

Polish American Association

Mission: **Changing Lives**





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

PAA homemaker Bozena Sajdak (left) and PAA's Homemaker Program have enabled Mrs. Skubiak (right) to live independently in the home she so cherishes.

creating lasting and meaningful change in the lives of people
who are vulnerable, hurting, or simply need a helping hand...

Dear Friends,

Creating lasting and meaningful change in the lives of people who are vulnerable, hurting, or simply need a helping hand to succeed in establishing a new life is not only a worthy mission for an organization, but also one that adds inspiration and purpose to the lives of individuals who choose to participate in its accomplishment.

Polish American Association (PAA) is proud to conclude its eighty-second year of providing the resources that empower thousands of people to change their lives and hope for a better tomorrow. Through a comprehensive continuum of bilingual and bicultural services, PAA provides individuals and families with the tools and opportunities to succeed.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations that invest their time, money and resources, and the great efforts of our board and staff to raise funds and continue to operate as efficiently as possible, our fiscal year came to a positive finish. We invite you to celebrate our successes, some of which are highlighted below and in the following pages.

PAA commissioned a report based on Census 2000 data to identify a profile of strengths and needs of

the Polish community living in the Chicago area. The report, generously funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services, was released in the Fall of 2004 to government, business and civic leaders with the intention of helping planners and policy makers in the public and private sectors to reach and provide services to the Polish community. PAA and its Board of Directors will use the findings in this report to evaluate program offerings and continue to advocate on behalf of those who need us most.

In an effort to enhance its outreach efforts, Polish American Association redesigned its website, www.polish.org. The new website features more current and comprehensive content, improved navigation and a more interactive approach.

PAA created a new bilingual video to generate increased awareness of its programs and their life-changing impact for the people the organization serves. Free copies are available upon request.

Six new directors were elected to PAA's Board of Directors as part of the organization's ongoing efforts to strengthen resources, broaden its linkages, and to bring new approaches and fresh ideas to help advance the organization and its programs.

The total PAA Board complement is now 32 members, a high for recent years.

Together with our supporters, board, staff and volunteers, we have mobilized around a mission, changed the lives of entire families, and in turn helped to build stronger and more vibrant communities throughout the Chicago area. Thank you for helping us achieve our mission day after day and year after year. We at PAA look forward to working with you to transform many more futures.

With best regards,



Mitchell J. Wiet
Chairman of the Board



Karen J. Popowski
Executive Director

Teaching English & New Skills

For immigrants who come to the United States seeking better jobs and better futures, learning a new language, civic participation and maybe new job skills are the keys to changing their lives. PAA helps thousands of immigrants each year to learn English, prepare for U.S. Citizenship exams and gain new job skills allowing them to make a smooth transition and fully participate in life as new Americans.

During FY 2004, PAA's Learning Center helped more than 2,800 adults change their lives through education, literacy and vocational training programs.

More than 1,500 students prepared themselves for their new life in the United States by studying English in one of the 44 English-As-A-Second Language (ESL) classes and literacy programs offered by Polish American Association.

Over 550 adults came closer to achieving their dream of becoming U.S. citizens by participating in one of the 23 citizenship preparation classes offered by PAA.

More than 150 individuals prepared to enter careers in healthcare and office administration through PAA's Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Physical Rehabilitation Aide classes and office skills training. This year PAA expanded CNA class offerings to include evenings and Saturdays to accommodate students' needs.

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) awarded PAA the highest performance grant for an Illinois community-based organization. The performance grant was based on student progress and attendance at ESL classes.

Through PAA's community computer resource labs, more than 600 people had the opportunity to use technology to improve their skills, research job opportunities, create resumes, and use email.



Clients Served in FY 2004 Education Services

Citizenship classes	554
English classes	1,411
Vocational classes	152
Literacy	117
Computer resource room	623



Through PAA's Employment Program, clients such as Eliza (left) find opportunities for a secure, hopeful future. After only a few months on the job, Eliza is being trained as a senior teller and is well on her way to a successful career at Harris Bank.

