Family

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Roman is already actively working to improve his English speaking skills, and with his background in agricultural sales, he hopes to find a job in that industry here in central Iowa. He's also found himself appreciating the pace of life in a smaller, more rural community.

"I'm looking forward to being able to communicate and work in my area," he said.

Because the Humanitarian Parole program only allows families to stay in the country for two years, the Sychovas don't know exactly what their future will hold, but they're optimistic about the possibility of staying here if Roman can obtain a work visa.

Of their four kids — Diana, Danila, Bohdan and Damira — nine-year-old Diana has had the hardest time adjusting so far, but they've appreciated waking

ing sirens and looking out lie. boarded up windows.

But while they're happy to be safe halfway across the world, Roman and Dasha admitted they still frequently watch news reports on the war and do their best to follow what's happening in their home country. As previously mentioned, four of their close friends — one of whom is the godfather of one of their daughters - are deployed as soldiers, and when the war started, Roman, who is 39, was ready to sign up for military service himself.

my country, for my family, and I packed everything shalltown where you have and I was ready to go and to the CAPS and MICA and be a soldier," he said.

Dasha had other ideas, however, and different divisions were hesitant to accept him because he has four kids. They still proud-American flag at their new home, and there is no ques-

up each day without hear- tion where their sympathies

The Sychovas are still learning new things every day as they settle in here, but they're eternally grateful for the support they've received from United for Ukraine and people like Ladehoff, Banderas, the Salaseks and Pastor Dani Musselman of Hope United Methodist Church. They spent all the money they had for the plane tickets to get to the U.S. and can't believe how much generosity they have been shown.

"The work really starts when they get here," Lade-"I was ready to fight for hoff said." If we didn't have a community like Marthe school district and Immigrant Allies and all that kind of stuff, Marshalltown is kind of built for this. And (they have) just good hearts. We run into people ly fly the blue and yellow constantly who just help Ukrainian flag alongside an us out because we need a

one-off kind of thing, and they're like 'Ah, just take it."

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly of all, Roman asked that the people of this area open their hearts to the idea of resettling more Ukrainians displaced by the war and contribute in any way they can - and also, potentially sending basic survival supplies to the soldiers still fighting.

Financial donations to Marshalltown United for Ukraine can be made to the "Community Foundation — United for Ukraine" and mailed to the Community Foundation, att: Julie Hitchens, 709 S. Center St., Suite 131, Marshalltown, IA 50158 or online at www. desmoines.org/marshalltownunitedforukrainefund. All money collected goes directly to caring for these families' needs until they become self-sufficient.

Contact Robert Maharry at 641-753-6611 ext. 255 or rmaharry@timesrepub lican.com.

Hart

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gubernatorial race against Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg.

In 2020, she ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House in Iowa's 2nd District against now-Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, losing by six votes.

Hart ran for party chair against Bob Krause, the president and chairman of the Veterans National Recovery Center, and Brittany Ruland, state Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott's former campaign manager and business owner.

One of Hart's first tasks will be leading the party through the Democratic National Committee's decision to drop Iowa's firstin-the-nation caucuses from the early nominating calendar.

Hart has indicated she wants to fight for Iowa's

traditional status. "We've got to continue to fight that fight for the first in the nation status and then be very practical about how we move forward," Hart said last week during a forum for IDP chair candidates.

The party will also have to battle back from significant losses in the 2022 midterms. Republicans now hold all four congressional seats, the governor's office and all but one statewide office, as well as a supermajority in the Iowa Senate and 64 House seats.

"I'm under no illusions that this will be easy, and I know that it will take time, but I am heartened by the support that I've heard from the SCC [State Central Committee] and from folks across our state," Hart said. "I'm truly amazed by the commitment to our party success."





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