



**Polish American
Association**

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

*awakening HOPE
and INSPIRING hearts*



MISSION statement

The mission of the Polish American Association, a human service agency, is to serve the diverse needs of the Polish community in the Chicago metro area by providing resources for changing lives, with emphasis on assisting immigrants.

CORE VALUES

We believe that:

- * Each client of PAA is a unique individual with different concerns and abilities and shall be treated with dignity, respect, and trust
- * PAA programs and services shall assist in the empowerment of people as individuals so that they may reach their full potential in all aspects of their lives
- * PAA programs and services shall be most effective when a holistic approach is taken to individual needs
- * PAA shall make every effort to respond to the unmet and well researched needs within the Polish community by providing programs and services not available elsewhere
- * PAA shall advocate on behalf of those within the Polish community who may not be able to speak for themselves
- * PAA shall foster linkages and collaborative efforts with other human service agencies and also within the extended Polish community, including persons most comfortable speaking either the English or Polish language

awakening HOPE

“HOPE” IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS —
THAT PERCHES ON THE SOUL
AND SINGS THE TUNE WITHOUT THE WORDS
— AND NEVER STOPS — AT ALL —

Emily Dickinson

Dear Friends,

This last year has been another rewarding and busy year for the Polish American Association (PAA), as our staff, board members, volunteers and supporters worked together to awaken hope in our clients and inspire the hearts of our community.

For many of the 14,351 clients PAA served during this fiscal year, the road to a brighter and hope-filled future seemed distant when they first approached us for help. By inspiring the strength that lies within their hearts, our staff and volunteers have helped many of them deal with their difficulties and overcome some of the hardships and challenges facing them in a new country. With renewed hope, better jobs and financial stability, improved language skills, healthier bodies and family relationships, they can now call the United States “home.”

As you read on, you will learn about the many achievements specific to our 31 programs and services here at PAA during the last fiscal year. First though, we’d like to share with you some of the exciting highlights of our year as an organization as we approach 80 years of service to Chicagoland’s Polish community.

* We are delighted to be operating our south side office in our new location on 6276 W. Archer since October 2000. As a result of the new space we were able to acquire through the help of a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs and several elected officials and board members, we can now better serve the community. The new space enables us to expand our range of services offered to our clients who reside on the Southwest side.

* PAA and its board have spent much of the past fiscal year developing a strategic plan that we hope to share with you next year. We are in the midst of evaluating our programs and services in an effort to

be responsive and evolve the organization to meet the changing and diverse needs of the Polish community. As part of this process, we have sent out hundreds of surveys to gauge familiarity of our organization and solicit input about our programs and services.

* We are looking forward to the ethnic data that will be available next year from the 2000 Census. The data gathered in this Census will help PAA better understand the needs of the community it serves and be more targeted in our efforts to reach those in need.

* PAA’s Board has embarked on a strategic and intensive effort to recruit additional board members to bring new approaches, enthusiasm and fresh ideas to help advance PAA and its programs and services. We are delighted to have had several talented people join our board in recent months.

* As you may recall, we started the Miracle Fund last year as part of a larger effort to increase individual support for PAA. Our organization has received a significant portion of our funding from government grants during the last decade. Recent changes in the political landscape and shifts in government funding of social services are prompting organizations like PAA to scrutinize funding sources and examine methods of service delivery. As government agencies become more fiscally constrained, social service agencies cannot rely on maintaining current levels of government funding. We hope you will continue your support of PAA’s Miracle Fund and our fundraising events throughout the year.

* PAA has created and filled a marketing and public relations position to help us spread the word about our organization to those in and outside the Polish community in hopes of increasing awareness of our organization and its services.

In closing we’d like to thank all of our supporters, board members, staff, and volunteers for the critical part they play in awakening hope and inspiring the hearts of the many people whose lives they touch each day.

