubenko, Kharkiv
96. Artem Mazur
97. Taras Slobodian, Ternopil Region
98. Mykhailo Kostyshyn, Ivano-Frankovsk
99. Artur Khuntsaar, Ivano-Frankovsk

MAY 10 | GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

Goal: Express support for the unity between the East and West of Ukraine.

Attendance: 300

Money collected: \$885

As a way to symbolically support the unity between the East and the West of Ukraine, more than 300 people march across the Golden Gate Bridge. The march gathers supporters from as far as Los Angeles. Afterwards, the crowd holds a rally, where a thirty meter long Ukrainian flag is unfurled.



CONNECTING WITH AMERICANS

DECEMBER 18 2013

Meeting with the office of Senator Dianne Feinstein to discuss the situation in Ukraine with Senator Feinstein and hand over a petition from the Bay Area Ukrainian community.

We briefed Jessica on the events in Ukraine and about the Euromaidan protests around the world and United States including the San Francisco protests. She took our petition (signed by Community at our protest on Dec 8) and will consider several other requests. Back then Senator Feinstein did not yet have an official position on Ukraine.

We asked for Dianne Feinstein to send a letter asking for sanctions on Yanukovych to Secretary of State John Kerry. She agreed to review a draft proposed by us.

We asked her to introduce a bill similar to "Magnitsky Act" for Ukraine calling for sanctions on Yanukovych.

No clear response on this one. She suggested we write letters/Petitions to European Governments and submit them through the Consulates in SF (German, French, British).



Handing over the petitions to Jessica

APRIL 12 2014

Berkeley International Spring Fest

Goal: Raise awareness among Americans about the history and the culture of Ukraine

Attendance: 150



Nova Ukraine booth at the Berkeley Event



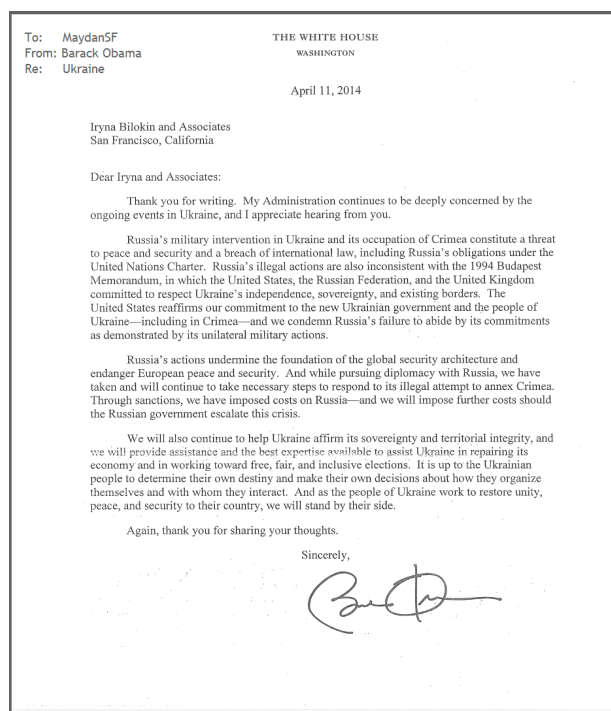
Certificate of Appreciation

APRIL 11 2014:

Correspondence with Barack Obama

Barack Obama replies to the numerous petitions we have sent to the White House

Quotes: The US reaffirms our commitment to the new Ukrainian government and the people of Ukraine; We have taken and will continue to take steps to respond to [Russia's] illegal attempt to annex Crimea; As people of Ukraine work to restore unity, peace, and security to their country, we will stand by their side.



HEROES FROM HEAVENLY HUNDRED WE HELPED

Olha Bura (b. 1986, Ivano-Frankivsk region). Member of Maydan self-defense forces; worked in the field kitchen. Died of an infection contracted in her arm while breaking up pavement for ammunition; was admitted to a medical unit several days later, and died the same day.

Vyacheslav Veremiy (32 years old, Kyiv). Journalist. Was beaten and shot in the chest by thugs while traveling in a taxi cab with a friend. Leaves behind him a wife and a young son.

Andriy Dygdalovych (b. 1973, Lviv region). Construction worker, member of Maydan self-defense forces. Received an eye injury at Maydan, but soon returned to the demonstrations. Was shot by a sniper in the chest while carrying a wounded comrade.