Job Opportunities & Career Guidance

Clients Served in FY 2004
Employment Services

Career Counseling	494
Employment Services	920

Most immigrants make the life-changing journey to the United States in search of employment opportunities that will help them and their families live a better quality life. PAA's Employment Program helps hundreds of clients each year achieve economic self-sufficiency and a higher standard of living through job training, placement and individualized assistance to overcome employment barriers such as language.

Despite continued challenging economic conditions, 235 clients were successfully placed in jobs by PAA's Employment Program.

Nearly 500 individuals increased their knowledge and were assisted with career decisions through guidance, information, and seminars by PAA's Career Counseling Program.



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Clients Served in FY 2004

Health Outreach	554
Kidcare	1,411

Providing Access to Healthcare

For those who are poor, lack insurance and speak very little English, accessing quality healthcare is nearly impossible.

Navigating the complex healthcare system can be a challenge for anyone. PAA's Health Outreach Program helps individuals and families access healthcare services which they might otherwise do without, because of financial, cultural and language barriers.

More than 700 clients were helped in their quest to stay healthy by receiving free health screenings, immunizations, referrals to access mammograms, prenatal care and other health services, through PAA's Health Outreach Program. Thousands more in the community were given the opportunity to learn about important healthcare issues through Polish-language media.

738 children of working poor families, pregnant women and their babies were able to access health care and stay healthy as a result of being enrolled by PAA in the state's KidCare program.

PAA's Health Outreach Services program is the proud recipient of the 2004 Certificate of Recognition by Community Access Program Chicago Center for Health Systems Development, Inc., as well as the Chicago Department of Public Health award for Outstanding Achievement in the CAP-KidCare Project.

At PAA's Immigration Services office, knowledgeable staff streamline application filing, fingerprinting and photos to make applying for U.S. citizenship efficient.

Clients Served in FY 2004

Immigration Services 974

Housing Resource Center 317



Paving the Road to Citizenship

Immigrants have a deep appreciation for the opportunities afforded them by living in the United States. They place a high value on acquiring their U.S. citizenship and being able to fully participate in the civic life of their new homeland.

This year with the help of PAA's Immigration Services staff, nearly 1000 people applied for citizenship, adjusted their immigration status, completed paperwork to reunite families and fulfilled their dream of calling the United States home.

Raising Awareness

A key resource for people new to this country is obtaining information in their native language that can help them overcome challenges and create a more stable and successful life in their new homeland. Several times each week PAA's staff, through the generosity of Polish-language media, offers immigrants information that will help them take action to change their own and their family's lives. It may be through an in-depth article

about signs of substance abuse in teens, educational and career guidance, or a radio program dedicated to offering sound immigration advice.

As a result of our outreach efforts in the Polish-language media, hundreds of people come to PAA each year seeking the help they may have gone without. There are thousands more who may never cross the threshold of our office but benefit from the information.

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PAA's Youth Counselor Margaret Olczak is just one of many PAA staff members who regularly appear on Polish-language radio to bring vital information to the community.





Left: Thanks to a new van donated by Jane and Edward Bleka of Quantum Foods, PAA can continue to efficiently transport food to our food pantry for distribution to increasing numbers of people in need.

Right: At PAA's Turning Point day shelter, homeless clients find a supportive environment, home-cooked meals, and counseling and services to help put them on the path to regaining self-sufficiency.

Fulfilling Basic Needs

PAA offers services that help people restore their physical and emotional strength.

You just never know when life can take a sudden turn for the worse. It may be the loss of a job, a severe illness, a personal trauma or other unexpected life circumstance that impacts your self-sufficiency. PAA offers services that help people restore their physical and emotional strength until they can once again independently care for themselves and their families.

639 individuals and families were nourished with supplemental food through PAA's food pantry this year. Of great concern is that the number of people seeking help has continued to rise for the last few years.

347 homeless men and women were assisted this fiscal year by PAA's Homeless Services, a 30 percent increase from the previous year.



