People Helping People

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 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 Donors and Friends,

Some 85 years ago, a group of prominent Polish American businessmen and professionals asked themselves, “What is our responsibility in helping at-risk youth avoid delinquent behaviors that can ruin their lives?”

When the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance incorporated the Polish Welfare Association on August 16, 1922, the founders declared a joint willingness to offer their means, time, and experience to reach out in service to poor and disadvantaged children. As leading citizens of Chicago who were active in politics, government, business, and education, these men routinely made things happen. Most of all, they were the ones who cared, who realized that ignoring the ills of society only intensifies problems.

Their legacy continues as the Polish American Association (formerly Polish Welfare Association) celebrates its 85 years of service to Polish Americans and other Chicagoans in need.

Over the years, the agency has grown from a staff of one to nearly 170 dedicated professionals who work in 30 programs assisting not only those in crisis but also individuals and families wishing to smoothly adjust to life in the United States. Under the competent leadership of our past and current board members and management, PAA has instituted and expanded culturally sensitive, bilingual programs to meet the ever-changing, complex needs of the Polish American community. Today, these programs are grouped into four areas of assistance: Employment, Education, Immigrant and Social Services.

PAA’s employees shared a great commitment to fulfilling their responsibility for the 13,410 persons who turned to PAA for help this year. While we celebrate our clients’ successes and take part in the growth of Chicago’s Polish American community, we were also confronted with a major challenge this year. In October of 2006, a car drove into our south side office building causing major damage to its structure. Even though space was extremely limited and we were forced to curtail some of the services, the office remained open throughout the entire reconstruction period. We are especially proud of our south side staff who tirelessly continued to serve all the clients in need, providing them with comprehensive and professional assistance.

PAA’s ability to help three generations of Polish immigrants is founded on the lasting commitment and tremendous spirit of generosity of our supporters, board members, staff, collaborators, and volunteers. With this annual report, we send a bighearted THANK YOU for assuming your social responsibility. Please know that your efforts create enduring and meaningful change in the lives of our clients.

With best regards,

Izabela T. Roman, M.D.     Joanna Borowiec
Chair of the board      Executive Director

WHEN YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING YOUR VOICE, WE’LL LEND YOU OURS

85 YEARS OF ASSISTANCE. 85 YEARS OF PROGRESS. 85 YEARS OF SUCCESS. WE’RE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE POLISH COMMUNITY’S STORIED PAST.
Polish immigrants are the embodiment of the classic immigrant story — hard working, fiercely self-reliant, pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps. They arrive in America with a dream to begin a new and better life for themselves and their loved ones. While for many the path to building a stable future is wide open, others struggle with enormous language and cultural barriers that can have a devastating impact. PAA’s Social Services employees, most of whom are immigrants themselves, understand well the everyday struggles of their clients. This is why more than 3,000 individuals turned to our social services staff for healing and empowerment in 2007.

Fiscal year 2007 marks the 15th anniversary of Starting Point, our outpatient substance abuse treatment program, which was inaugurated on December 3, 1991, with funding from the Field Foundation and Chicago Community Trust. While we celebrate the remarkable stories of hundreds of clients who have successfully battled alcohol and drug addiction and re-built their shattered lives, we are grateful for the generosity of the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Chicago Department of Public Health Office of Chronic Disease, the Karol Uryga-Nawarowski Foundation, and the Benjamin B. Green-Field Foundation that have helped support the program.

To commemorate Starting Point’s 15th anniversary, PAA organized “About Alcoholism, About Us”, a conference held on October 23, 2006, at Dominican University’s Graduate School of Social Work. The conference attracted more than 200 participants, including substance abuse counselors and community members. The topics revolved around new trends in substance abuse treatment.

PAA’s Domestic Violence program enabled more than 200 women to break free from the devastating cycle of domestic abuse and regain much needed safety and self-sufficiency. PAA continued its culturally sensitive outreach in partnership with Polish-language media, aiming to raise community awareness of domestic violence and its destructive effects.

During fiscal year 2007, PAA’s Youth Development Program participants produced two theatrical performances for the benefit of the community. In the first play, the youth examined the issue of immigration and proposed ways in which immigrant teens can successfully adapt to their new lives in the U.S. The second show was a Christmas comedy for younger children.

PAA’s homemakers assisted 229 elderly and disabled persons with compassionate, professional care that enabled them to stay in their homes and improved their quality of life.

### CLIENTS SERVED IN FY’07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of Domestic Violence</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach &amp; Interpretation</td>
<td>998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Substance Abuse Treatment &amp; Counseling</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Substance Abuse Treatment &amp; Counseling</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Development</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemaker Services</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WE UNDERSTAND THE EVERYDAY STRUGGLES
EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Career advancement and economic stability are two of the main reasons that immigrants decide to settle permanently in the United States. Sadly, so many of these eager, skilled individuals are confronted with language barriers and a lack of understanding of the American job market. They quickly realize that their expectations do not match reality. PAA Education and Employment Services are tailored to meet the needs of limited English-speaking Polish immigrants by providing bilingual services with cultural sensitivity and flexibility, effective outreach and recruitment efforts, a holistic approach to helping each client, and program components adapted to individual needs.

