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Former EY partner's Ukraine mercy mission

Chris Leptos – a former EY managing partner and now a senior adviser to financial advisory firm Flagstaff Partners, where he shares offices with Tony Burgess, Charles Goode and Peter Costello – has returned from Ukraine where he delivered five ambulances to the war-torn country.

The idea began when former US ambassador to Singapore Frank Lavin, who worked under late president George H.W. Bush and in the Ronald Reagan administration, contacted Leptos to raise funds for ambulances for Ukraine.

Within a few weeks Leptos and his friends had raised enough money in Australia to buy 12 second-hand ambulances, delivered over two convoys, and stock them with medical supplies (crutches, tourniquets, etc) that are needed in hospitals across Ukraine.

Leptos and his convoy took the northerly route: from France to Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Poland and then Ukraine.

“Driving in a five-vehicle ambulance convoy has its challenges, for example, every truck driver in Germany and Poland wants to overtake you, no matter how fast you are travelling,” Leptos says.

He has around \$60,000 left over from the fundraising and after discussions with locals is looking for a crane with a 30 tonne capacity that can be used to rescue people trapped under rubble when buildings are bombed.

