



## Stronger Than Ever Nonprofit Donates Much-Needed Surgical Equipment to Local Ukrainian Hospitals

August 11, 2023 - Today, Stronger Than Ever, a nonprofit organization that supports recovery from humanitarian crises worldwide, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, announced the organization donated critical surgery equipment valued at more than \$360,000 to Ukrainian hospitals in the Kirovohrad, Dnipro, Odesa, Kharkiv, and Kyiv regions. The donation was made possible through a partnership with Red Ventures, a portfolio of diverse brands and businesses.

The war has devastated the country's healthcare system, with local hospitals struggling to meet the growing medical needs of Ukrainian citizens. The World Health Organization (WHO) has verified more than 1,000 attacks on healthcare since the full scale invasion began 15 months ago – the highest number WHO has ever recorded in any humanitarian emergency. This milestone reinforces the dangerous circumstances and immense strain placed on Ukraine's healthcare system to provide both routine and emergency medical care.

Today's donation will significantly bolster the surgical capabilities of the recipient hospitals, enabling doctors to perform minimally invasive procedures with precision and efficiency -- allowing for improved surgical outcomes and reduced patient recovery time. In City Clinical Hospital 2 in Bila Tserkva (Kyiv region), the doctor was so happy and grateful for the donation, he slept all night in the hospital with the new equipment.

"We were compelled to do what we could to help rebuild the future of the country," said Stronger Than Ever founder and Red Ventures CEO Ric Elias. "Today was made possible by the efforts of so many - including the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, Olympus, Red Ventures, the HelpUkraine Center, numerous donors and volunteers. It is a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together to help communities rebuild and recover."

Stronger Than Ever remains committed to its mission of providing vital assistance to communities affected by conflicts around the world and continues to fundraise toward its goal of raising \$2.5 million for Ukraine - with each dollar raised being personally matched by Elias.

"In the face of ongoing conflict and escalating casualties each day, the need for immediate medical support in Ukraine has reached a critical level. Lives are at stake as healthcare systems are being constantly damaged, destroyed or rendered inaccessible," said Ukrainian-American and dedicated Stronger Than Ever volunteer Natalie Jaresko. "Today is about providing real-time medical assistance to Ukrainians in dire need of care. By equipping healthcare facilities with urgently required medical equipment, we hope to help to ease suffering and save lives amidst these challenging circumstances."

Today's surgical equipment donation reflects Stronger Than Ever's larger mission of supporting countries in crisis and helping them emerge stronger and more resilient. The organization has also committed \$100,000 and joined forces with Unbroken Ukraine to build a first-of-its-kind Pediatric Outpatient Mental Health Center in Lviv to help generations of Ukrainian children. The mental health center is currently under construction and is slated to open toward the end of this year.

Stronger Than Ever is also supporting Teach for Ukraine with a \$50,000 donation to recruit, train and place teachers into rural Kyiv-region schools so that every child in Ukraine can realize their potential. This upcoming school year, Teach for Ukraine hopes to place fellows in 19 different schools in the Kyiv region, teaching a variety of subjects including biology, math, English, and history. Five of these schools are in areas liberated from occupation.

To learn how to get involved, visit [StrongerThanEver.com](http://StrongerThanEver.com).

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### **About Stronger Than Ever**

Stronger Than Ever, formerly known as Rebuild Puerto Rico, is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting humanitarian crises around the world, including Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine. Ukraine and charitable efforts in Puerto Rico. Stronger Than Ever's goal is to raise \$5M to help rebuild Ukraine. To learn more about how to donate or get involved, visit our website at [StrongerThanEver.com](http://StrongerThanEver.com) or follow us at Instagram [@StrongerThanEverOrg](https://www.instagram.com/StrongerThanEverOrg).

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