

Soldiers of Learning

A Documentary By:
Sean Burch
&
Chris Mead

Photo:
School, Hostomel
Ivanna Yovenko
Ukraine PenPal Teacher



“In the middle of English class, the missiles hit the Ukrainian city.”

“Today, in the middle of English class, they were attacked by missiles from the Russians. The students disappeared from the screen, and I only heard loud bangs,” she says.

Teacher Iryna Ponomarets

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Photo:
Ivanna Yovenko
Ukraine PenPal Teacher





Logline

In the third year of the Russian invasion, we follow Ukrainian teachers and students as they continue their unrelenting passion to teach and learn while Russia deliberately targets and bombs schools as an invasion strategy.

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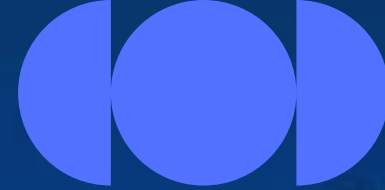
Synopsis

Russia's systematic bombing and destruction of schools in Ukraine, sometimes while civilians shelter inside, is an intentional tactic aimed at harming Ukraine's future by depriving children of education.

We shadow the teachers', students', and parents' day-to-day activities to reveal how they're living their lives in a warzone. We learn the toll it's taking on the children trying to obtain an education without safe spaces to learn.

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Synopsis

Teachers aren't fighting on the front lines so they fight the enemy by teaching their school children. Yet, how can the children still believe in their dreams, peace, love, and beauty when many schools that taught these things have been destroyed?

Finally, we will summit Mt. Hoverla, the highest peak in Ukraine, with members of the National Organization of the Scouts of Ukraine.

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Characters

- **Ukraine Teachers**
- **Ukraine Students**
- **Ukraine Parents of Students**
- **Ukraine Psychologists**
- **Sean Burch**
- **Chris Mead**
- **Ukraine Soldiers**
- **USA & Ukraine Political Members**
- **USA Students**

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Stylistic Approach

A broad encapsulation including expository, participatory, cinéma vérité, and poetic perspectives.

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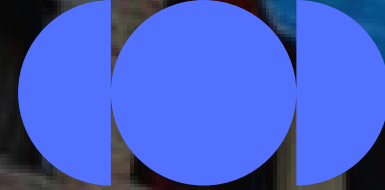
Vital Theme

As of May 2024, there are currently 7 million Ukrainian children of war with 3,800 educational facilities damaged or destroyed by the Russian invasion. Younger people in Ukraine legitimately feel wronged and victimized by every rocket and missile that comes their way.

We discover how students and teachers use intriguing forms of expressions to cope emotionally and raise money for their soldiers.

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Do You Oppose Brutality?

Our film is also a character study of humanity. The best of people and their purpose in life during a time of turmoil and brutality. There is a lot of idealism left in beaten-down Ukraine and a strong belief in democracy.

This is a documentary not only for Ukraine, but all of the countries of the world. It's about a fight for freedom and how the courage and bravery of Ukraine teachers and students can be a call for freedom for all humankind.

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In-Depth

Freedom

What freedom means in today's world for the teachers and students of Ukraine, and for humankind as a whole.

Freedom Lite

The students' belief that learning English is their way of having a bit of freedom. It helps provide them courage and resilience with the horrors of war.

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In-Depth



Teachers

- They teach children in a war zone.
- Their spouses are away fighting.
- They have one of Ukraine's most vital jobs.
- Strength to teach in a time of chaos.

Children

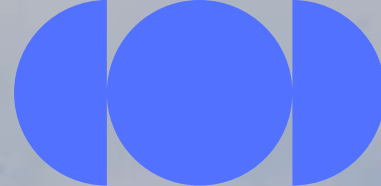
- Their desire is to learn.
- Their courage and bravery in a time of war and uncertainty.
- Homelife upended and anxiety-filled.
- Strength to learn in a time of chaos.



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Artwork:
Iryna Zinkevich
Age 15
Ukraine PenPal Student





In-Depth

Mount Hoverla

Summit the highest mountain in Ukraine with members of the National Organization of the Scouts of Ukraine. The unity between peoples, our countries, freedom, and mother nature itself.

