

Williamsburg brewery releases new beer to benefit Ukraine

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WILLIAMSBURG — Alewerks Brewing Company will unveil a new beer this weekend to benefit relief efforts in Ukraine.

The Williamsburg craft brewery said it plans to donate \$1 from every four-pack sold of its new golden ale, called Teamwerks, to Mercy Chefs, a Portsmouth-based nonprofit that is providing food relief for Ukrainians.

[Alewerks](#) will also donate \$1 from every glass sold of Teamwerks at its Ewell Road and L.A.B. taproom locations. The L.A.B. (Little Auxiliary Brewery) is at 36 Richmond Road, in the Williamsburg Premium Outlets.

On Saturday — launch day — Alewerks will double its giving by donating \$2 from every glass and four-pack sold of Teamwerks. The new brew is bottled in a distinct blue-and-yellow can, reflecting Ukraine’s flag.

The entire team at Alewerks wanted to help out Ukraine, said operations director Michael Claar. Mercy Chefs has received national recognition for donating \$1 million in food and supplies to Ukrainian refugees.

“It just made sense for us to look local,” Claar said in a news release. “Once I saw there was an organization in Hampton Roads working to make a difference, that just seemed like a natural group to tie this release to. We have this opportunity to create on a regular basis. We want to use that creativity not to just help ourselves but to help those who really need it.”

Ukraine’s own craft brewing scene has a grassroots campaign to recognize Ukrainian golden ale as a distinct beer style, a push that has taken on greater nationalistic symbolism due to current events, according to Alewerks.

Teamwerks has a sweet, spicy, herbal flavor profile, with ground coriander seeds adding an old spice finish, said lead brewer Kyle Meyerhoff.

“Golden Ale is a relatively traditional style,” Meyerhoff said. “People who like golden ales or traditional Belgium styles will find it fun to drink.”

Alewerks intends for its Ukrainian-style Golden Ale to be the first under the Teamwerks label that will support various causes. Previously, Alewerks has released brews that helped workers in the restaurant and hospitality industry affected by COVID shutdowns and that backed the Black is Beautiful national initiative.