Andriy Kotlyar (33 years old, Kharkiv). Member of Maidan self-defense forces. Died during a gunfight on Instytutska street; he was protecting wounded with a shield while they were being carried away.

Valery Opanasyuk (42 years old, Rivne).

Yuriy Parashchuk (b. 1966, Kharkiv). Served as a volunteer on Maydan since December 1, 2013. Received a gunshot to the back of the head during police operations on Instytutska street.

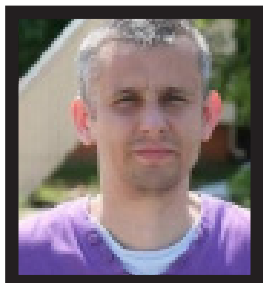
Alexander Plekhanov (b. 1991, Kyiv). Architect, recent graduate of the Kyiv University of Architecture. One of the original student demonstrators.

Ihor Tkachuk (39 years, Zakarpattia region).

Andriy Chernenko (22 years, Kyiv). Activist within the Svoboda party, participated in a peaceful march for the unity of Ukraine on March 13. Was stabbed by pro-Russian activists who attacked the march.



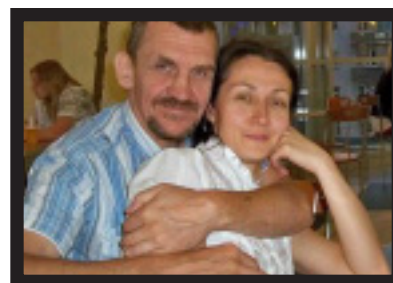
Olha Bura
27 y.o, Ivano-Frankivsk Region)



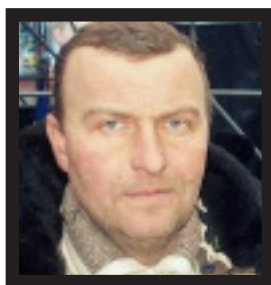
Vyacheslav Veremiy
32 y.o, Kyiv



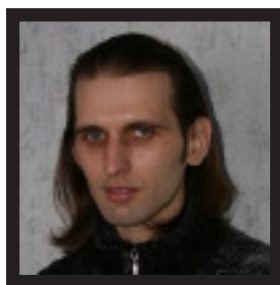
Valery Opanasyuk
42 y.o, Rivne



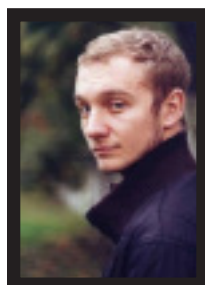
Yuriy Parashchuk
48 y.o, Kharkiv



Andriy Dygdalovych
41 y.o, Lviv Region



Andriy Kotlyar
33 y.o, Kharkiv



Alexander Plekhanov
23 y.o, Kyiv



Alexander Plekhanov
23 y.o, Kyiv



Andriy Chernenko
22 y.o, Kyiv.

INJURED DURING MAYDAN WE HELPED

Mykola Ryduk. Marathon runner who participated in many marathons in different parts of the world. His time on a 26.1 mile distance is 2:14!

He was on Maydan from the first week. On February 19, Mykola was shot and the bullet went through his eye and ended up in the skull. Mykola was transferred to Warsaw, Poland, where he had two surgeries. The first one to take the bullet out and the second one to save the eye. Unfortunately he lost his vision on his right eye.

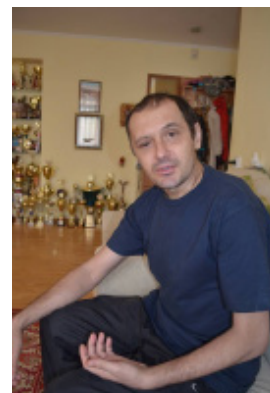
Mykola is going through a rehabilitation process at home now and is looking forward to getting back to his job where he helps children with cerebral palsy.

We sent to Mykola \$700.

Our partners in Vancouver, Canada offered Mykola's 14 years old daughter a scholarship to learn the English language. Nova Ukraine may pay for her round trip plane ticket.



