celebrating 80 years of active caring and concern 2003 ANNUAL REPORT
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.

Vision Statement

Polish American Association will be the recognized, preeminent human service agency in the Chicago metro area identifying and serving the diverse needs of the Polish community. This will be achieved through Polish American Association's own programs and activities and in collaboration with others, utilizing an appropriate balance of private and public funding and human and physical resources.

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
Dear Friends,

The Polish American Association marked its 80th anniversary this fiscal year, and the changes during eight decades of service to our community have been extraordinary. PA A has experienced tremendous growth and evolved over the decades into being not only a place of hope in times of crisis, but also a resource and place of empowerment for those wishing to smoothly adjust to life in the United States.

As we celebrate PA A’s 80 years of service in providing resources for people to make positive changes in their lives, we also remember the spirit of generosity of those who came generations before, and their lasting gifts to the future.

Life for immigrants in the early 1920’s was especially harsh. Work was strenuous, conditions at the workplace were often risky and reprehensible, and pay was meager. Many things could and did go wrong. People died. Spouses sought solace in alcohol. Youngsters quickly learned that a shop-lifted vegetable tasted better than no food at all. Authorities did not have the ability to cope with people who did not speak English.

Established Polish Americans living in Chicago saw all this and wanted to help. Realizing that ignoring the ills of society only intensifies problems, the Chicago Society of the P. N.A. helped incorporate the Polish Welfare Association, now the Polish American Association, as a nonprofit organization on August 16, 1922.

Although it seems that 80 years have changed a great deal, the reality is that immigrants still face the same struggles, obstacles and emotions in making a new life for themselves and their families. We at PA A are privileged to take our turn providing resources for changing lives. Thanks to the incredible efforts of our board and staff to raise additional funds and continue to reduce spending in an already lean budget, we ended the fiscal year in a much better place than hoped. Some of our successes that we’d like to share:

- At a time when many other organizations cut programs and staff, PA A was very fortunate to maintain all its programs. Although, due to economic conditions, PA A was not able to expand current programs or develop new services, the organization proudly helped open the doors to a new life for more than 14,000 clients.
- PA A kicked off its 80th Anniversary celebration by hosting a Media Appreciation Day for members of Chicago’s Polish-language media. Polish-language media have been instrumental in PA A’s ability to reach out beyond the walls of our buildings to those who are overwhelmed with the challenges of life in a new country and often have no one to turn to for help. PA A also hosted a Roaring 20’s Benefit to raise funds and commemorate its 80 years of service.
- PA A was awarded the Silver Statue Award from the Association of Journalists of the Republic of Poland for its outstanding success in serving Polonia.
- PA A continued its efforts to achieve a greater diversity in funding. The growth in individual support can be attributed to a combination of new development initiatives, such as PA A’s Polish-language newsletter Ogniwo, privately-hosted benefit concerts, the 21 Pledge, and continued outreach to educate those in the Polish community not familiar with non-profit organizations about their responsibility to support and sustain organizations like PA A.

Your time, energy and financial support are what helped us achieve this incredible milestone of 80 successful years of service. We thank all our supporters, board members, staff and volunteers for playing such a crucial role in the life of this organization and the thousands of clients who turn to us each year.

With best regards,

Stanley W. Jozefiak
Chairman of the Board

Karen J. Popowski
Executive Director
Education & Employment

Immigrants coming to this country face many challenges, including language barriers and difficulty finding a job. Traditionally, immigrants have provided an inexpensive and hard-working labor pool for unfilled jobs, and this still holds true today. Through PAA’s Education and Employment programs, our clients can make a smooth transition to a productive and hope-filled future for themselves and their families.

PAA’s Learning Center has helped thousands of Chicago’s Polish immigrants and others in need learn English, prepare for U.S. Citizenship exams, and gain new skills that have enabled them to enter careers in healthcare and other professional settings, and allowed them to actively participate in the social, economic and political life 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 2003, PAA’s Learning Center served 2,702 adults through its adult education and vocational training programs, and PAA’s Employment program received 481 job orders from employers and successfully placed more than 243 income-eligible clients in jobs earning an average of $8.90 per hour.

Clients Served in FY 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment Services</td>
<td>1,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>2,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship classes</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English classes</td>
<td>1,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational classes</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer resource room</td>
<td>458</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The newly incorporated Polish Welfare Association, now Polish American Association, employed two people primarily providing social services when its doors first opened. It would be 60 more years before PAA began providing employment services and 67 years until it began offering adult education.

Left: Charity Ball  Guests dance the night away while raising money for the Polish Welfare Association (PAA’s former name) in the 1930s at the Stevens Hotel (now the Chicago Hilton & Towers). Fundraising events have remained a key way to raise private funds for PAA’s programs and services.

