

Chris Manson, VP of Governmental Relations – OSF HealthCare

All of this started because of a conversation with his 7-year-old daughter

She enjoyed seeing the stuff come in and she's excited that it's going around the world. We've kind of showed it on a map where is it going and she knows that people are helping out :16

Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) and CEO Andrew Rand stepped right up to help

I called Andrew and to his credit, I explained what had happened, very quickly after he said, "you know, it's the least we can do. We're happy to help. We'll get you an ambulance. Do you want gas or diesel?" That was really what he asked me was, which do you prefer? And I was blown away by the generosity and his willingness to just jump right in. And from that point forward, we're kind of like, okay, I think this is actually going to happen if I can figure out a way to get the ambulance over to Ukraine. :26

It's not easy getting an ambulance from Peoria, Illinois to the Ukraine

I was most nervous until I saw the ambulance literally on the 747. Once it was on the 747 and I'd met with the Ukrainian consulate in person and seeing everything on the plane and in motion, I started to kind of take a breath and say, 'okay, this is happening.' I saw when it landed in Luxembourg, I saw that it's been transported to Poland. It's my understanding it'll be brought into a certain point and they'll take out most of the extra medical supplies that they will just take to probably one hospital to be distributed to others. The ambulance then will pretty quickly move forward into either a combat zone or another area of the conflict and it'll be put right to use :42

There are other opportunities coming from this initial outreach

I was thinking it was just going to be this one opportunity, to really give central Illinois a chance – not to get into the fight - but just to do something and help out a little bit, to show our solidarity with people in Ukraine. But I will tell you, once we were successful in getting that ambulance on that aircraft and getting it sent, I have now received calls from California, from other places in the country, basically saying, hey, you know, this works, we can get American ambulances over there to the Ukraine. Get the Ukrainians more. What do you think? Are there other opportunities? :37

Worked with the Ukrainian government and doctors to determine which critical supplies were needed most

Once we are sure that we had an aircraft to move that ambulance, in a very short time period, literally less than a week, I think it was probably four or five days, we put the word out on a Monday that we had an ambulance that we had an aircraft that we're going to do this. We had a blessing ceremony for the ambulance. And we invited Mission Partners to bring either a clotting agent for people bleeding, or the survival blankets that we were also told were needed, and Mission Partners just delivered in droves :35

Hopes his daughter learns through this there is a lot of good in the world

This is a horrible situation, this war. But the way everyone's reacting, everyone just wants to help and that's been really cool. And so I think my daughter's seeing that and I think if anything else, I hope she's just seen that there's a lot of good in this world :18