

National guardsman, former fireman leave for Poland to help refugees

SALT LAKE CITY (KUTV) —



With the crisis in Ukraine, Poland has been flooded with refugees, with more than a million entering the country.

The chaos has caught the interest of a Utah non-profit that specializes in assisting refugees.

August Mission was initially created to help Afghan refugees relocate last fall.

Over the past month, leaders with the group have been following the conflict between Russia and Ukraine closely.

On Tuesday, the organization sent off two of its team members to Warsaw to

help there. The plan is to send more, once the initial two can get bearings of what's needed.

Brandon Wykoff is volunteering for the team from Tulsa. He's being sent with Nick Fowler who is a former fireman.



Refugees, mostly women with children, arrive at the border crossing in Medyka, Poland on Sunday, March 6, 2022. (AP Photo/Visar Kryeziu)

Wykoff is currently a member of the National Guard and a police officer in Okla..

He's using his vacation time to take the trip back to Ukraine where he was deployed in 2017.

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The connections Wykoff made during his time there are helping the team.

From the time the two men step off the plane in Warsaw, they'll be busy.

Some of their first goals include helping refugees relocate, as well as logistics to get them supplies.

August Mission's founder Bruce Roberts said they intend to keep people there in Ukraine throughout the year.



A woman wraps herself in a blanket to keep warm as she waits in a crowd of refugees after fleeing from Ukraine and arriving at the border crossing in Medyka, Poland, Monday, March 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

Teams will replace one another every few weeks as long as the help is needed.

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The team is scheduled to arrive in Poland by 4 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on Wednesday. They have a layover in Amsterdam before they fly into

Warsaw.

The team is in need of donations to help the mission. The team received generous support from local businesses. One company that donated supplies to the team and trip is also committing to match up to \$40,000 in donations.

If you'd like to donate and learn more about the organization, visit the website at augustmission.org