**Clients Served in FY 2004
Support Services**

Homeless Services	347
Food Pantry	639
Energy Assistance	624
FEMA Rent Assistance	40



Healing, Restoring Hope & Empowerment

The pressures of starting a new life in a foreign country challenge relationships and the emotional and mental strength of new arrivals. Due to language, cultural and financial barriers, PAA is often the only place these individuals can turn for healing and empowerment. PAA's Social Service programs and professional staff help families and individuals to regain hope, restore their spirit, and build healthy relationships.

More than 200 women and children sought safety, counseling and help in rebuilding their lives this year through PAA's Domestic Violence program. Because of continued community outreach and education by PAA staff, increased numbers of domestic violence victims are finding the courage and strength to free themselves and their children from abusive relationships.

More than 250 young people found friendship, understanding and help with life in their new homeland through participation in PAA's Youth Development Program. The program's teen group created a "Stop Violence" project with the help of a volunteer actress, which culminated in an award-winning performance. The project was an effort to help youth understand the social and cultural beliefs related to violence and teach them valuable skills to prevent violent behavior.

331 elderly and disabled persons were able to remain in their homes as a result of the 100,096 hours of care provided by PAA's Homemaker Program during the year.

Left: PAA's after-school program fills an important gap, providing immigrant children with a sense of belonging, friendship and activities that help improve their English and learning skills.

Right: PAA's homemakers enable elderly and disabled clients to maintain their independence through a variety of services from personal care to grocery shopping.

PAA programs work because they empower people to make positive changes in their lives.

Clients Served in FY 2004 Social Services

Counseling	215
Victims of Domestic Violence	205
Outreach and Interpretation	1025
Substance Abuse Treatment	142
Seniors	550
Youth Development	253
Homemaker Services	331



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Target Stores
United Way of Chicago
UPS Foundation
Karol Uryga-Nawarowski Foundation

Polish American Association Memberships

American Library Association
American Association for Adult &
Continuing Education
Area Planning Council for
Adult Education
Association for Career &
Technical Education
CAN-TV
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 and
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 and Accredited Programs

Board of Immigration Appeals
Accreditation
City of Chicago, Limited Business
Illinois Department of Human Services,
Office of Alcoholism & Substance
Abuse, Outpatient Substance Abuse
Treatment
Illinois Department of Human Services,
Kraft Employee Fund
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

Staff

Alberta Abbott
Esperanza M. Antazo
Joanna Augustynski
Malgorzata Awgul
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Helena Bienkowska
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Zofia Ziaja
Phyllis Zora
Jack W. Zurowski

Polish American Association

Condensed Statement of Financial Position for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2004

Assets	
Current Assets	\$761,066
Property and Equipment	1,052,507
Total Assets	\$1,813,573
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	\$934,915
Unrestricted Net Assets	799,895
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	78,763
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,813,573

Condensed Statement of Activities for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2004

Revenues	
Contributions and Special Events	\$ 345,681
United Way	28,558
Government Agencies	3,379,879
Corporate and Foundation Grants	192,047
Program Service Fees	320,629
Other Revenue	1,674
Total Revenues	\$4,268,468
Expenses	
Program Services	
Social Services	\$1,193,177
Employment and Training Services	613,043
Immigration Services	288,554
Education	829,199
Homemaker Services	1,110,401
Support Services	
Management/Fundraising	250,951
Total Expenses	\$4,285,325
Net Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	23,969
Net Revenue (Loss) for the Year	\$7,112

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 30 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, 2004, appearing in this report were derived from audited financial statements. The full audited financial statements are available upon request.

Thaddeus J. Makarewicz, Treasurer
Polish American Association

Expenses

- 94.1% Programs
- 5.9% Support Services

Income

- 79.2% Government Grants & Contracts
- 8.1% Contributions & Special Events
- 7.5% Program Service Fees
- 4.5% Corporate/Foundation Grants
- 0.7% United Way

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Polish American Association

Resources for Changing Lives

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