 выполнили-семня 1922 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Class Postage Stamp</th>
<th>2¢</th>
<th>37¢</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAA Employees</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**then & now**

- PAA recently** establi**sh**ed a community computer resource room at its Southside location.** It offers free computer and Internet access to those who are seeking employment or who need lab time to improve basic computer skills. It also gives immigrants an opportunity to stay connected with family and friends living far away.

- PAA **offered 47 English-As-a-Second Language (ESL) classes,** helping more than 1,400 people learn English during the 2003 fiscal year. ESL class offerings were expanded on weekends to accommodate our clients’ busy schedules.

- PAA’s Career Center **added a Job Readiness Specialist,** enabling PAA to help clients write complete, polished resumes, and to offer job readiness workshops on an increased basis, in addition to our other employment and career-building offerings.

- Despite the weakened economy and high unemployment, PAA’s Employment Programs have exceeded funder-mandated training and placement rates. Our job placement rate increased by 50 percent over last year.

- Participants of two classes in PAA’s highly-respected **CNA Vocational Training Program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the state certification exam.**
Social Services

Although we are now in a new millennium, the emotions of people who are newly arrived in this country are the same as they were for those arriving 80 years ago. The hope and excitement of a new and better life quickly give way to isolation, insecurity and powerlessness. PAA aims to empower and restore the self-sufficiency and spirit of our clients as they embark on a quest for a successful future in their new homeland.

PAA’s Social Services programs offer families, seniors, youth, domestic violence victims, the homeless and those seeking help to free themselves of substance abuse problems an opportunity for hope and personal growth. PAA staff provides professional support, advice and hands-on assistance in our clients’ first and most comfortable language to transform lives and create happier and more stable home environments. Through its many social services programs, PAA enabled 5,169 clients in FY 03 to hope for a brighter tomorrow for themselves and their families.

Some of Polish American Association’s core social services include: individual and family counseling, crisis intervention, programs for victims of domestic violence and offenders, youth development and substance abuse prevention, senior case management, day center for homeless men and emergency homeless outreach services, intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment, homemaker program, food pantry, clothing closet, energy assistance, and outreach and interpretation services.

Clients Served in FY 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Services</th>
<th>3,456</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counseling/Case Management</td>
<td>1,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of Domestic Violence</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>323</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse Treatment</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemaker</td>
<td>282</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Services</th>
<th>1,713</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
<td>860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Assistance</td>
<td>853</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PA A’s Social Services have grown dramatically in the last 80 years. What has not changed is our commitment to being a place of help and hope. PA A’s official purpose for being formed in 1922 was “to promote the moral and physical welfare of our people; to cooperate with legal agencies and various welfare organizations in the handling of the juvenile and adult delinquents; and to carry on a campaign of education and information directly into the home to reduce delinquency.” Today our social service programs continue to grow to meet the emerging and diverse needs of our community.

1955 Dedication A new building is dedicated in January 1955 at 1303 N. Ashland Avenue, at the time the center of Chicago’s Polish community, to house the growing programs of the Polish American Association.

- PA A’s Youth Program was redesigned to provide an expanded focus on after-school activities for elementary-school children. The program provides art activities, tutoring and a newly organized theater workshop run by a volunteer professional actress.

- In collaboration with grade school children from PA A’s after-school program, PA A’s Benjamin B. Green-Field Youth Development Program for high school teens hosted their first ever Art Show. The proceeds from the Art Show support PA A’s youth services and scholarships to Snowball, our Polish-language youth retreat.

- PA A’s Women’s Counseling Program has seen a 50 percent increase in the number of women seeking help over the past two years. Rather than troubling, this increase is positive in two ways. Through PA A’s community outreach and education efforts, more women have become comfortable asking for help. They have also learned to recognize their problems sooner and seek help before the situation develops into a crisis.

- PA A’s Homemaker Program provided 98,490 hours of care to 282 elderly and disabled clients during FY 03, enabling them to remain in their homes.

- Polish American Association’s Food Pantry is serving 40 percent more families than in the previous fiscal year.

- PA A’s Outreach and Interpretation Program assisted the National Center on Poverty Law in the Polish translation of materials to facilitate the application process for food stamps. These materials are intended to greatly reduce delays by providing a clear understanding of the documentation needed to receive food stamps.
Immigrant Services

Immigrants are an integral part of the fabric of our nation. Today immigrants make up nearly one-fifth of our country’s population. They come to the United States in search of opportunity and in pursuit of the American dream. After years of challenges, hard work and the difficult process of adaptation to a new life, these immigrants are ready to become Americans and make this country their home.

 Polish American Association’s Immigrant Services programs aim to make this transition a bit smoother. The Immigration Services Program helps many fulfill the dream of calling the United States home. Accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals, PA A’s counselors work with immigrants to complete citizenship applications, adjust immigration status, translate documents and make it a priority to keep the Polish community informed about current immigration policies and procedures.