Mountain

The mountain is an enduring symbol of strength and solidity. Its towering height reminds us to remain resilient despite life's many trials. Its steep slopes remind us all to believe in our inner strength despite external challenges.

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Addit. Film Topics

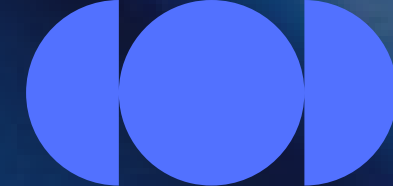


- Day-to-Day at School
- Medical and Health
- Shelter
- Family Life / Home
- Basic Human Needs / Desires
- Mental Health
- Communication
- Food Concerns
- Sanitary / Water Supply
- Power Grid

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Artwork:
Olesia Betlei
Age 15
Ukraine PenPal Student





Call For Freedom



What does “freedom” mean to you and your company?

What if our country was invaded by a dictator such as Putin? Your world as you know it today would change forever. If the very fabric of freedom can be taken away by one tyrant, how safe is your freedom?

Does your company value democracy, strength, courage, freedom, bravery, and independence? You can underwrite not only victory in war, but the dreams of an idealistic, new generation.

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**Artwork:
Anna Lazaruk
Age 10
Ukraine PenPal Student**





Production Goals

Pre-Production: May to Fall 2024

Filming: Winter - Spring 2025

Post-Production: Spring - Summer 2025

Documentary Release: Fall 2025

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Filming Locations: Schools & Mountain



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Marketing Strategy

Intended Audience

- **Educated Adults**
- **Family Groups**
- **Teenagers/Students**
- **Documentary/War Enthusiasts**

Marketing Channels

- **International News Organizations**
- **USA National & Local News Organizations**
- **National and Regional Magazines**
- **Social Media**

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Marketing Strategy

Distribution

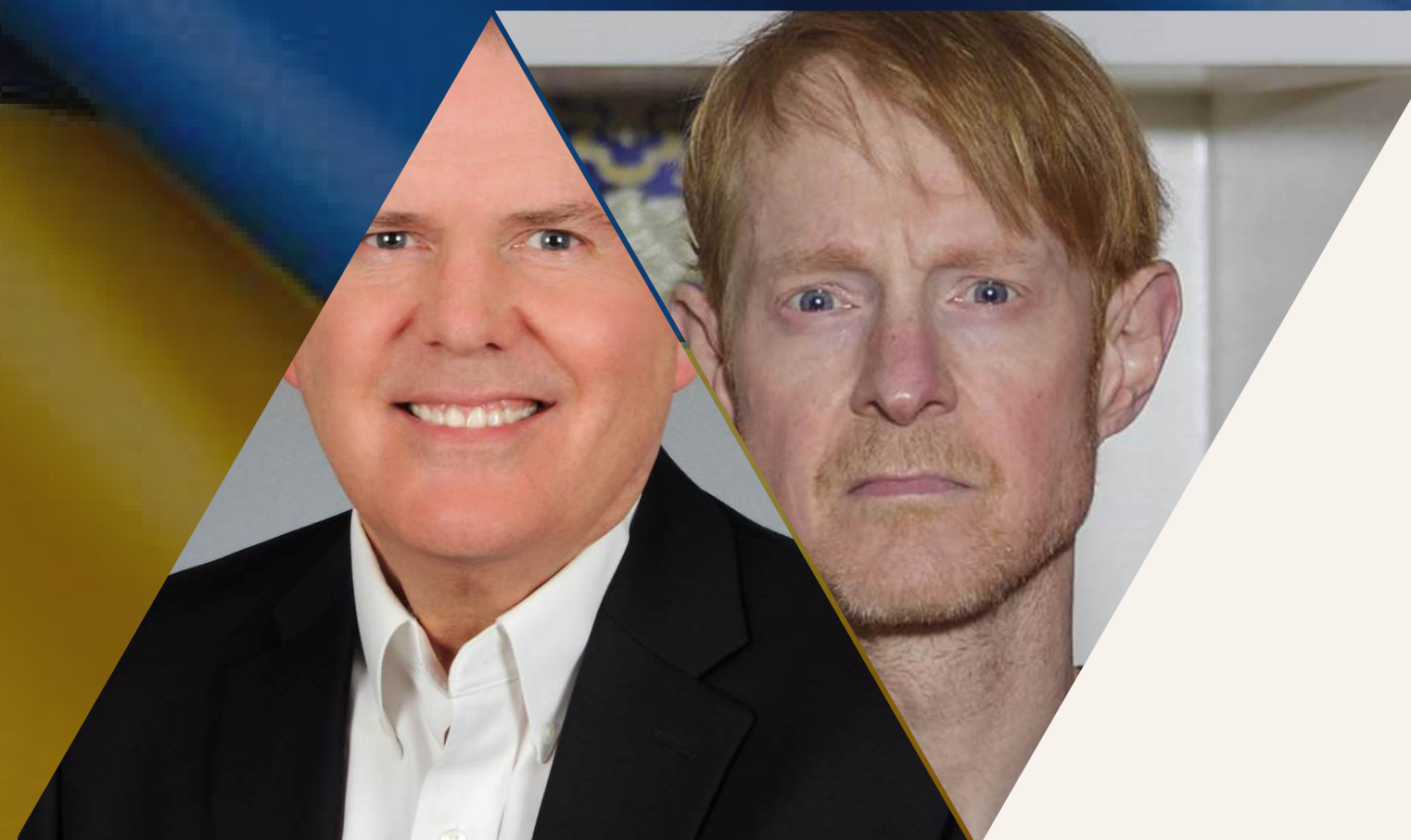
- **Prominent International and USA Based Film Festivals**
- **Acquire Distribution Deal with Steaming Service Through Meetings Secured by Production Company's L.A. Based Entertainment Agent**
- **Other OTT Streaming Platforms and Ad-Supported Streaming Services**
- **School Education Distribution Services**