PAA has been successfully providing employment programs since 1981, placing more than 8,000 people in full-time jobs. The adult education program was established in 1989, and the first vocational training course was offered in 1992. PAA is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education as a Private Business and Vocational School.

PAA’s Employment Services are offered to job seekers and providers at no charge. PAA maintains an extensive job bank of approximately 350 employers. In fiscal year 2007, PAA’s job developers successfully placed 358 clients directly into unsubsidized, full-time permanent jobs with participating Chicago area companies.

PAA is a “one-stop” agency for the Polish community, offering a free Resource Center/Computer Lab in each of its south and north side locations. Here, job seekers can conduct job searches on the Internet and access a variety of software to improve their computer skills. Employment information is available in Polish and English, including general reference materials and current newspapers, as well as videotapes and books about job search skills, interviewing techniques and career advice. In an effort to increase our clients’ computer competency, PAA recently published a Polish-language introductory handbook, edited by PAA’s computer lab tutors. In addition, PAA’s Resource Rooms assisted 634 visitors in their job search process this year.

More than 95% of all Certified Nursing Assistant and Physical Rehabilitation Aide Vocational Training Program students successfully graduate from the program, and 90% of them are placed in full-time jobs following their graduation. Traditionally, employers praise the knowledge and skill levels of our graduates and commend their overall job performance. During fiscal year 2007, PAA enabled 121 individuals to enter careers in the healthcare field through our Certified Nursing Assistant and Physical Rehabilitation Aide Vocational Training classes.

As is the case for many immigrants, successful career advancement is often impeded by underdeveloped English skills. Throughout the year, PAA offered 54 English-as-a-Second-Language classes, providing 1,754 students with an opportunity for a smooth transition into the American job market.
PAA's Immigrant Services reach out to hundreds of newly arrived immigrants each year to help them become U.S. citizens and call America their home.

As part of the New Americans Initiative (NAI), a non-profit, non-partisan partnership of the State of Illinois and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, PAA's Immigrant Services organized citizenship workshops, helping hundreds of Polish immigrants complete citizenship applications at no charge, register for PAA citizenship classes and obtain important information about other educational and social service programs offered by PAA.

PAA's staff has been instrumental in raising the Polish community’s awareness about the importance of becoming a U.S. citizen. The Immigrant Services employees made regular announcements of PAA-NAI workshops on radio stations WNVR 1030 AM, WPNA 1490 AM, and WWN 1080 AM, and on Polish television TVP Chicago.

Nearly 400 years after the first Polish settlers brought their industrial skills to Jamestown, Polish is still the language of choice for thousands of Chicago residents who continue contributing to the vitality and economic development of numerous neighborhoods in the city and surrounding suburbs. Recent immigrants bring new energy and strengths that drive them to succeed in the U.S. They eagerly join second- and third-generation immigrants in their commitment to the American values of hard work, education, and freedom of religion.

PAA’s Immigrant Services reach out to hundreds of newly arrived immigrants each year to help them become U.S. citizens and call America their home.

In fiscal year 2007, PAA’s staff made regular presentations on citizenship-related topics at Polish community centers and schools throughout the city. We ensured a smooth transition for hundreds of newcomers, providing them with accurate information about ongoing U.S. immigration policy changes, the consequences of overstaying the validity of visas or unlawful border crossing, rights and responsibilities of American citizens as compared to non-citizens, bars to admission, and employment-based immigration.

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SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Sometimes the unexpected happens. It may be the loss of a job, a home devastated by fire, or an illness affecting a loved one. For many Polish immigrants, language and cultural barriers present formidable obstacles to accessing critical and available city, state, and federal services. As a result, many Poles in Chicago do not know where to turn for desperately needed services, leaving them vulnerable to poverty, hunger, and homelessness. PAA’s Supportive Services provide culturally sensitive, bilingual assistance to our clients in need, so they can regain their health and restore their emotional balance.

In January of 2007, PAA’s shelter staff and volunteers participated in Point in Time Analysis, the biennial census of the homeless conducted by the City of Chicago. The data collected during the count by the Department of Human Services indicated a significant decrease of homeless individuals in the city as compared to two years ago.

PAA’s Health Outreach program staff continued to increase health awareness among Chicago’s Polish immigrant community. During fiscal year 2007, we saw a 50 percent increase in the number of individuals requesting and participating in diabetes and cholesterol screenings. In addition, 100 more clients obtained flu shots in fiscal year 2007 than in fiscal year 2006.