With best regards,



Stanley W. Jozefiak
Chairman of the Board

Karen J. Popowski
Executive Director

awakening



PAA's Social Services offer families, seniors, youth, battered women, the homeless and those seeking help to free themselves of substance abuse problems an opportunity for hope and personal growth. Through its many social services, PAA enabled 3,357 clients in FY '01 to hope for a brighter tomorrow for themselves and their families. Some of our core service areas include:

The Women's Services Program addresses many issues associated with the emotional and mental difficulties of everyday life, as well as those unique stresses which come with adjusting to life in a new country, and single parenting. It provides domestic violence counseling for victims and their children as well as counseling for men who batter.

PAA's Youth Development Program assists Polish teens, who because of language barriers and difficult adjustment periods to life in a new country are vulnerable to isolation, substance abuse and depression. PAA's programs focus on developing healthy relationships and life skills, substance abuse prevention and community involvement.

The Seniors Program provides seniors with individual case management, home visits, medical referrals, homemaker services, counseling, crisis intervention for elder abuse, translation services and a senior club with scheduled social activities.

The Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Starting Point, provides intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment and counseling for clients who are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. The program also includes after-care and family support groups.

PAA's Homeless Services aid in reducing homelessness among the Polish community. The **Turning Point** day shelter for homeless men, which operates 365 days a year, provides our clients with a safe and sober environment, meals, showers and laundry facilities, while assisting them in assessing their options and linking them with appropriate services.

PAA provides **Support Services** for our most vulnerable clients which include a food pantry, a clothing closet and energy assistance.



Clients assisted in FY 2001

SOCIAL SERVICES	3,357
Counseling/	
Case Management	1,247
Battered Women	148
Homeless	296
Alcohol Treatment	364
Seniors	528
Youth	576
Homemaker	198
SUPPORT SERVICES	1,263
Food Pantry	406
Energy Assistance	857



Youth Counselor Marek Prejzner leads members of Kontakt, a high-school age youth group aimed at helping students make healthy life choices, in a warm-up exercise called the human knot. The group has weekly open meetings to socialize and discuss various issues and problems the teens face.

“I’ve been a volunteer at the shelter for homeless men for more than two years. I’m not Polish, so it’s been a real opportunity to learn about another culture. **I’m continually amazed by the spirit of survival and courage of immigrants.**”

Phyllis Gould, volunteer



Outreach & Interpretation Project staff member Henryka Blusiewicz assists a low-income client with a chronic heart condition to file paperwork for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which will provide him with medical care and food stamp assistance while he is treated. Although the man is a long-time U.S. citizen, he was not aware of such emergency assistance until he came to PAA.

HIGHLIGHTS

- * PAA expanded its services to victims of domestic violence and their children by hiring a full-time court advocate to accompany victims of domestic violence to court and a part-time art therapist to assist children in expressing their feelings.
- * PAA’s Homemaker Services program, which employs individuals to provide physical and environmental assistance to homebound, low-income elderly and disabled persons, grew significantly. PAA’s homemakers served 198 clients in FY ‘01, enabling them to remain in their homes rather than nursing facilities.
- * PAA’s youth outreach staff worked with Am Shalom and the Interfaith Coalition to develop a “Building Bridges” dialogue for Polish and Jewish teens as part of a yearlong program honoring Polish rescuers. The event was attended by 54 teens and focused on quality learning experiences about cultural and religious diversity by establishing commonalities among the teens.
- * Through joint advocacy efforts with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, PAA has been able to maintain and expand the successful and much needed Outreach and Interpretation Project. This project, a partnership with IDHS, is aimed at educating eligible immigrant families and seniors about safety net benefits and providing translation services at IDHS offices.
- * PAA has been conducting intensive outreach through Polish media and community meetings to the Polish community, particularly parents, about substance abuse among teens. These efforts have resulted in much-needed increased awareness and in people seeking help from PAA through our parent support group and other programs.
- * The Batory Foundation invited Marek Prejzner, a co-facilitator for groups of PAA’s partner abuse program, to Poland for a two-week, four-city speaking tour. He met with court judges, correctional staff, mental health professionals and others interested in learning about PAA’s education and counseling programs for men who batter.

