



# ARINA SYDORCHUK, *11 years old*

*City of Vyshhorod,  
Kyiv region*

"At first my mother and I panicked, then tears. Dad and brother did their best to assure us... Soon, the explosions started in Kyiv. It was so loud that it seemed as if they were outside the window," Arina recalled the morning of February 24.

They quickly packed up their "alarm bags" and went down to the bomb shelter. All the neighbors from their entrance ran there. Up to hundreds of people with dogs, cats, and hamsters. Arina spent 2 days in such a big company.

On February 26, the parents decided that Ariana and her brother should go with their mother to a safe place, to relatives in Lithuania. The girl did not want to leave without her father, but he could not leave Ukraine then. Coupled with colleagues

and friends, he organized a humanitarian headquarters and began helping people in need. Dad said almost nothing about what was happening at home, but Arina kept watching the news and crying, not believing that it was all really happening.



## *For reference*

*Sydorchuk family:*

*Dad - Valery, head and head coach of FC "Chaika" (Vyshgorod); mother - Anna, dance coach, 40 years old; son - Igor, a schoolboy, 16 years old; daughter - Arina, schoolgirl, 11 years old. After staying in Lithuania, the family returned to Vyshhorod.*

