



## **FIRST AID FOR UKRAINE ART FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT CHERKASY UKRAINE**

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, local artists from all over Sonoma County will come together for an art exhibition to benefit Cherkasy, Ukraine. The art exhibit will be held from 2 – 5PM at the Village Court in Montgomery Village. The majority of artists will be featuring their rendition of images from Ukraine, such as sunflowers, which are the national flower of Ukraine. The medium will run the gamut from watercolor and acrylic paintings to pencil drawings, ceramics, and photography. Some of the local artists providing work are Sally Baker, Bill Gittins, Karen Field, Mark Freed, Valorie Bader, and many other well-known Sonoma County artists. Additionally, we will have art from internationally known LA-based artist, Eric White. The art pieces will vary in cost, giving every budget an opportunity to contribute to the fundraiser.

The most powerful images will be those created by middle school children from Ukraine. The art exhibit will showcase 20 images of how they currently view their world. Some paintings feature sunflowers and hope, while others show the horrors of war and the children's plea for peace. These art pieces are accompanied by a picture and short statement from each of the students.

The proceeds will go to the Cherkasy Center Rotary Club for the creation of first aid kits for civilians and the military and towards humanitarian efforts to feed, clothe, and shelter those affected by the war. Cherkasy has been designated by the Ukrainian government as a safe-haven destination for refugees, mostly women, children, elders, and wounded soldiers. There are currently 115,000 internal refugees in a city that normally has a population of 225,000. Tax deductible donations from this fundraiser will go to the Santa Rosa East Rotary Foundation. The Santa Rosa East/West Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa and the Healdsburg Rotary Club have established a direct line with the Cherkasy Rotary Club for transfer of the funds. Monies already raised by the clubs have gone to purchase much needed first aid kits, including medications and NATO tourniquets, for the residents of Kharkiv, Kyiv, Cherkasy, and Zaporizhzhya.

For more information, contact Vicki Groninga at 707-318-5472 or Rosa Turner at 707-484-4536. If you cannot attend and would like to donate, click here