 PA A’s Housing Resource Center helps our clients attain the ultimate American Dream—owning their own home. Our staff provides unbiased, bilingual information, counseling and seminars to facilitate knowledgeable and thoughtful home-purchasing decisions. PA A’s Health Outreach Program provides health information and referrals to affordable healthcare for our low-income, limited-English speaking clients. Community physicians and nurses voluntarily provide free screenings arranged through PA A.

 During FY 03, PA A’s Immigrant Services programs helped 4,861 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.

Clients Served in FY 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Clients</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Services</td>
<td>4,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration Services</td>
<td>2,709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Outreach</td>
<td>1,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Resource Center</td>
<td>637</td>
</tr>
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</table>
As early as 1948, the Archbishop’s Veterans Committee for the Archdiocese of Chicago charged PAA with resettling displaced persons. As history moved into the 1970’s and beyond, newcomers were more often political refugees. In 1986, immigration counselors were hired to assist the 5,300 persons who came to PAA as a result of the national amnesty program. In 1991, PAA’s offices were jammed with people who won a visa in the lottery program. By the mid-1990’s, more than 50,000 newcomers from Poland comprised Chicagoland’s largest group of new legal immigrants.

Volunteers Sell Flowers at a Fundraiser PAA’s dedicated volunteers, donors and board members continue to develop creative ways to raise vital funds for the most vulnerable in our community.

- PAA was instrumental in helping the Polish-speaking community understand the newly organized Department of Homeland Security, which now encompasses the functions of the former INS. In addition to routine immigration services and counseling, PAA’s Immigration Services staff continued providing accurate information about ongoing immigration policy changes.

- PAA staff, in cooperation with the Polish American Leadership Initiative (PALI), organized a seminar entitled American Civics Orientation for Extern Priests from Poland” for the Archdiocese of Chicago. The seminar provided priests, whom many immigrants turn to for help, with accurate immigration and citizenship information.

- PAA’s Health Outreach Program, in cooperation with a resident at St. Elizabeth Hospital, worked with several Polish-language preschools to present dental hygiene, nutrition and immunization information to children.

- Our staff was invited to present at the annual KidCare Illinois conference on model outreach and enrollment practices. PAA was one of only seven Illinois community-based organizations to receive special funds due to its outstanding performance and outreach efforts.

- PAA’s Housing Resource Center hosted a housing fair, “Dom 2003.” More than 200 people attended the event, which linked prospective and current homeowners with resources for home purchasing and remodeling. More than 400 people attended home-buying and financial literacy workshops and seminars throughout the year.
Our Contributors

Polish American Association is grateful to all whose contributions have helped us offer resources for changing lives. We rely on private donations to enable us to provide vital services to our clients. Thank you to all who have given to PAA in time, money, goods or services.

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Krzysztof Koziol
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Georgia CFC
CFC for Coastal Georgia
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The Central Savannah River Area CFC
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Hawaii Pacific Area CFC

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Circle of Service Foundation, Inc.
Commonwealth Edison Co.
Community Development Block Grant
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Fannie Mae Corporation
Fannie Mae Foundation
Foundation for Health Enhancement
Benjamin B. Green-Field Foundation
Home Depot
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
Illinois Community College Board
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department on Aging
Illinois Department of Commerce & Community Affairs
Kraft Cares
Kraft Employee Fund
Mayor's Office of Workforce Development
Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
Michael Reese Health Trust
The Owens Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts
Retirement Research Foundation
Sara Lee Foundation
Sovereign Military Order of Malta
Target Stores
The Standard Co.
United Way in Chicago
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

Employers Participating in PAAS's Community Employment Program FY 03
A & D Trucking of Chicago
ABM Janitorial Services
Advanced Window Corp.
Advocate Health Center
Alden Terrace of McHenry Rehab. & Health Care Center, Inc
American Class Apparel
Art-Flo
Ballard Health Care Residence
Belmont Village
Bethesda Home & Retirement Center
By-Lo Manufacturing
Catalina Services, Inc.
Central Baptist Home
Chicago Archdiocese
Chicago Stoam Co.
Churchill Cabinets Co.
Citywide Building Maintenance

