

a nail-biting showdown with the Ukrainian border guards, including fruitless phone calls to various officials outside the country, until finally and abruptly, without prior warning, the entire family found themselves over the border and safely in Moldova. Further details have been withheld on request...

But back to the nitty-gritty of their rescue work: The Halfons and their newly-formed Kanfei Emunah (Wings of Faith) association have been in cooperative contact with entities such as the Jewish Agency, the Israeli Consulates in Kishinev and Warsaw, Zaka, Vaad Hatzalah, and many more too numerous to list (though they all deserve mention).

Their activities are divided into three main parts:

1. EVACUATION

In Yitzchak's words: "As of today, we are the only entity that perseveres and rescues Jewish refugees from Ukraine. The Jewish Agency, the JDC, and the Friendship Foundation all ask us to rescue people who contact them. Rabbis in Germany refer people to us whose relatives have remained in Ukraine and want to leave, and many inquiries come from social media groups and the like that we have created and managed since the beginning of the war, while other groups have heard about us through social media, Israeli municipalities, and word of mouth.

"Especially now, with the truly freezing Ukrainian winter approaching, and the lack of electricity, water and basic supplies due to the constant and targeted Russian bombings, it is of the utmost importance to rescue as many Jews as possible. It is a case of mass *pikuach nefesh!* Another coat or blanket is not what they need — they need to get out of there!"

2. ASSISTANCE AT A CROSSING POINT SUCH AS KISHINEV OR WARSAW

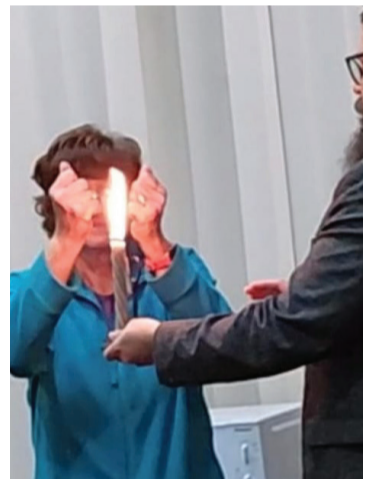
"For several months now, there has been no volunteer activity for refugees arriving in Kishinev! We take care of and assist them, including assistance with baggage, transportation especially for the elderly and disabled, and accompaniment and help in all matters concerning immigration registration with the consulate. We also run meals and Shabbat activities, including candle-lighting, *Kiddush*, singing, festive *Havdalah*, and maintaining a traditional and joyous Jewish atmosphere. Similarly, we talk with them about Judaism and Israel, help them put on *tefillin* — most of them, for



the first time — and the like."
3. ASSISTANCE IN ACCLIMATIZATION
 "We receive calls for assistance from those who have already arrived in Israel or other countries. We stay in touch with them when they



get to Israel and try to help find solutions for those who wish." And to top it all off, what Yitzchak sees as a "clearly Divine process of returning Jews to their Land" obviously also includes bringing them back to Judaism:



"We're also planning activities — in Israel — to bring the rescued Jews closer to their tradition, with meetings, conversations, activities — all based on and thanks to their first meetings with us when we helped them go from refu-

gee status to new immigrant."
 To contact the Halfons with names of Jews who need assistance or rescue in war-torn Ukraine, or to help in other ways, please send them a message at +380 67 768 6222.