INSPIRING HEARTS



PAA's Learning Center has helped thousands of Polish immigrants and others in Chicago learn English, prepare for U.S. Citizenship exams, and gain new skills to enable them to enter careers in healthcare and other professional settings, and become active, contributing members of Chicago's communities. PAA has been successfully providing employment services since 1981, adult education since 1989, and vocational training since 1992. PAA is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education as a Private Business and Vocational School.

During FY '01, PAA's Learning Center served 2,616 adults through its adult education and vocational training programs, and PAA's Employment Program has successfully placed more than 149 clients in jobs earning an average of \$8.43 per hour.

With cultural sensitivity and flexibility in mind and a holistic approach to each student's needs, PAA is able to effectively retain its students and help them through the successful completion of their selected area of study and training. Our curriculum, which is highly regarded by employers, is designed for economically and educationally disadvantaged adults with barriers to employment such as English language skills.

The Learning Center offers English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) classes for beginners, ESL literacy tutoring, basic math skills courses for those in vocational training programs, and citizenship classes, including special classes for limited English-speaking adults. Those enrolled in our award-winning vocational training programs can take advantage of CNA training programs, nursing review classes for foreign-trained nurses, Rehabilitation Aide classes for CNAs, and office skills and computer classes.



Office Skills Instructor Myrella Smith works with student Anna Chrostowska, who hopes her computer training will enable her to secure a better and higher paying job.



Students in PAA's CNA training class learn medical waste disposal procedures. Their classroom learning prepares them for the practical training they will receive at a local nursing home.

Clients assisted in FY 2001	
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	929
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	1,687
Citizenship classes	629
English classes	699
Vocational classes	174
Literacy	185

“I am NOT a
teacher, BUT
AN AWAKENER.”

Robert Frost

“I love to hear from students, who call us with their stories of successes they’ve been able to achieve as a result of the training and classes that they’ve taken at PAA. For many of them, doing well in one class inspires them with the confidence to continue learning.”

*Teresa Bednarczyk,
teacher and
case manager*



HIGHLIGHTS

* PAA participated in the Sweatshop Survey, as a member of the Inter-agency Task Force on Working Conditions in Chicago. Other members are government agencies, community-based organizations and unions (U.S. Department of Labor, Illinois Department of Labor, OSHA, EEOC, etc.). As a result of this cooperative effort, the Chicago Workers’ Center was created. The Chicago Workers’ Center, of which PAA is a member, endeavors to educate workers about their rights and assists them in filing complaints regarding working conditions.

* The Learning Center received new funding from Illinois’ Department of Commerce and Community Affairs to continue providing CNA training.

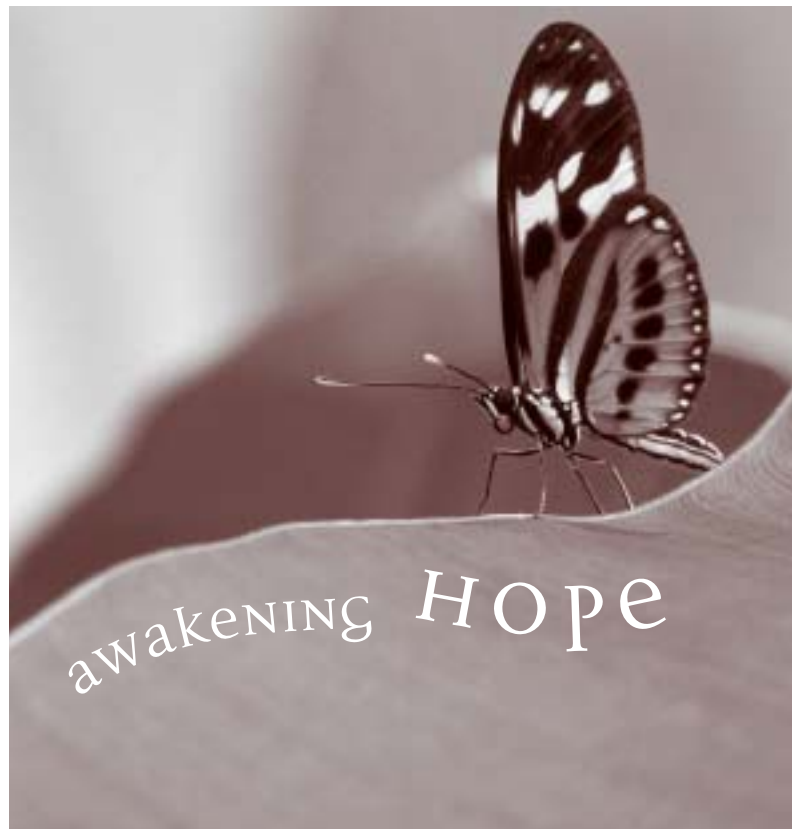
* The Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development (MOWD) has awarded PAA with additional funding, as a result of excellent performance, for core and intensive services in job placement. The additional funds have enabled PAA to provide more employment services, add a resource room and enrich its already extensive offerings.

