

# Yaroslava's Story

THE IDEA OF LEAVING OUR FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS AND ENTERING THE UNKNOWN MIGHT BE DAUNTING. BECAUSE WE GROW LINKED TO THE LOCATION, WE LEARN TO KNOW AND LOVE; IT IS A TERRIFYING EMOTION. WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S HOMES AND THE ROUTES WE TRAVEL. THE LOCALS ARE PEOPLE WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING. NEEDING TO LEARN ALL THE INS AND OUT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY CAN LEAVE SOMEONE FEELING A LOT OF ANXIETY.

14 y/o Yaroslava



Meet Yaroslava. A 14y/o girl from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. Yaroslava lived in Ukraine during the beginning of the war for three months. She was told by her mom that they were flying to Canada a week before the flight leaving them to prepare very quickly. Everyone around her was in a state of panic and shock.

Not knowing how far they were going, for how long, and what they would do once they got here intensified her anxiety. especially knowing she was leaving her mother, sister, friends and dad behind.

When her family arrived in Canada they were supported with their physical needs - a place to sleep, documenttation, food and even transportations. Shortly after, they were given a "host family", who allowed them to live in her home for as long as they needed, helped her mother and sister find jobs and helped Yaroslava enroll in school.

Feeling confused and anxious, Yaroslava still remembers the first day she went for a walk into the city the most. She could not believe where she was, and everything just seemed like a dream. She felt a sense of insecurity as well when it came to school. She was only familiar with the English language through TV shows and movies and now she must put herself in a situation where she needs to learn this foreign language at a very fast pace.

It was difficult for Yaroslava to get accustomed to a completely different city, new system and especially new mentality. She was used to walking around the city and meeting new people but here, not knowing anyone at all, she feels alone but at the same time, grateful to be safe.

Yaroslava's Quote:

“ *I really miss my city and home. But I still miss my friends and family more. I hope that one day we will still be able to return home and live without fear and panic in our own city and home. Glory to Ukraine!* ”

