



## **Razom: Forging the Future in Ukraine**

Presented by: **Leslie Wilson, Disaster Response & Vulnerable Population Specialist, Pro Bono**

**Presentation Abstract:** Ukraine under attack. An ongoing disaster in a continual state of flux on a massive scale. Many large entities, thousands of people, and billions of dollars flood the country. However, all this assistance does not have the capacity to meet many of the overwhelming needs, especially in isolated and rural areas. Tailoring such massive response for localized need, maintaining quality control and dispensing services/supplies in a timely fashion is an impossible task on this scale. Ad hoc humanitarians and small teams from many countries step in to fill gaps. Many helpful, often haphazard, unpredictable. Learn how a semi-retired emergency manager, skilled in much-needed personal and professional capabilities, is weaving together a broad coalition of partners to bring a comprehensive vision into reality. Ms. Wilson is forging a Resilient Village concept by partnering with the Ukrainian Army, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, frontline chaplains, businesses, journalists, small humanitarian groups, and like-minded individuals. Based in part on recent American projects to solve homelessness, this long-term plan encompasses urgent survival needs, the building of tightly knit communities, and the

development of thriving local economies designed to meet the requirements for EU membership in the years to come.

The presentation includes photos and video clips demonstrating in-the-field challenges and innovative low-cost, low-tech solutions for soldier & civilian survival using the rubble from missile strikes for up to 100% of the construction materials. In January, the Ukrainian Army reached out to her for a portable heating solution for frontline dugouts and other trench warfare hurdles to overcome. Innovations in warfare resilience is under way in the first R&D laboratory/training/warming center currently under development. Perched on the edge of a large debris field near the frontlines, this point of invincibility is well positioned for real-world testing.

**Speaker Bio:** Leslie Wilson is a visionary with diverse skills forged in disaster response, tempered by 18 years in emergency management. Prior careers in IT and off-grid permaculture also play a critical role in Ukraine. Highlights: state subcontractor (COVAX pods), FEMA reservist (many national disasters), SRA Emergency Preparedness & Response Analyst (federal projects, DC area), Red Cross International & Disaster Services (Disaster Services Coordinator/Manager in DC area/California + 15-year volunteer). Internationally she volunteered in post-quake Haiti 2010 before five trips spanning 11 years of pro bono work in Tajikistan as liaison/consultant/partner with Red Crescent, Aga Khan Foundation, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and many CSOs on national/international levels.

Since May 2022, Ms. Wilson has immersed herself in the culture and wartime challenges of the Ukrainian people to better understand the most urgent unmet needs. She is establishing a wide-ranging network to aid in the survival, recovery, and rebuilding of the nation through the Resilient Village concept.