



Nonprofit, Global Community Corps, enables People giving directly to People.

Press Release

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Dr. Laura Vanderberg is a cognitive scientist and child development specialist who has taught at Tufts University, the University of Massachusetts Boston (where she was an Assistant Dean), and Curry College, where she directed the Program for Advancement of Learning and was named an Apple Distinguished Educator for her innovative curriculum design.

But before all that, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine, where she received an award from the Ministry of Education for her pedagogical training with teachers, work which facilitated a broad, deep, and trusted network of friends and colleagues in the country — and fluency with Ukrainian, Russian, and Surzhyk languages.

So when Russia invaded Ukraine, Dr. Vanderberg immediately began connecting with her Ukrainian teachers, friends, and former students, identifying urgent needs and determining how to effectively maximize the donations and expertise of her United States' communities and colleagues. "Ukraine took care of me, and now it's my honor to return that kindness by leveraging my knowledge and connections for Ukrainians," Dr. Vanderberg says.

These early efforts burgeoned into the Global Community Corps, Inc., a new nonprofit that delivers humanitarian aid with a dynamic and responsive giving model. She has incorporated her decades of experience in cognitive and developmental science to implement a scalable model of empowerment for communities experiencing crisis. Global Community Corps focuses on three communities that facilitate social transformation: 1) Educators; 2) Families; and 3) Defenders.

Interventions for Ukraine support Ukrainians to be active participants, fostering self-efficacy in the midst of war and violence. Examples of this work include:

- Custom defensive tactical and medical equipment, designed and produced in top-tier American factories, integrating testing and feedback from Ukrainian Defenders on the Front Lines
- Cross-cultural and cross-linguistic educational sessions between American and Ukrainian children
- Pedagogical support for educators and teachers-in-training
- Educational research on the risk and resilience of Ukrainian children's displacement
- Community-based humanitarian aid for families encountering and fleeing violence
- Procurement of raw materials for infrastructure and society building and re-building following attacks

So far, the Global Community Corps has provided direct aid for 524 displaced families, collaborated to develop three successive generations of plate carriers for body armor for Ukrainian Defenders, sent 100 tourniquets to the front lines, facilitated more than 20 educational sessions for students and educators, and established 3 secure supply chains through the war-torn regions of Ukraine. All aid is tracked in real time directly to the recipients and Global Community Corps uses their human networks so donors can experience "People giving directly to people."

You can learn more about Global Community Corps at:

<https://globalcommunitycorps.org/>.

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalCommunityCorps>.

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