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Leaders



Chris Mead

Director

Ukraine-USA Pen Pal Program

Sean Burch

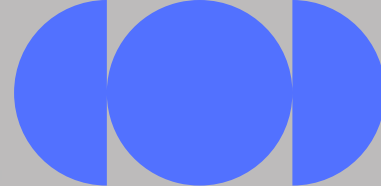
Award-Winning Filmmaker

8-Time World Record Holder

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Join Us

- Solidarity
- Courage
- Freedom
- Survival
- Strength

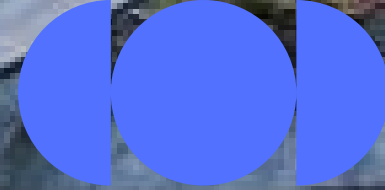
- Humanity and resilience on display
- Unforgettable characters
- Grace and beauty within unfathomable circumstances
- Human moments despite the horrors of war

- On-the-ground experience working with Ukrainian teachers and students
- Charismatic speaker, presenter, & filmmaker

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Photo:
Iryna Ponomarets
Ukraine PenPal Teacher



Call to Action

Support and invest in our documentary project.

See Appendix and inquire to find out more about the amazing Sponsorship levels and ROI benefits.

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Contact Us



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Photo:
Taken by
Ukraine PenPal Student



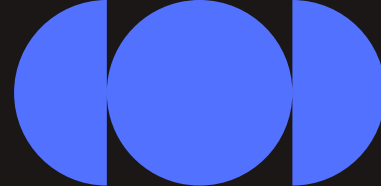
We are an award-winning media company showcasing communities, dedicated to creating and producing content of award-winning films, TV, and digital projects that not only entertains but also creates a conversation.

Whether digital, television, or film, we specialize in projects that are outside the norm, many in remote, hard-to-reach locations, and our subjects are diverse and underrepresented voices that deal with adventure, social, environmental, and political relevance.