Crown Plaza Hotel
Days Inn Hotel
Eastern Accents/Feathersound
Elmhurst Memorial Hospital
F & F Food
Firemen Sealcoating
Flying Food Services
Gate Gourmet
Global Material Technologies
Home Companions
Hu-Friedy
Imperial Service Systems, Inc
International Marble & Granite Supply
Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Kaplan Educational Center
Lake Cook Health Care Center
Lakeview Nursing Home
Lutheran Home & Services
Marylin Miglin
Mercy Hospital & Medical Center
North American Gear
Oakton Pavilion
Open MRI of Chicago
Pentair Electronic Packaging Co.
Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
Premiere Luxury Suites
Prestige Driving School Inc.
Quality Janitors & Maintenance Co.
Quantum Foods
Randall Mfg.
Redi-Cut Foods
Remodeler's Supply Center
Resurrection Life Center
Resurrection Medical Center
Rogers Loose Leaf
Roszak - ADC
St. Benedict Nursing & Rehab.
St. John Heart Clinic
St. Joseph Hospital
St. Paul's Nursing Home
Scrib, Inc.
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Teresa's Sewing Corporation
The Millard Group
Twelve Oaks Hotel
Wally's Market, Inc
W-Chicago City Center Hotel
W-Chicago Lakeshore Hotel
Zim Mfg. Co.

Polish American Association Memberships
American Library Association
American Association for Adult & Continuing Education
Area Planning Council for Adult Education
Association for Career & Technical Education
CARE-TC
Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network
Chicago Women In Philanthropy
Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly
Community Media Workshop
Donors Forum of Chicago
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Inter-American Conductive Education Association

Illinois Addiction Counselors Association
Illinois Alliance for Aging
Illinois Association for Career & Technical Education
Illinois Association of Community Care Program Homecare Providers
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
Illinois Health Occupations Association
Immigrant & Refugee Health Task Force
Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Bilingual Education
IT Resource Center
National Association of Social Workers
Northwest Coalition of Youth Serving Agencies
Partnership to End Homelessness
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc.

Licenses & 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, Private Business & Vocational School
Board of Directors FY 03

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Deloitte & Touche

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Commonwealth Edison (ret)

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Ameritech

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Cardinal Stritch Retreat House

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Archiocese of Chicago
Thaddeus J. Makarewicz
Attorney at Law

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Kasianna, Ltd.
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Gordon & Pikarski
Andrew Przybylo
White Eagle Banquets

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Northwestern Memorial Hospital (ret.)

Vice-Chairman
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Attorney at Law

Secretary
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Moderator
Most Rev. Thomas J. Poprocki
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

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Kolpak & Lerner
J effrey J. Kroll
Clifford Law Offices

The Hon. J ames J. Laski
City Clerk of Chicago

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Ewa Grybowski
Lukasz Gulis
Kristiine Hanna
Ruth Hansen
Grażyna Harla
Ewa Hiszczynski
Angela Hocking
Chestra Hudzka
Ewa Huzior
Przemysław Iwaszczyszyn
Lidia J achimiowicz
Maria J achymyjak
Renata J asiuk
Anna J. astrzebska
Małgorzata J eduk
Anna J edroj
Maria J urczewska
Władysława Kaczmarczyk
Bianka Kaminska
Teresa Kaminska
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Zofia Koscielnik
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Arkadiusz Kowalczyk
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Magdalena Krasnowska
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Krystyna Mass
Magdalena Matyja
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Aleksandra Michałowska
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Bozena Miliko
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Zofia Mos
Małgorzata Olszak
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Lidia Paliwoda
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J ulia Pasion

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Marek Przyjazny
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Sebastian Rejniak
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Tomasz Zawisła
Zofia Ziaja
Irena Zielińska
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 28 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, 2003, appearing in this report were derived from audited financial statements. The full audited financial statement will be available upon request.

Roger F. Kovack, Treasurer, Polish American Association

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**Polish American Association**  
**Condensed Statement of Financial Position for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003**

**Assets**
- Current Assets $823,230  
- Property and Equipment 878,493  
  **Total Assets** $1,701,723

**Liabilities and Net Assets**
- Liabilities $830,177  
- Unrestricted Net Assets 816,752  
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 54,794  
  **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** $1,701,723

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**Condensed Statement of Activities for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003**

**Revenues**
- Contributions and Special Events $324,958  
- United Way 33,462  
- Government Agencies 3,408,028  
- Corporate and Foundation Grants 232,906  
- Program Service Fees 280,952  
- Other Revenue 5,921  
  **Total Revenues** $4,286,227

**Expenses**
- Program Services
  - Social Services $1,200,558  
  - Employment and Training Services 665,090  
  - Immigration Services 313,404  
  - Education 802,152  
  - Homemaker Services 1,079,793  
- Support Services  Management/Fundraising 211,845  
  **Total Expenses** $4,272,842

**Net Revenue for the Year** $13,385

**Expenses**
- 95.1% Programs  
- 4.9% Support Services

**Income**
- 79.5% Government Grants & Contracts  
- 7.6% Contributions & Special Events  
- 6.6% Program Service Fees  
- 5.4% Corporate/Foundation Grants  
- .8% United Way  
- .1% Other
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

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www.polish.org