

Polish American Association

2008 Annual Report



Resources for 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.



Dear Friends of the Polish American Association,

For nearly ninety years, the Polish American Association, in partnership with government agencies, foundations, corporations and private donors has been the primary source of support for metropolitan Chicago's Polish immigrants and others in need.

The economic challenges of the past year in conjunction with the shifting priorities of the community we serve, have strengthened our commitment as we carefully assess our policies so that our dollars and efforts may continue to be utilized at optimum levels. An internal audit and assessment of each program has been initiated to determine where added savings and opportunities can occur. A reevaluation of staff skills, cross training options, and streamlining employment costs is ongoing. As corporate donors cut back, and government agencies struggle to pay promptly, under the competent leadership of board members and management and a devoted staff of 175 full and part-time people, PAA continues to provide services for our community.

Highlights of the past year include the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the PAA Certified Nursing Assistant Program, a successful "Register to Vote" Campaign, whereby over 2000 Polish residents were registered for the first time, a commendation for the Polish translation of the USCIS publication: "Welcome to the US: A Guide for New Immigrants", and the profound satisfaction of serving over 14,000 clients who turned to PAA for assistance throughout the year.

While external challenges may continue to arise, we remain proactive in our approach to management so that PAA may be well prepared for the on-going and future needs. Deeply grateful for your past contributions, we look forward to your continued participation to meet future challenges and provide enrichment opportunities for our cherished clients.

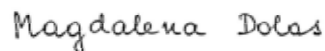
We are hopeful that you will review the various programs provided and will remember the one that touches you most profoundly and make a personal pledge to support that cause throughout the coming year. Now, more than ever YOU can make the difference in the results that we achieve.

Thank you, for you are the much appreciated backbone of the Polish American Association. Dziękujemy bardzo.

Most sincerely,



Geraldine Gedroic Lichterman
Chairman of the Board



Magdalena Dolas
Acting Executive Director

SOCIAL AND SUPPORTIVE

SERVICES: *Creating a stronger community one life at a time.* For many immigrants, regardless of their age and background, creating a new life in a foreign country can present a real challenge. Unfamiliarity with language and culture combined with everyday stress places a great strain on many families and individuals. PAA's social services offer the tools needed to address both the immediate and the long-term needs of the Polish American community and others in need, providing protection in times of crisis.



Marek (64),

and his wife, Barbara (63), worked in a printing company for nearly 20 years. Three years ago Marek suffered work-related injuries that put him out of work and on short-term disability. Barbara had already survived three heart attacks. Since the couple lived in a predominantly Polish neighborhood, they never learned English. For this sick and vulnerable couple, the language barrier became a major obstacle in accessing the benefits which were available. Fortunately, things turned around for Marek and Barbara when they contacted Marta, PAA's senior case worker. With her competent guidance and assistance, Marek was able to secure the Social Security Disability Income that was initially declined. He and Barbara also signed up for a Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage program and the free mass transit ride program. They call Marta their "Guardian Angel."

When 15 year-old

Joanna came to the U.S., she harbored quiet dreams of being a doctor and helping people with cancer. Unfortunately, feelings of alienation and difficulty adjusting to a new life in a new country combined with insufficient parental support sent Joanna on a downward spiral into heroin and alcohol addiction. At the age of seventeen, Joanna was referred to PAA's Youth Starting Point by her school counselor. While her dreams of being a doctor laid in waiting, Joanna's parents, supported by Malgorzata, PAA's drug addiction counselor, selected an appropriate residential treatment program for Joanna and began the intervention process. Throughout the entire time, the counselor from PAA provided translation assistance so that the family could be involved in Joanna's treatment despite the language barrier. They participated in intensive individual and family counseling at PAA where they learned the necessary facts

about chemical dependency, and the role of the family in the disease and recovery process. Joanna successfully graduated from the residential program. She actively participates in the after care program at PAA and regularly attends high school, where she is taking science courses to make her dream of becoming a doctor a reality.

