VERIZON UP TO SPEED LIVE April 11, 2022 12:00 PM ET

>> HEY, EVERYONE.

HAPPY MONDAY, AND THANK YOU FOR STARTING OFF YOUR WEEK WITH UP TO SPEED.

AS WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE, WE WANTED TO SHARE THE HEARTWARMING STORY OF V-TEAMER ZOFIA STEPKOWSKA OF THE GLOBAL OPERATIONS TEAM FOR VERIZON BUSINESS IN WARSAW, POLAND, WHO GRACIOUSLY TOOK IN FOUR UKRAINIAN WOMEN FLEEING FOR SAFETY.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

>> MY NAME IS ZOFIA, AND I'M

WORK FOR VERIZON POLAND IN WARSAW.

I'VE GOT A HUSBAND WHO WRITES BOOKS.

I'VE GOT A FANTASTIC 11 YEARS

OLD DAUGHTER, KIKA, AND WE HAVE GOT TWO BEAUTIFUL CATS.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IN THE

UKRAINE, THIS IS VERY SCARY BECAUSE IT'S SO CLOSE TO ME.

AT FIRST I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT

IT'S HAPPENING, AND THEN IT WAS

SHOCK, AND THEN I WANTED TO DO

SOMETHING, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

AND THEN I'VE GOT A CALL FROM MY

COUSIN FROM LONDON THAT THERE

ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE RUNNING FROM THE WAR ZONE.

THEY SENT ME SOME NAMES ON THE PHONE.

I SAW THE FACES, AND I WAS IN

SHOCK BECAUSE ONE OF THE LADIES, OXSANA IS THE SAME AGE LIKE ME.FINALLY, ONE DAY BEFORE WE FIND

OUT THAT THEY ARE CLOSE TO

POLISH BORDER, YOU KNOW, I

IMMEDIATELY CLEANED ALL OUR

HOUSE, ALL HOUSE, YEAH, SO I WAS

REALLY SURPRISED THAT I'M, YOU KNOW, SUCH A FAST CLEANER.

THEN I MET THEM ON WARSAW TRAIN STATION, AND I MET FOUR WOMEN.

SINCE THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW

THEIR FACES, I FELT LIKE SISTER TO THEM.IT WAS AMAZING, YES.

SO THEY CAME TO MY FLAT, AND

FIRST QUESTION THEY ASKED ME, HOW MUCH IS THIS.

SO I TOLD THEM, GUYS, THIS IS FOR FREE, OF COURSE.

I'VE TOLD THE GIRLS, THIS IS THE 'FRIGE.

I BOUGHT A LOT OF STUFF.

THIS IS ONLY FOR YOU.

TWO BATHROOMS, YOU CAN USE WHATEVER, YOU KNOW.

MY WARDROBE, I HAVE GOT A LOT OF

CLOTHES FROM MY PAST WHEN I WAS SLIMMER.YOU CAN USE IT ALL. THE LADIES WERE REALLY, REALLY

HAPPY TO SEE SUCH SIGNALS FROM EVERYBODY ON THE STREETS, YOU KNOW, THESE FLAGS, SO THEY FELT THAT THEY ARE WELCOME, YES.

I KNOW THAT FOR THEM, THE MOST

CRUCIAL THING WAS THE DREAM THAT

THEY WILL BE BACK TO UKRAINE, TO THE CITY WHERE THEY LIVE.

THEY WERE CHECKING EVERY DAY IF

THE HOUSE IS STILL EXIST, AND IF

HUSBANDS, BOYFRIENDS, ARE STILL ALIVE.

AFTER A FEW WEEKS WITH US, THREE

OF UKRAINIAN LADIES DECIDED TO FLY TO TBILISI, TO GEORGIA, AND I WAS CRYING ON THE PLATFORM, YES, AND THEY WERE CRYING, TOO.

THE BOND WAS, YOU KNOW, WE WERE

SO CLOSE TOGETHER, YES, AND I

STILL CAN FEEL, YOU KNOW, THIS CONNECTION.

FOR KIKA, IT'S THE BEST LESSONS

IN LIFE, YES, THAT WE CAN SHARE WHAT WE HAVE, YES.

WE HAVE A LOT BECAUSE WE HAVE

GOT PEACE IN OUR COUNTRY, AND

IT'S TIME TO SHARE WITH OTHER

PEOPLE WHO ARE IN VERY BAD SITUATION AT THIS MOMENT.

AND THAT'S STILL ONGOING, YES, SO IT'S NOT FINISHED YET.

WE HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO DO.

>> ZOFIA, YOUR SELFLESSNESS IS AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US. THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR STORY.

