

March 9. 2022 – Supply Delivery to Budapest-East and Budapest-West Train Stations by Andrea Ladanyi and James Toler

After reflecting on the border visit (March 2. 2022) and hearing that the needs are growing at the Budapest main train stations as people are arriving by hundreds from Ukraine (directly and through Romania) we felt we ought to do more. We have followed Caritas Catholic Charity, Malta Good Will and other government agencies to see what kind of help they are calling out for. It is a fast-paced information line which changes day-to-day or train-to-train but mostly for sandwiches, diapers, wipes, juice drinks for kids, fruit, chocolate etc.

So, we took it upon our selves to make another load of 265 sandwiches (with the help of Laura, our daughter) and fill the car with other needed items. We headed to **Budapest-East Train Station** first on Wednesday (March 9. 2022) around 6pm. The front entrance of the train station was quiet and no sign of any havoc. We went in looking for the crowds of Ukrainian people and after asking around we were directed to the left side of the building in the waiting and ticket hall. We saw long strand of people waiting to buy tickets to get out of there and at least 500 of them were recouping in the hall where all the charitable organizations had their help desks, hot/cold food and drink tables with several volunteers and aid workers rushing around. We asked what they needed and left some of our load there. We saw police securing the areas and special bus services set up outside for transport people to governmental refugee accommodations along with extra lavatory cubicles. There were also private cars waiting to take people to privately arranged accommodations, which are offered by private citizens (there is also a Fb page for that). The Help-hub was not outpouring to the whole station interrupting other services. As far as we saw things there, all was organized, friendly and well-supplied with continuous stream of donations (we are being one of those)!

Then we drove across to **Budapest-West Train Station** which also had similar police, government agencies, good-will charities and a large civilian volunteers group formed by people who wanted to join forces in helping in this situation (NYUGATI PU segitok on Fb) but their gazebos poured out onto the streets by the side exit near the West-End Shopping Mall. At both train stations we were given special permission by the police to drive near the entrance door to park and deliver supplies. Here they had similar amount of people waiting to be assisted. We right away felt connected to the civilian helpers so we left the remaining supplies with them. Just as we were standing there and chatting around a constant traffic of people was coming to take food, drink or other items. Most of them didn't speak Hungarian but there were a few Russian speaking helpers around (thanks to the already immigrated Ukrainians and/or Hungarian people from the communist era who had to learn Russian and kept a working knowledge of it shamefully excluding me who forgot everything by now).

We have heard at both of these places that a minority in number of Roma families and local homeless have been benefitting from the assistance, but the majority of help lands with the attended target group of refugees. There are stations with spare clothes, blankets, strollers and children activity items that make waiting more bearable and the resilient energy of children we have seen all these places are promising like budding trees in nature.

We would like to thank all the people who expressed interest in helping support our efforts by purchasing one of our children's book at [ArtLifeCycle](https://www.artlife-cycle.com/) . We pledged 100% of profit from the books to be used towards this effort.