



Olena | Severodonetsk, Ukraine

My name is Olena, my mom, Valentyna, and my daughter, Lilya (1,8 years). We are an ordinary Ukrainian family from the city of Severodonetsk, Luhansk region, whose life was invaded by the war back in 2014, when Russia aggressively attacked our land. We were forced to leave our home, but then, courageous Ukrainian troops liberated our city from the invaders and were able to come back and continued to live and plan our future. However, the occupier did not stop there, and on February 24, 2022, with new strength, he wanted to seize and destroy all of Ukraine and its people, which he has been doing for several centuries. We left our home and almost all our possessions again. Russia destroyed our city completely: all civilian infrastructure and 70-80% of houses. Severodonetsk as an industrial city and the administrative center of the region doesn't exist anymore.



Now we are in evacuation in the west of the country. The war has been going on for more than half of the year, the Luhansk region has been occupied and we have nowhere to return. Therefore, we want to go to the United States, in order to be able to earn money to buy a house and get the opportunity to have a dream home again, also to study English, so that later we have more opportunities for employment, to be competitive in the labor market because unemployment is one of the consequences of the war. Currently, my husband is defending our country in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and my father and my brother's family stay in Ukraine.