Mykola before Maydan



Mykola after Maydan



Okean Elzy rock band visiting Vasyl at the hospital

Vasyl Galamai, 27 years old from Lviv

He was severely wounded on February 20 by a sniper. A bullet went through his right side crushing pelvic bones, and ended up in the left leg. Vasyl had 3 major surgeries in Kyiv and later was transferred to a military hospital in Prague. He had another surgery and is going through a rehabilitation process now. Doctors are planning to keep him in the hospital until midsummer 2014. Wishing him speedy recovery and return home to reunite with his family, including his 5 year old daughter Zlata! Knowels family donated \$500 to Vasyl through us.

Ivan Filipovych. Ivan went to Maydan five times starting December 1 after students beatings, then again and then enrolled in one of Maydan's hundreds – to fight for freedom against tyranny of Yanukovich and his government. When he was leaving to Maydan for the last time and his sister was begging him not to go, he replied: "My brothers are being killed there!" On February 19, he was shot and one bullet got stuck in his head under the skin. The second came in under the eye and came out through the neck. 1 millimeter up or down and he would have been dead – either the brain or carotid would have been damaged. But he was lucky enough to stay alive. He was first brought to October hospital in Kyiv, where he spent 2 days. Then he was transported to Poland for surgery and further treatment. The doctors there did their best to put together pieces of bones in Ivan's mouth and removed the second bullet. Still he has constant headaches, he can't read – the eyes constantly get watery, he can't fully open the mouth and can only eat liquid food. It's going to take another 6 months for his jaw to restore its function.

Nevertheless, he remains optimistic.



Although he is going to need at least one more plastic surgery, he believes that if "God didn't want us to die then, this means our mission here isn't over".

We sent him \$500.

FUTURE PLANS FOR NOVA UKRAINE

Promoting civil society and fighting corruption in Ukraine

Free and democratic elections in Ukraine.

Provide volunteers and observers to the Ukrainian consulate in San Francisco during elections. Encourage participation in the elections within the Ukrainian community.

Support and develop the Ukrainian education system.

Provide scholarships for Ukrainian students from poor families that cover dormitory and meals expenses at their universities. Organize internships within IT companies in Silicon Valley.

Supporting anti-corruption initiatives in Ukraine.

Provide financial support to Hromadske TV Donetsk - <http://hromadske.dn.ua/about/> - an Internet television station in the Donbas Region in Ukraine whose mission is to create a platform for personal and social development.

Providing financial support to Kantseliarska Hundred (Paper Division) - an initiative working to recover documents related to numerous corruption schemes used by Yanukovych and the former government of Ukraine.

Humanitarian Aid

Financial and medical help to wounded and families of those who were killed.

Nova Ukraine transfers donations directly to victims of violence in Ukraine or their families. This includes those who were injured during Euromaydan events as well as families of the Heavenly Hundred.

More than \$30,000 USD has been transferred so far.

Helping Ukrainian children.

Support summer ESL programs and educational trips abroad for Ukrainian children.

Medical equipment.

Donate medical equipment collected from American hospitals. Obtain high quality refurbished equipment at discount prices; this equipment will be donated to Ukrainian medical institutions.

Raising awareness about Ukraine in the US

Promotional materials

Design and widely distribute t-shirts, badges, stickers, and other materials. Film promotional video clips.

Cultural and fundraising events

Participate in international festivals, organize cultural events and concerts and charity races. Hold fundraising events for the American community to attract donors that are sensible to our cause.

WHO WE ARE



Some members of Nova Ukraine (left to right):
Olga, Konstantin, Ruslana, Iryna, Nick, Lesya P,
Volodymyr, Milena, Ostap

TEAM MEMBERS/HOMETOWN

Iryna Bilokin, Kyiv

Konstantin Kisly, Simferopol

Lesya Pishchevskaya, Kyiv

Maria Borisovska, Kyiv

Melania McCutchan, San Diego

Milena Naymark, Kyiv

Nick Bilogorskiy, Kharkiv

Oksana Stus, Kyiv

Olga Kugatkina, Kyiv

Ostap Korkuna, Lviv

Roman Shportko, Kharkiv

Ruslana Deykun, Izmail, Odesa Region

Sergiy Povzner, Kyiv

Volodymyr Kuleshov, Kyiv

Yulia Zimmermann, Mykolayiv

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