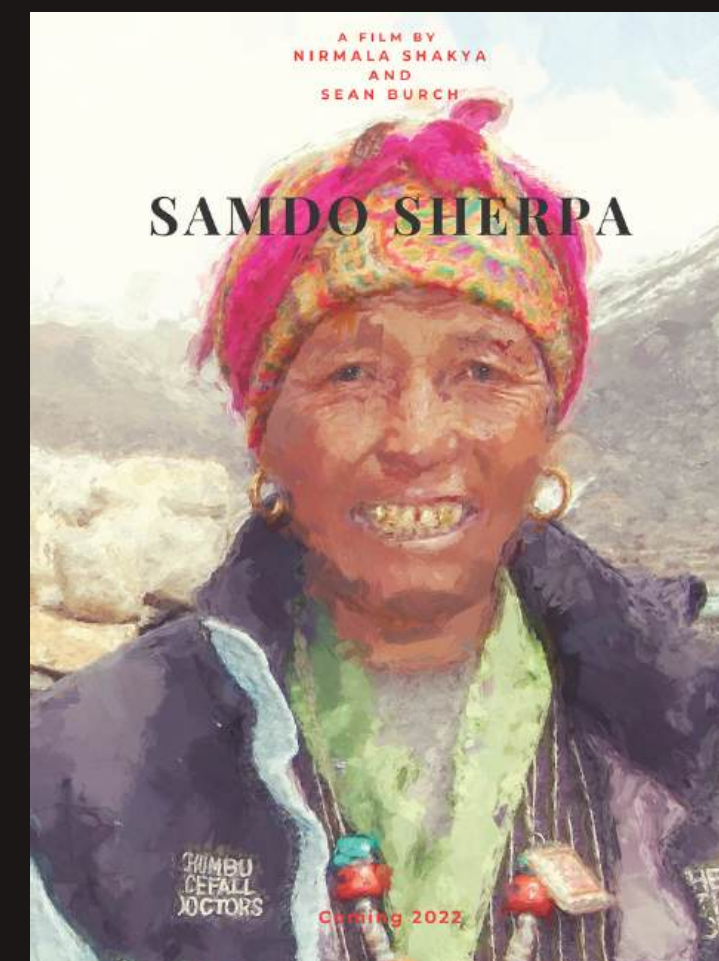
We produce stories and content that celebrate voices and cultures tapping into a more global view of storytelling, meaningful and rooted in world culture, that people wouldn't normally see, to expand one's thoughts, beliefs, and bring about a deeper level of understanding, discussion, and compassion to all human beings on our earth.

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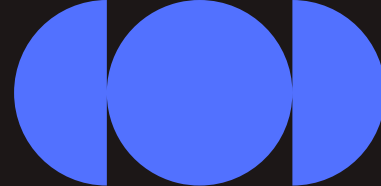


Documentaries & Series



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Appendix

1. **Atrocities of War**
2. **Ukraine Students' Thanks,
Hope & Love**
3. **Sponsorship Levels**
4. **PenPal Media**
5. **Sean Burch Media**



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Photo:
Liudmyla Chernobryvets
Ukraine PenPalTeacher



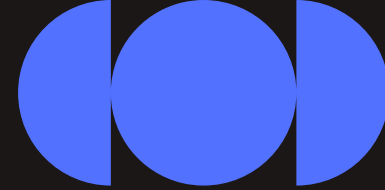
Appendix



“My daughter's friend sent photos of his school in Hostomel. He hid with his family in the basement for 2 weeks. Their cars were damaged by shells and they borrowed a car from a neighbor to escape. They succeeded.”

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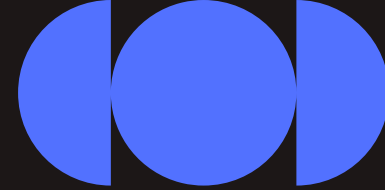
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“The students are listening to a lecture about how to act in case of a terrorist threat. Chernihiv borders on Russia and we should be ready for any scenario unfortunately.”

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Appendix



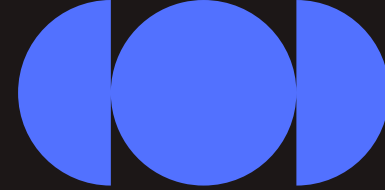
“In March 2024, Russia destroyed the building of the Academy of Arts in Kyiv with missiles. The weapon used is a high-powered supersonic missile designed to fight aircraft carriers.