In fiscal year 2007, PAA’s Food Pantry distributed supplemental food packages to 633 Polish immigrants and members of the community-at-large.

Three hundred and five individuals who attended the Food Pantry also received assistance from other PAA programs such as Energy Assistance, Outreach and Interpretation, Senior Services Program, and English As A Second Language classes.

PAA’s All Kids agents completed 1,775 applications to enroll children of Polish immigrants in affordable health insurance, regardless of their immigration status or health condition.

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Polish American Association is grateful to all whose contributions have helped us offer resources for changing lives. Donors listed in this report made contributions between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Due to space limitations, we cannot list donations of $1-$249, but we sincerely appreciate

Ernest & Mimi Wish
Henry & Isabel Smogolski
Sara Lee foundation
MidAmerica bank
LaSalle bank

$25,000 - $49,999
Chicago Tribune Charities,
Chicago Society, P.N.A.
Edward & Jane Binko

$1,000 - $2,499
Al. S.U.S.
Kominietsk & Margaret Benzieski
Edward & Jane Binko
Don & Sheri Bote
Chicago Society, P.N.A.

O UR CO NTribUTORS

PROGRAM SPONSORS

ALPHAROW FOUNDATION
Supports program for victims of domestic violence.

BENJAMIN B. GREEN-FIELD FOUNDATION
Supports the Benjamin B. Green Field Teen Development Program and PAAF’s food pantry

CATHOLIC CHARTERs OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
Supports services for the poor and vulnerable served by PAA.

CHARTER ONE FOUNDATION
Supports services for the homeless.

CHICAGO ANTI-HUNGER FEDERATION
Provides provisions for PAAF’s food pantry and day shelter for homeless men.

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES
Supports youth development initiatives.

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Supports services for the homeless, youth and victims of domestic violence.

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Supports substance abuse treatment programs.

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT ON AGING
Supports services for seniors.

CHICAGO HOUSING TRUST FUND
Supports seniors for the elderly.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM
Supports emergency rental assistance.

FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH ENHANCEMENT
Supports health outreach services for the poor and underserved.

JOYCE F. LLOYD F. FOUNDATION
Supports vocational training and employment services.

CIRCLE OF SERVICE FOUNDATION
Supports health outreach services for the poor and underserved.

EMERGENCY FUND AND SHELTER PROGRAM
Supports emergency rental assistance.

FOUNDERs OF CHicago
Supports job training and employment services for underserved populations.

I LLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
Supports job training and employment services for underserved populations.

I LLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
Supports Alzheimer’s Rocks program for the working poor and pregnant women.

I LLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Supports substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, domestic violence prevention and immigrant services.

I LLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF ONGOING
Supports homework assistance for the elderly and disabled.

I MEL J. & MARIE D. KOCHTON FOUNDATION
Supports youth development program and services for women.

KRAFT EMPLOYEE FUND
Supports services for the families and PAAF’s food pantry.

L AASSILBANK
Supports services for the elderly.

LESION OF YOUNG POLISH WOMEN
Supports services for women.

MAYORS OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Supports vocational training and job placement services.

PEOPLES ENERGY
Supports services for the poor and vulnerable served by PAA.

RETIREMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Supports services for seniors.

SARA LEE FOUNDATION
Sara Lee Foundation is a Major Sponsor of the CNA Vocational Training Program.

SECRETARY OF STATE
Supports English literacy programs.

SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA
Supports services for Malta.

TARGET
Supports domestic violence intervention and counseling services.

KAROL, URIGA-NAWAROWSKI FOUNDATION
Supports substance abuse treatment and prevention programs for adults and teens.

WESTERN UNION FOUNDATION
Supports services for the homeless.
COmBiNED FeDeRAL caMPAiGN

PAA has been the designated recipient of contributions from many hundreds of generous federal employees, represented in this listing by area.