During FY '01, PAA's Immigrant Services programs helped 7,115 clients become U.S. citizens, adjust their immigration status, gain access to necessary medical services and screenings and learn about the joy and responsibility of home ownership.

For many of our clients, it is a dream to call the United States home. Therefore our **Immigration Services Program**, in addition to being the busiest, is such an important part of the services we provide. Accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals of the Immigration and Naturalization Services, PAA's counselors work with immigrants to complete citizenship applications, provide information regarding declaring and adjusting their status, and translate documents, among their many other services. Our staff also makes it a priority to keep the Polish community informed about current INS policies and procedures.

PAA's **Health Outreach Program** is aimed at providing information and access to affordable healthcare for our clients. The Health Outreach Program organizes health fairs to provide immunizations, screenings, vaccinations and back-to-school physicals, as well as assists women with arranging for mammograms and prenatal care, and provides interpretation services for important hospital visits. In addition, our workers spread information to the community through Polish media about health issues with which our community may be unfamiliar, such as lead poisoning.

PAA's **Housing Resource Center** provides individuals with information and services to enable more Polish immigrants to enter the home-buying market. Trained counselors provide clients with unbiased, bilingual information and counseling necessary to facilitate knowledgeable and thoughtful home-purchasing decisions, as well as rudimentary financial advice. The Center offers a unique program combining ESL instruction with a home-buying course and seminars on various issues associated with home ownership.





Volunteers and nurses from West Suburban Hospital help administer free back-to-school immunizations to low-income children at one of PAA's many health fairs throughout the year.

“We are inspired with the belief that through our support of PAA, we can help people believe in themselves and work hard to develop and utilize the talents God has instilled within them so that with time, they can enjoy a fuller life and be there for others who may need help.”

Frank and Lorraine Parks, PAA donors

**“everywhere
immigrants have
enriched and
strengthened
the fabric of
american life.”**

John F. Kennedy

Clients assisted in FY 2001

IMMIGRANT SERVICES	7,115
Immigration	4,849
Health Outreach	1,913
Housing	353



Some of the first students to complete PAA's 40-hour Homebuyers Course, which also includes ESL instruction, proudly display their certificates of completion. Housing program coordinator and a certified counselor, Lidia Jachimowicz (back row, 2nd from left) delights in helping her students take this important step in establishing permanent roots in their new homeland.

HIGHLIGHTS

- * PAA's immigration staff had one of the busiest years in recent history, processing thousands of applications for 245(i), which allowed eligible immigrants to apply for permanent visas while remaining in the U.S. In addition, PAA was involved in numerous outreach efforts to the Polish community, working with the INS, City of Chicago and other organizations, to translate information and inform people about program eligibility and deadlines.
- * PAA Immigration staff was also involved in various advocacy efforts, such as press conferences and rallies, in support of a general amnesty bill and other bills restoring partial benefits to new immigrants.
- * After three years of conducting an extensive Homeownership Education Campaign that reached thousands of Polish-speaking residents in the Chicagoland area, PAA was able to start a comprehensive Housing Information Center with the help of grants from the Fannie Mae Foundation and the City of Chicago's Housing Department. During its first year, the program served 353 individuals through its home-buying courses, seminars and counseling services.