The fantastic artist Myroslav Vayda survived together with his students. They had classes at that time and managed to lie down on the floor. Because a supersonic missile does not give time to hide in a shelter.

The gymnasium and exhibition hall were completely destroyed.”

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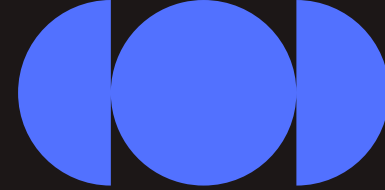
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“Photos of our local kindergarten, "Kazka", by Karina Shvedchenko, age 13, Okhtyrka Secondary School.”

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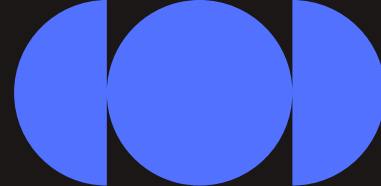
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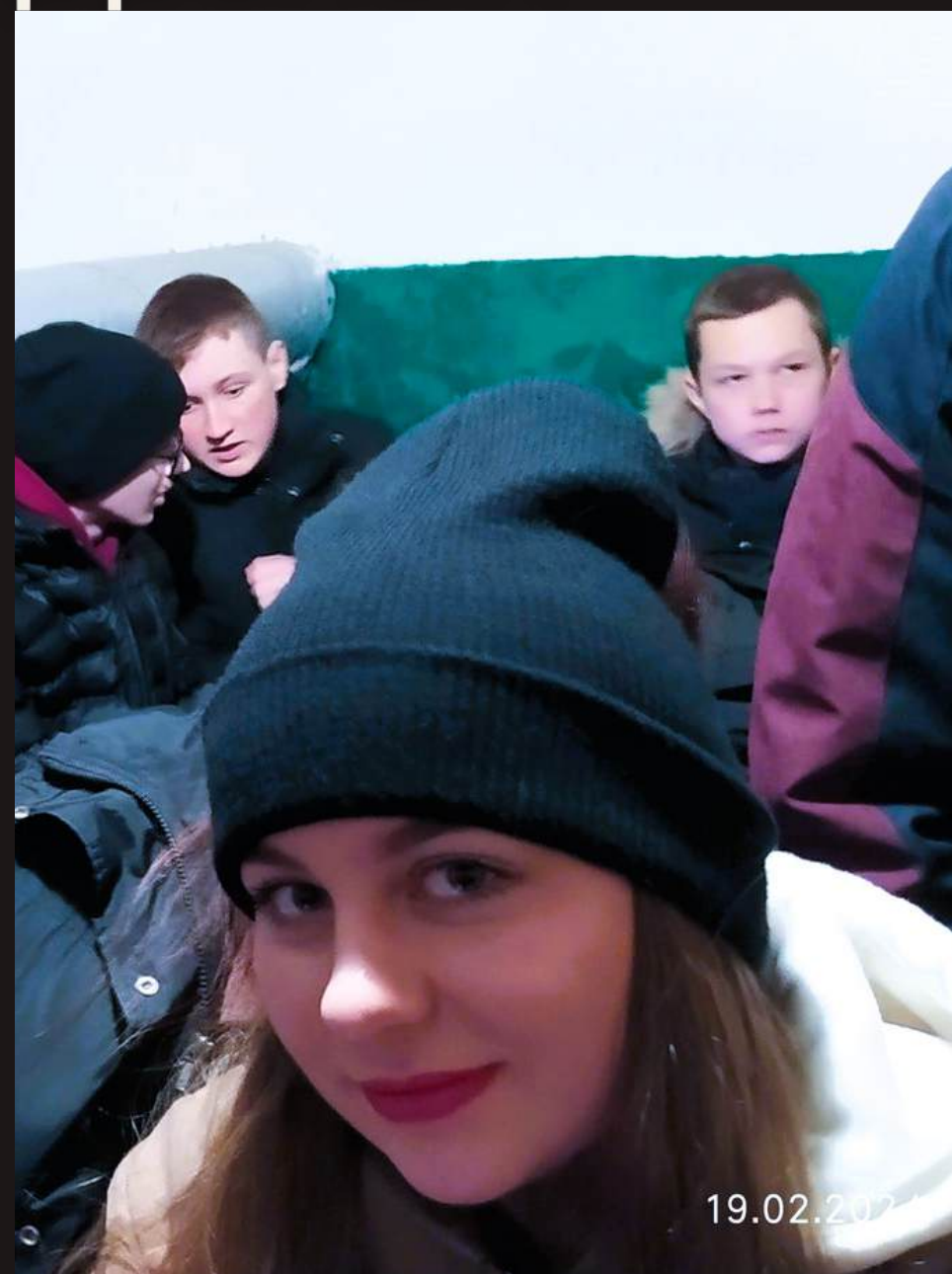
“Our hometown (Polohy, Zaporizhzhia region), eastern part of the country that was occupied on March 3 2022 by the Russians”

