**A217C001\_230131IB\_CANON.mp3**

[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** When I went to UW Madison, I was involved with an international organization called ISAC. It's spelled it's a French acronyms AIESEC, and it was International Association of Students in Business and Economics. And you can go anywhere in the world and. Experience. I said programing and Rotary is like the closest thing I found to that. Right. Yeah.

[00:00:26] **Speaker 2** Were great. So you've been involved with Rotary for a number of years. When did you first get involved with Ukraine Aid?

[00:00:34] **Speaker 1** Shortly after the war started. I wanted to do something personally and then I realized I'm a Rotarian and I should find out what Rotary is doing. And we got a group of our club members together to try and figure out what we would do. And originally I thought we would write a big check somewhere to send somewhere. And it turned out that we were contacted by Umana and learned that we could actually help pack and sort medical supplies to send to Ukraine. And that really made all the difference because Rotarians love to get their hands into projects and make a difference besides just writing a check. And this was a great opportunity for us. And within nine days we had pulled together a team and packed, I believe it was 45 pallets worth of medical supplies to send over.

[00:01:29] **Speaker 2** So when did you when were you introduced to Doug?

[00:01:33] **Speaker 1** I was introduced to Doug that nine days before the pack. So he he was the one that I contacted one of our members. And it really had heard of an initiative in the Chicago area where Rotarians had helped. And so he wanted to know if the Milwaukee Rotary would be willing to help them with this warehouse in Germantown and send goods out from here. And it worked out great.

[00:02:00] **Speaker 2** And how do you feel that rotary support, either donations or volunteering has changed over the past year?

[00:02:09] **Speaker 1** I think it's just gotten more ingrained in the club In the past. All of our international projects were basically fresh water and bridge initiatives in Guatemala, and we're still doing that, but we're really committed to assisting with this Ukrainian humanitarian effort. And and so the number of people that have gotten involved with the medical supply packing, as well as the getting the funds together for generators, it's really grown over time.

[00:02:43] **Speaker 2** Can you tell me about this generator project?

[00:02:46] **Speaker 1** Well, as I understand it, I wasn't involved in the very first meeting, but the club realized that the war or the war was going to be even worse during the winter months in Ukraine and that the power supplies were being targeted. So we knew that generators was an important part of helping people just simply survive the winter. And so our club committed to raising $75,000 to help pay for generators. With that, friends of the NHL had already committed to buying, had already ordered. And so we knew that we would to get other clubs in the state and Upper Peninsula involved and started making phone calls. And it's been just amazing that we've now well surpassed that goal and raised over $125,000.

[00:03:43] **Speaker 2** And now that some of those generators have started to reach Ukraine, what's that like to see them being used?

[00:03:48] **Speaker 1** Oh, it's it's very satisfying. I mean, we're just now getting the initial photos of of generators being delivered. But we know that in some of these cases it could mean life or death. And so it's it really is good for the soul to be helping out.

[00:04:07] **Speaker 2** So one thing that I've learned from both Doug and Anya is that over the past year, they feel that a lot of Americans have become desensitized to the war. What would you say to an American who's never experienced war, who might think it doesn't affect them?

[00:04:21] **Speaker 1** Oh, goodness. I don't know how anyone who hasn't gone through that can actually feel the turmoil and trauma of war. But I think Ukraine being invaded by their neighboring country has really touched a nerve that that can happen anywhere, even when you don't think it is possible. And so I would definitely encourage anyone who hasn't already supported or who has to really continue to keep Ukraine in their heart and do everything that they can to support them.

[00:04:59] **Speaker 2** Thank you very much. Did you have other comments?

[00:05:03] **Speaker 1** No, I think that's okay. That's great. Anything else?

[00:05:08] **Speaker 2** I don't think so. Okay.