Polish American Association is grateful to all whose contributions have helped us offer resources for changing lives. Without private donations, we could not provide many vital services to our clients. We have made every effort to include all donors and apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone.

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Lifetime Giving of \$ 50,000+

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 Accurate Perforating
 Admiral Maintenance Co.
 Advance Health Center
 Alexian Brothers Medical Center
 American Airlines
 Advocate Health Center
 Arlington Park Hilton
 Ballard A. Healthcare Residence
 Banco Popular
 Central Baptist Home
 Churchill Cabinet Co.
 Council for Jewish Elderly
 Days Inn Hotel
 Dobbs International Services
 Double Tree Hotel
 Durite Screw Corp.
 Edgewater Medical Center
 Elmhurst Memorial Hospital
 Embassy Suites Hotel
 Flying Food Services
 FMI Inc. Thomas Lilleberg
 Glenelston Nursing and
 Rehabilitation Center
 Glenview Terrance Nursing Center
 Holiday Inn
 Illinois Institute of Art
 IMC
 Inland Midwest Corp.
 John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc.
 Lakeview Nursing &
 Rehabilitation Center
 La Salle Bank
 LSG-Sky Chefs
 Nakano Food, Inc
 Oakton Pavilion Healthcare Facility
 One Plus Corp.
 One Source, Inc.
 Operation Able
 Peninsula Hotel
 Remodelers Supply Center
 Rendall MFG
 Resurrection Medical Center
 Sheraton Hotel
 Six Corners Medical Plaza
 The British Home
 United Airlines
 W Hotel City Center
 White Cap Inc.
 West Suburban Hospital

POLISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Library Association
 American Association for Adult
 & Continuing Education
 American Vocational Association
 Area Planning Council for
 Adult Education
 Association of Fundraising
 Professionals
 CAN-TV
 Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation
 Chicago Area Workers Center
 Chicago Council on Planned Giving
 Chicago Jobs Council
 Chicago Metropolitan
 Battered Women's Network
 Coalition of Limited English
 Speaking Elderly
 Donors Forum of Chicago
 Greater Chicago Food Depository
 Harris InfoSource
 IACEA
 Illinois Addiction Counselors
 Association
 Illinois Alliance for Aging
 Illinois Association of Community
 Care Program Homecare Providers
 Illinois Coalition for Immigrant &
 Refugee Rights
 Immigrant & Refugee
 Health Task Force
 INS Community Discussion
 Committee
 ITBE
 IT Resource Center
 National Association of
 Social Workers
 Northwest Coalition of
 Youth Serving Agencies
 Partnership to End Homelessness
 PRAG/CTE
 TEOSL

PROGRAM SPONSORS

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 Catholic Charities
 Chicago Community Trust
 Chicago Department of Housing
 Chicago Department of
 Human Services
 Chicago Department of Public Health
 Chicago Tribune Charities
 Combined Federal Campaign
 Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley
 Foundation
 Dr. Scholl Foundation
 Fannie Mae Employee Fund
 Fannie Mae Foundation
 Federal Emergency Management
 Agency
 First Security Savings
 Fund for Immigrants and Refugees
 Heritage Foundation
 Illinois Attorney General
 Illinois Coalition for Immigrant
 & Refugee Rights
 Illinois Department on Aging
 Illinois Department of Commerce
 & Community Affairs
 Illinois Department of Human
 Services, Bureau of Refugee
 & Immigrant Services