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Appendix



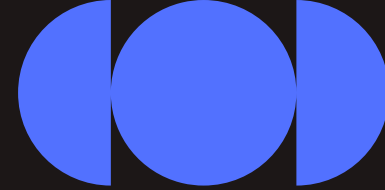
“Unfortunately, most of lessons are spent in a shelter. Only a few students are brave enough to visit school. Sometimes we try to have pleasant moments to celebrate holidays or have special courses how to survive.”

“In Kharkiv, children’s drawings are taped to the walls of an underground subway station that has become not only a family shelter but also a makeshift school. Primary-school-age children gather around a table for history and art lessons.”

“It helps to support them mentally,” said teacher Valeriy Leiko. In part thanks to the lessons, he said, “They feel that someone loves them.”

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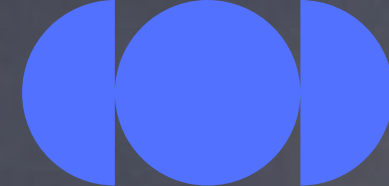
Appendix



“Charity Christmas fair. School children are raising money for the Ukrainian army.”

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Ukraine Students

Сімонова Вікторія Богданівна

“Thank you for your words of support and faith in our future. We do not give up and will continue to fight for the bright future of our country. We are grateful to everyone who will help us along the way. We will definitely win!”

Олійник Ангеліна Богданівна

“I am sure that we will win and I want to wish everyone not to lose hope in life. I am very grateful for your support and I want to show my spirit with which we will be able to endure and continue a normal life, build a new future for our country.”

Андрусенко Дарина Віталіївна

“Thank you very much for these words; they serve as great support and motivation to not give up and believe in the best of our country. I appreciate your help for people and our homeland. Hope that after we can rekindle the fire inside us. “

Лебедь Анастасія Антонівна

“Thank you so much for these words of support. They are actually very valuable to us, you give us the strength to fight on and believe in our victory!”

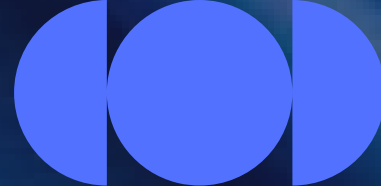
Білоус Вікторія Павлівна

“I want to express a big thank you for such warm words of support for the Ukrainian people. I appreciate your help to people and our native Motherland. I am very pleased that we are not indifferent to the world! In this way, we will stand up, we will fight for our borders, the bright future of our country. Thanks to your motivating words, we will quickly achieve victory, the dream of the entire Ukrainian nation.”

