



Ambulances ready in warehouse yard

# International Aid Trust

*Christian Compassion For A Hurting World*

## International Aid Trust Press Release July 2023 : Driving Hope to Ukraine

**Two fully functioning ambulances have arrived in Ukraine this week, having travelled from International Aid Trust's warehouse in Hesketh Bank, Preston!**

The Lancashire based Christian Charity has been working in Ukraine for thirty two years and has established partnerships with several hospitals, delivering millions of pounds worth of equipment. The ambulances have been gratefully received at Fastov Regional Hospital Clinic and Bereziv Hospital, Centre of Primary Medical Care, West Ukraine, where they will help provide care for locals and refugees fleeing war torn areas.

Rev. Bernard Cocker, CEO and Founder of International Aid Trust and Phil Walker, UK Operations Manager visited Ukraine in May.

Bernard says "Six weeks before we visited God told me to find ambulances and I contacted friends in the health sector, I shared this with our Ukraine Director Pastor Pasha, who took Phil and I to see the hospitals' situation for ourselves. The Holy Spirit knows what he is doing!"

Phil says "Fastov Hospital serves a region about the same size as Chorley, (where our headquarters are based), and they had no emergency ambulance".

The ambulances were sourced, checked over and brought to Hesketh Bank. On Wednesday 12th July they were loaded with hospital trolleys, wheelchairs and other much needed equipment. Phil and Trustee Stephen Hardman, accompanied by son Matt, drove the ambulances to Dover, sailed overnight and arrived in Cologne, Germany at 11am on Thursday, where they handed over to Ukraine team, who drove the rest of the journey through Poland and into Ukraine.



Ambulance being loaded with hospital trolleys, wheelchairs etc.



Matt and Stephen Hardman ready to leave Hesketh Bank for the journey to Dover



Stephen and Phil handing ambulances over to Ukraine team and praying for onward journey.

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Charity Registration No. 1086597 Company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales No 4167908



Bernard (centre) with the International Aid Trust Ukraine

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**Five days after setting off from Lancashire, the ambulances were presented to the hospitals by Rev. Bernard, Pastor Pasha and the Ukraine team.**

Fastov Hospital Director Andriy Vasylyovych Hertsun said, “Many thanks to the charity International Aid Trust for such a great present for us, for the medicines and all your support.” These thanks were echoed by local MP Victor Melnyk.

The Trust continues to help the people of Ukraine in many other ways too. In the last 500 days International Aid Trust has sent out 50 loads of aid, with a weight of over 562 tonnes and a financial value of £11.5 million. It can take just four days for a truck to travel from the charity’s warehouse at Hesketh Bank, to their distribution centre near Kyiv. The aid is then quickly distributed. Pastor Pasha and the team are constantly on the road delivering aid and sharing God’s love with people whose lives have been devastated by the war, including in Kherson region which was flooded by the destruction of Kakhovka Dam.

Bernard says, “We are so grateful for - and continue to need - your prayers, donations of food, toiletries, medical supplies, good condition clothing, footwear, bedding and camping equipment, financial support, and your time, please get in touch if you would like to give or to volunteer with us.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your continued support for our Ukraine Appeal, God bless you!”

Please visit [www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk](http://www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk) or email [office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk](mailto:office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk) to find out how you can support the Ukraine Appeal by donating or volunteering.

You can watch a video of the ambulances’ journey and presentation on our YouTube channel: @InternationalAidOrg



Unloading ambulance at Fastov Hospital



Bernard with Hospital Director Andriy Hertsun



Ambulance outside Fastov Regional Hospital clinic

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