

this is...
Ava Seymour



Senior Ava Seymour
documented her
experience at a Ukrainian
refugee camp.

Capture THE MOMENT

Story by Chiara Zecchini
Photo by Michael Sylver

Walking along the bustling local train station in Záhony, Hungary, Senior Ava Seymour found herself among numerous Ukrainian refugees who had just arrived. At the steps to the train station, she could see crowds gathering. To her left she saw green tents set up by volunteer organizations, she could smell fresh chicken soup ready to be served. She heard laughter coming from the play area where Ukrainian children played. Her eyes wandered along the walls of the train station, covered with countless original artwork pieces made by children, amid Ukrainian flags and portraits of pets. She spotted volunteers guiding individuals to where they should go.

After witnessing a moment that truly impacted her, Seymour decided she would document her experience and tell the stories of the people she encountered. "I captured this one instance where

you could see a mother reuniting with her family and that was what made me realize I had the opportunity to capture the realities of what is going on and make it more personalized so that people can have a better understanding of the situation," Seymour said.

Seymour began talking to different people and learning more about how they made it to the camp, and what they left behind. It was important for her to shed light on the consequences of the war in Ukraine.

"I've always been interested in the fact that every single individual has a story, and you just pass them on the street, not really thinking much of it," Seymour said.

Although she had prior experience with film production, this was her first attempt

at a documentary.

"I definitely wanted to do something that has to do with exploring new cultures and bring awareness to what is going on around the world," Seymour said.

Seymour reached her goal when her piece aired during advisory, raising awareness for the situation in Ukraine. Seymour's love of film and storytelling was ever present in her life. Aside from exploring stories in her community and abroad, she loved to capture simple moments with her family and friends.

"I love to capture moments on film. Even when I am just with friends and family, I love taking videos so I could look back at them in the future and remember the past," Seymour said.