Illinois Department of Human
 Services, Community Health
 & Prevention
 Illinois Department of Human
 Services, Office of Alcoholism
 & Substance Abuse
 Illinois State Board of Education
 Illinois Secretary of State
 Karol Uryga Nawarowski Foundation
 Kraft Foods
 Marshall Field's
 Mayor's Office of Workforce
 Development
 McMaster-Carr Supply Company
 Michael Reese Health Trust
 A. Montgomery Ward Foundation
 Nalco Foundation
 Owens Foundation
 Philip Morris Company
 Polk Brothers Foundation
 Retirement Research Foundation
 Sara Lee Foundation
 Sovereign Military Order of Malta
 Federal Association, USA
 Whitman Corporation Foundation
 William G. McGowan
 Charitable Fund, Inc.
 WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation
 United Way of Chicago/Crusade
 of Mercy

LICENSES AND ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

Board of Immigration Appeals
 Accreditation
 City of Chicago, Limited Business
 (Immigration Service)
 Greater Chicago Homeowner
 Education Counseling Collaborative
 Illinois Department of Human
 Services, Office of Alcoholism &
 Substance Abuse, Outpatient
 Substance Abuse Treatment
 Illinois Department of Human
 Services, Office of Alcoholism &
 Substance Abuse, Remedial
 Education
 Illinois Department of Human
 Services, Partner Abuse Intervention
 Program
 Illinois Department of Public Aid,
 Physical Rehabilitation Aide
 Training
 Illinois Department of Public Health,
 Certified Nursing Assistant Training
 Illinois State Board of Education,
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Pictured left to right: Rev. Thomas Paprocki, Stanley Jozefiak, Thaddeus Makarewicz, Kasha Cianciara-Puharic, Bogna Iwanowska-Solak, Mitchell Wiet, Roger Kovack, Bryanna Wilczynski, and Ernest Wish.

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Polish American Association is an Illinois not-profit corporation qualifying for tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Revenues are received in the form of contributions from individuals, businesses, and organizations; grants from foundations and corporations; contracts and grants from federal, state, and local government; and fees for certain program services. Revenues are used to fulfill the organization's chartered purpose. The 18-member voluntary board of directors is responsible for overseeing and charting the organization's operations, including its financial activities. Financial statements are presented for review and approval on a monthly basis. The condensed financial statements of the current unrestricted fund for the year ended June 30, 2001, appearing in this report were derived from unaudited financial statements. The full audited financial statement will be available upon request.

Ernest R. Wish, *Treasurer*
Polish American Association

Expenses	
93.9%	Programs
6.1%	Support Services
Income	
76.1%	Government Grants & Contracts
8.1%	Contributions & Special Events
7.8%	Program Service Fees
5.8%	Corporate/Foundation Grants
1.6%	United Way/ Crusade of Mercy
0.6%	Other

Condensed Statement of Financial Position - Unaudited - June 30, 2001

Assets		
Current Assets	\$787,929	
Property and Equipment	955,222	
Total Assets		\$1,743,151
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities	121,795	
Unrestricted Net Assets	804,838	
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	816,518	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$1,743,151

Condensed Statement of Activities - Unaudited - Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2001

Revenues		
Contributions and Special Events	\$276,620	
United Way	55,033	
Government Agencies	2,608,114	
Corporate and Foundation Grants	198,580	
Program Service Fees	265,291	
Other Revenue	20,209	
Total Revenues		\$3,423,847
Expenses		
Program Services		
Social Services	\$1,840,448	
Employment and Training Services	401,622	
Immigration Services	287,852	
Education	641,733	
Support Services		
Management/Fundraising	207,394	
Total Expenses		\$3,379,049
Net Revenue for the Year		\$44,798



**Polish American
Association**

Resources for changing lives

Main Office

3834 North Cicero Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60641
(773) 282-8206

Learning Center

3815-19 North Cicero Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60641
(773) 282-1122

South Side Office

6276 West Archer
Chicago, Illinois 60638
(773) 767-7773

Homeless Outreach Center

3425 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60641
(773) 777-6662

paa@polish.org
www.polish.org