NOW, V-TEAMERS, IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP, PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR STORY TO EXPLORE THE DIFFERENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ON OUR CITIZEN VERIZON VOLUNTEERS PORTAL.

EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS.

AND A SHOUTOUT TO OUR FRIENDS AT GLOBAL CITIZEN WHO RAISED OVER \$10 BILLION, WOW, IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO STAND UP FOR UKRAINE THIS PAST WEEKEND.

NOW, ONE OF MY FAVORITE INITIATIVES IS VERIZON INNOVATIVE LEARNING, AN INITIATIVE UNDER CITIZEN VERIZON TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO DIGITAL INCLUSION.

THE VERIZON INNOVATIVE LEARNING STEM ACHIEVERS PROGRAM IN PARTICULAR IS DESIGNED AS AN ENRICHING, EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE WHICH AIMS TO EMPOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM UNDER-RESOURCED SCHOOLS TO BUILD STEM AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS.

WE KNOW THAT SO MANY CHILDREN BENEFIT EVERY DAY FROM VERIZON INNOVATIVE LEARNING, BUT THE TRUE REWARD IS SEEING HOW THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN IMPACTED FOR THE GOOD.

WHICH IS WHY THE CITIZEN VERIZON TEAM CAUGHT UP WITH ALUMS FROM THE PROGRAM TO LEARN HOW THE PROGRAM INFLUENCED THEIR STUDIES AND THEIR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE.

STUDENTS RICKY RICHARDSON, SARAH TRHOCKMORTON, CERENITY BRANT, JOSHUA GARNER AND CHRISTOPHER FLOYD EACH SHARED THE IMPACT THE

PROGRAM HAD ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT FROM FINDING NEWFOUND INTEREST IN STEM TO DISCOVERING INNOVATIVE WAYS TO INCORPORATE ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS IN TO TECHNOLOGY.

TO READ MORE ABOUT THESE STUDENTS, CHECK OUT OUR STORY.

AND SINCE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC OF CITIZEN VERIZON, DON'T FORGET THAT IT'S ALSO GLOBAL VOLUNTEER MONTH.

ALL MONTH ALONG, WE'RE ENCOURAGING EVERYONE TO ATTEND VIRTUAL AND OR IN-PERSON VOLUNTEER EVENTS WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES TO SEIZE THE HOUR TOGETHER.

HEAD TO CITIZEN VERIZON PORTAL.

AND HERE'S A REMINDER TO SEND YOUR WORK SPACE SELFIES OUT SERVING OUR CUSTOMERS, WORKING FROM HOME OR AT ONE OF OUR CAMPUSES TO GOOD@VERIZON.COM, OR TAG US ON INSTAGRAM OR TWITTER@INSIDE VERIZON.

WE'VE SEEN SO MANY GREAT PHOTOS, SO KEEP THEM COMING AND YOU MIGHT BE SELECTED TO ATTEND A LIVE NATION CONCERT TO SOME OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER TOURS.

THIS WEEK, WE'RE GIVING AWAY TICKETS TO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS AT SOLDIER FIELD TO SEE THE WEEKND.

IT'S ALL PART OF OUR FIRST ACCESS PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LIVE NATION.

FIRST ACCESS GIVES VERIZON CUSTOMERS ACCESS TO MILLIONS OF PRE-SALE TICKETS TO THE BEST LIVE NATION TOURS.

AND WE ALSO GOT ANOTHER EPISODE OF THE INSIDE VERIZON PODCAST, AND THIS TIME, DIANA IS TALKING METAVERSE 101 WITH ZOE SCAMAN, A WIDELY RESPECTED TECH AND INNOVATION BRAND STRATEGIST. CHECK OUT THE LINK IN TODAY'S STORY.

IT WILL TAKE YOU TO THE PODCAST HOME PAGE.

PICK YOUR FAVORITE PODCAST PLATFORM TO LEARN THE BASICS AT NFTS, DAOS AND WHY THE METAVERSE IS ALREADY HERE.

BUT BEFORE I GO, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE UNITED TOGETHER EVENT HAPPENING TOMORROW, APRIL 12TH, AT 3 P.M. EASTERN TIME. YOU'LL HEAR FROM CID WILSON, THE CEO OF THE HISPANIC ASSOCIATION ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY, ON HOW INDIVIDUAL UNIQUENESS CAN FOSTER CAREER GROWTH.

WELL, THAT'S ALL I HAVE FOR NOW.

WE HAVE LOTS MORE TO COME THIS WEEK, SO STAY TUNED.

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, YOU'RE UP TO SPEED.