

Liudmyla Tykhovod

Dr. Liudmyla Tykhovod was born in a small village in Ukraine. She grew up in a poor family. Her mother was blind and raised her and her sister single-handedly. At the age of 14 years, Liudmyla moved to a large regional city to study in a medical school. At the age of 17 she graduated from the medical school with awards and started working as a medical nurse. In three years she entered a medical university and graduated from it with honors.

The same year Liudmyla started working as a local children's doctor (paediatrician) in Berdyansk, Ukraine. She worked in this profession for 41 years. It was during the Soviet times in Ukraine, and medical doctors had modest salaries. Nevertheless, Liudmyla was passionate about her vocation and served her patients sacrificially from her whole heart. Oftentimes, when her patients had emergencies outside Liudmyla's working hours, they called her on the phone with their complaints, and she gave them medical advice. Sometimes the parents of Liudmyla's young patients would bring them to her, or she would visit them in their homes. Although several times she was promoted to work in a hospital, she preferred to stay working as a local paediatrician in a polyclinic because she appreciated close contact with the families she was overseeing, to see how her patients were growing and to take care of them.

Over the course of her career, Liudmyla had over 2000 patients. Outside her work, Liudmyla was involved as a volunteer in the medical ministry in a Baptist church in Berdyansk, Ukraine, providing medical supplies for families with low incomes. Liudmyla retired in 2012. After her retirement, her patients, who were already adults by that time, very often recognized her on the street and were always happy to see her and said a lot of warm words of gratitude.

Dr. Liudmyla Tykhovod exemplifies the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self” in her life-long humanitarian, healthcare commitment to the people of Ukraine. Rotarian Larry Myers of the Rotary Club of Elmbrook (Brookfield) in District 6270 in the State of Wisconsin, USA, is honored to recognize her with a Paul Harris Fellow award.

Nadiya Tykhovod

Nadiya Tykhovod was born in the city of Berdyansk, Ukraine, the younger daughter of Dr. Liudmyla Tykhovod.

After graduating from Zaporizhzhia University, Nadiya started working as a translator and interpreter at Zaporizhzhia Bible College, which was founded after the collapse of the Soviet Union. After serving at the Bible college for eight years, she went on to pursue her own theological quest and attended the English-speaking Tyndale Theological Seminary in Amsterdam, Netherlands, where she earned a Master of Divinity.

An inbred love for children, perhaps learned from her mother (a paediatrician), led her into children's ministry in an international Christian congregation in the Netherlands. Nadiya led teams of volunteers, planned motivational seminars, and organized special events for children and families. One of her achievements was initiating and launching a buddy program for children with special needs within the children ministry department.

However, concern for the welfare of her family in Ukraine motivated Nadiya to return to her native country. There she provided care for her mother and volunteered in a Baptist church in children's ministries together with her older sister, Anya Dmytrienko.

Nadiya spent several years working as a classroom and project translator for various theological schools and organizations throughout southern and eastern Ukraine. She became an especially respected and sought-after classroom translator at the Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Odessa, where one of the guest professors for whom she served as translator was U.S. Rotarian Larry Myers.

In 2019 Nadiya accepted a position as a project coordinator with the Mennonite Central Committee, headquartered in Zaporizhzhia. For over 100 years the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has shared God's love and compassion for all through relief, development, and peace. Especially since the Russian invasion in 2022, MCC and its partners have provided food, shelter, medicine, and other practical care for Ukraine where millions are internally displaced and at least 4 million people need immediate humanitarian assistance.

The Tykhovod family lost its family home in Berdyansk when the Russian military occupied the city. They first evacuated to Zaporizhzhia and again evacuated to the area of Ivano-Frankivsk in western Ukraine. In November 2022 the family left Ukraine and moved to Klaipeda, Lithuania, in order to support her older nephew, Ivan Shcherbatov, in his studies at the English-speaking LCC University in that city. Throughout this time Nadiya continued working remotely for MCC. That employment ended when the family moved to Nanaimo, BC, in June 2023 under auspices of the CUAET (Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel).

Nadiya Tykhovod has modeled the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" in her efforts toward peace, economic development, and humanitarian relief. Rotarian Larry Myers of the Rotary Club of Elmbrook (Brookfield) in District 6270 in the State of Wisconsin, USA, is honored to recognize her with a Paul Harris Fellow award.