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18

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18

18
PAA EMPLOYEE LISTING

July 1, 2006 thru June 30, 2007

Alberta Albert
Jadwiga Annandak
Joanna Augustynski
Maria Bagińska
Lucyna Baumgarten
Malgorzata B. Batog
Elzbieta Bialon
Helena Bienkowski
Katarzyna Białoń
Hennryk Bińuszczyk
Teresa Biernacka
Joanna Bińkiewicz-Borowiec
Halina Boonk
Jadwiga Brzozowska
Antoni Bukowski
Elzbieta Bujak
Olga Buzar
Katarzyna Bys烈ń
Malgorzata Bys烈ń
Joanna Cabis
Joanna Cezary
Halina Cierkiewicz
Malgorzata Chmielowska
Agata Chmielowska
Marta Grzeskowiak
Teresa Glenn
Krystyna Gierczyk
Renata Gawel
Barbara Gaworska
Teresa Gen
Magdalena Gornek
Maria Gorniak
Elzbieta Grzybowska
Krzysztof Lewandowski
Agnieszka Lipowicz
Iwona M. Liptot
Jaroslaw Luczakiewicz
Barbara Lukaszek
Anna E. Majda
Kinga P. Majda
Edzbieta Majewska
Jana Nadzieja
Michal Malyk
Barbara J. Marchowska
Narmina Mantina
Krzyszta Mass
Zofia Matowski
Anna Mateja
Alina Miatel
Agnieszka Mezkowska-Schmidt
Bozena Michalkowa
Arcadiusz Mign
Dorota Miler
Bozena Milko
Teresa Mlik
Jadwiga Mocz
Rafal Mosior
Jadwiga Myska
Magdalena Uczak
Halina Olejnik
Magdalena Orman
Maria Orzech Slowacka
Agnieszka Osuchowska
Anna Oleynik
Magdalena Olej
Marie Orzechowicz
Lidia Pakiewicz
Jadwiga Pank
Grazyna Partyka
Margaret Pastewka
Marta Parnuta
Elzbieta Piskorska
Zbigniew Pietrzkowski
Tomasz F. Pisk
Cezary Pisarkiewicz
Dorota Polubicka
Alicja Poremska
Marcin Pigeon
Patrycja Gwo Prokop
Katarzyna Raczy
Dorota Redlich-Lewandowska
Andrzej H. Reider
Teresa Roslin
Bozena Sajdak
Irena Sajdak
bozena Sajdak
Teresa Rusin
Astryda H. Reiter
Dorota Redlich-Lewandowska
Katarzyna Rachwal
Marek Prejzner
Alicja Posniak
Danuta Podbilska
Tomasz F. Pik
Marta Pereyra
Margaret Pawlowski
Grazyna Partyka
Jadwiga Panfil
Lidia Paliwoda
Agnieszka Osuchowska
Maria Ortega-Nieves
Malgorzata Oman
Halina Olejnik
Malgorzata Olczak
Rafal Mosior
Bozena Miltko
Dominika Miller
Arcadiusz Migon
bozena Miczkowska
Agnieszka Meciwoda-Schmidt
Alina Matel
Anna E. Magda
Barbara Lukaszek
Ewa Sorok
Jan Waler Sorok
Barbara Sadowicz
Jozef Szcz
Agata Szychalska
Ewa Pawlik-Soltan
Joanna Siedlarska
Zuzanna Siedlerska
Maria Szwarc
Josef Szweczy
Magdalena T. Szweczy
Maria Szyma
Zofia Szydlo
Teresa Smrokowska
Halina Smolenski
Marta Slowik Sobonkiewicz
Helena Sliwinski
Teresa Schuba
Peoples Energy
Bryanna Wilczynski
AT&T
Emert R. Whit
HPMX, Inc.
Boazma Zwang
R. A. Zwang, Inc.

HONORARY DIRECTORS
Roger F. Koszak
ComEd
Lawrence W. Luck

Thaddeus J. Maksariewicz, ESQ.
John J. Pikasinski, Jr.
Gordon & Pikasinski
Andrew Przybylo
White Eagle Banquets
Rev. Edmund Siedlecki
Mitchell Wiel
Northwestern Memorial Hospital (ret.)
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 24 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, 2007, appearing in this report were derived from audited financial statements. The full audited financial statements are available upon request.

Robert J. Paszczak, Treasurer
Polish American Association

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**TREASURER’S REPORT**

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**REVENUES**

- 80.2% Government Grants & Contracts
- 6.6% Contributions & Special Events
- 6.1% Program Service Fees
- 6.5% Corporate/Foundation Grants
- 0.5% United Way
- 0.1% Other

---

**EXPENSES**

- 92.1% Programs
- 7.9% Support Services

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**ASSETS**

- Current Assets $1,114,094
- Property and Equipment 1,046,098
- Total Assets $2,160,192

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**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

- Liabilities $945,660
- Unrestricted Net Assets 1,109,749
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 104,783
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets $2,160,192

---

**EXPERIENCES**

- Program Services $1,136,278
- Social Services 410,938
- Employment and Training Services 164,899
- Immigration Services 1,380,223
- Education 1,212,449
- Homemaker Services 328,822
- Support Services 38,233
- Management/Fund-raising $41,403

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Condensed statement of activities for the fiscal year Ended June 30, 2007

**REVENUES**

- Contributions and Special Events $310,342
- United Way 21,628
- Government Agencies 3,746,601
- Corporate and Foundation Grants 301,249
- Program Service Fees 286,192
- Other Revenue 5,830
- Total Revenues $4,671,842

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**EXPENSES**

- Program Services $1,136,278
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- Education 1,212,449
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---

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets $38,233
Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $3,170
Increase in Total Net Assets $41,403

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