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Photo:
Taken by
Ukraine PenPal Student



Sponsorship Levels



HERO



- Executive Producer Credit: 2
- Streaming Service Percentage
- Commercial: Film Footage for Your Company Marketing Message or Theme
- And Much More! Please Inquire for full ROI Benefits



MAJOR GENERAL



- Producer Credit: 2
- Company Logo on Banner
- Documentary Company Name: Featured at the Start of the Documentary
- And More! Please Inquire for full ROI Benefits

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Artwork:
Arsen Kopyl
Age 10

Ukraine PenPal Student

Artwork:
Anastasia Romanivna
Age 15

Ukraine PenPal Student

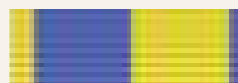




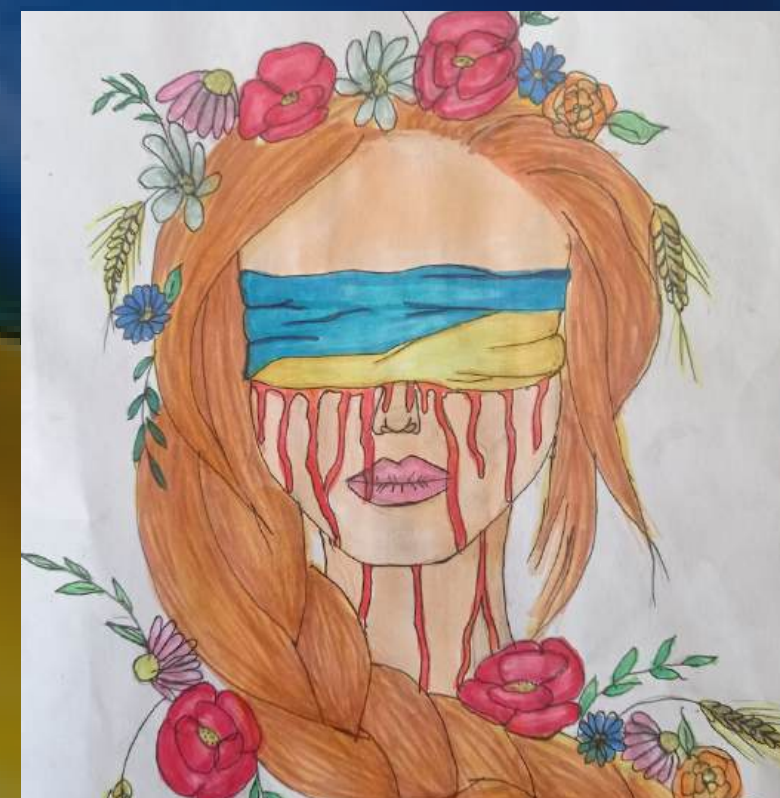
Sponsorship Levels



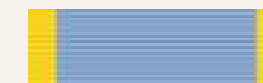
BRIGADIER GENERAL



- Associate Producer Credit: 2
- Company Logo on Banner
- Exclusive Premiere Showing of Film at Your Company with Q&A, Motivational Speaking
- And More! Please Inquire for full ROI Benefits



COMMANDER



- Name Credit on Documentary: 2
- Company Logo on Documentary Banner
- Workshop Presenter and Film Showing at Your Company
- And More! Please Inquire for full ROI Benefits

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Artwork:

Kateryna Dikhtiarenko

Age 16

Ukraine PenPal Student

Artwork:

Viktoria Lytvynets

Age 15

Ukraine PenPal Student



Media

“Pen Pal Program Offers Unique World View to US-Ukraine Teens”

Voice Of America

“Ukraine Pen Pal Program with USA”

Ukraine-Center

“Ukraine Pen Pal Program Gaining Steam”

Odessa American

“Odessa to Odesa”

CBS

“Students in Oakton and Ukraine Connecting as Pen Pals”

Fairfax Times

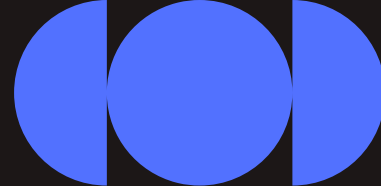
“Dytynets TV show”

Chernihiv, Ukraine

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Photo:
Ivanna Yovenko
Ukraine PenPal Teacher



Media



CNN USA



ABC San Francisco



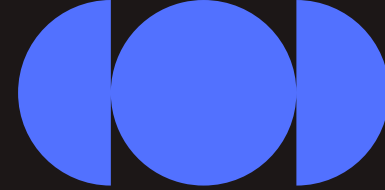
CNN USA



NBC Seattle

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Media



CNN International



CBS News



BBC World News



FOX News

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