

MCRactive HOLIDAY ACTIVITY FUND

2023

93

HAF
PROVIDERS

2779

HAF
SESSIONS

756K

MINUTES MADE
AVAILABLE

125K

SPACES MADE
AVAILABLE

85,059

TOTAL
BOOKINGS

69%

SPACES
FILLED

77%

BOOKINGS MADE
BY RESIDENTS

23%

BOOKINGS MADE FOR
DIGITALLY
EXCLUDED

43,689

GO MEMBERS
*(+185.4%)

368

TOTAL
PROVIDERS
*(+72.8%)

+404%

BOOKINGS
GROWTH*

*Compared with 2022 figures

Quote from Ukrainian community worker discussing the impact of HAF funding for refugee families;

Nearly two years ago when Russia invaded Ukraine many families fled. They literally packed a bag, many in the middle of the night and left. Not only did they leave their belongings behind, their homes, their extended families, they left behind the life that they knew.

Many of the families came to live with Sponsors – people who opened not only their homes but their hearts too and did so much to support them in settling in especially those first few weeks. Others joined family's members who had lived here a couple of years – all in one house but that didn't matter because they were safe.

Before Easter 2023, funding was set up specifically for Ukrainian refugee children aged 6-18 years. During the Easter holidays, activities incorporated some of our Easter traditions, such as painting eggs as well as other Arts & crafts and sport.

We wanted to recreate the holiday clubs that the children attended in Ukraine, and it was so successful. Many of the parents said that it was the first time that they had seen their children smile and laugh since fleeing. They had made new friends and felt safe and for the first time in ages, felt that they belonged.

The four HAF weeks as well as the other days such as BMXing have helped in so many ways. Healing from the trauma experienced. Being able to speak in your mother tongue and laugh and play like they used to before the war has helped massively in the healing process.

We were a community torn apart by what was happening but with the love and support from people, communities, groups and specifically the HAF programme, we are stronger, the healing process begun, and it has given families a lifeline. For this we will be forever grateful.

Quote from a parent of children attending HAF sessions at Cancer Care Diaspora;

"The Holiday camp was a breath of fresh air for me and my family, my children having a place where they can connect, learn, have fun and be safe, was vital.

The camp has given my 3 girls the experience to share with their classmates as they return to school, it can be hard when others have gone to fun places and you have nothing to share due to circumstances beyond your control, my children have a story to share of resilience and friendship meant everything.

So, to Laura and all the volunteers, thank you so much for the hard work, the smile on your faces as I picked my girls and dropped them, the genuine care for the general wellbeing through healthy food, the fruits and home meals were much needed.

On behalf of all my family we say thank you so much... and for all you do and all whom made this initiative possible".