Ten years ago,

19 year-old Magda arrived in Chicago full of dreams and aspirations. A mutual friend introduced Magda to Jacek, whom she married after just a few months of dating. Sadly her charming fiancé had quickly transformed into a violent and controlling batterer. He isolated Magda from her family and friends, forbade any employment, and kept her from having her own money. His violent behavior escalated with time, causing Magda two miscarriages. Finally, Magda found out about PAA's program for battered women. After six years of mental and physical abuse, Magda took a chance to break free from her violent relationship. She underwent mental health counseling and regularly met with other domestic violence survivors at a support group held at PAA. Through related services at PAA, Magda moved to a safe place and secured part-time employment. She no longer lives in a fear of her husband and, most importantly, is in charge of her life that is now free of violence.

CLIENTS SERVED IN FY'08
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

<i>All Kids.....</i>	<i>1,482</i>
<i>Energy Assistance.....</i>	<i>1,006</i>
<i>FEMA Rent Assistance.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Food Pantry.....</i>	<i>792</i>
<i>Health Outreach</i>	<i>717</i>
<i>Homeless Shelter.....</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Homeless Outreach.....</i>	<i>44</i>



CLIENTS SERVED IN FY'08
SOCIAL SERVICES

<i>Counseling.....</i>	<i>149</i>
<i>Victims of Domestic Violence.....</i>	<i>217</i>
<i>Outreach & Interpretation.....</i>	<i>1,049</i>
<i>Adult Substance Abuse</i>	
<i>Treatment & Counseling.....</i>	<i>151</i>
<i>Teen Substance Abuse</i>	
<i>Treatment & Counseling.....</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Seniors.....</i>	<i>1,172</i>
<i>After School Program.....</i>	<i>138</i>
<i>Homemaker Services.....</i>	<i>241</i>

Due to untreated depression and alcoholism,

Roman had no income, no food, no shelter, and no motivation to help himself. After being brutally attacked by a group of gang members, Roman made his first attempt to change his life by knocking on the door of PAA's shelter. Though Roman had several relapses, he finally completed the PAA's Substance Abuse Program and reformed his life.

With the help of PAA's job developers, Roman found a permanent employment at the airport and is now celebrating nearly three years of sobriety. He returns occasionally to PAA, but no longer as a client. He volunteers at the Turning Point shelter, bringing to homeless men the same hope and encouragement he received several years ago. Newly married, Roman is now 37 and living a fulfilling, healthy life.



EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

SERVICES: *Providing resources to create new opportunities.* Many immigrant families are overwhelmed by the challenges of everyday life – finding a steady income, enrolling children in schools, completing naturalization documents, applying for benefits to which they are entitled. PAA employees, mostly immigrants themselves, understand that improving English and pursuing career goals are vital for overall success in life. That is why, in the fiscal year 2008, PAA’s dedicated staff helped more than 4,500 individuals break through the language and educational barriers, find permanent employment, learn English, improve computer skills, and/or obtain vocational training.



Jolanta’s life

in the United States began in 1987, when she arrived in Chicago with her husband and a young daughter. Shortly after they arrived, the couple welcomed their second child, and Jolanta became a stay-at-home mom for several years. She eventually went back to work and held jobs at a factory, printing company and as a caretaker for an elderly woman. While at this last job, she realized that caring for others was her true calling. She also knew that a job within a healthcare field would bring her a stable employment and a long-term security.



Jolanta’s determination had led her to PAA where she completed the Certified Nursing Assistant and Physical Rehabilitation Aide Vocational Training Program. With PAA’s staff guidance, she obtained the necessary state accreditation that allowed her to secure an employment at a local hospital. Through PAA’s training, Jolanta successfully developed her passion into a fulfilling and rewarding career. She now enjoys financial security and great medical benefits for the entire family.



A happy life

came to an abrupt halt for 48-year-old Jozef after he was laid off from his factory job. The father of three, and the family’s only breadwinner, began a frantic job hunt within his former profession. Unfortunately he received no job offers. When he came to PAA’s Employment Services, he was desperate for help. Barbara, one of PAA’s job developers, suggested that he consider changing his profession and undergo a training program that would ensure his smooth transition to another industry. Subsequently, Jozef completed a truck driving course, and shortly after he began working as a truck driver. His strength and courage made him a true hero for his three children.

CLIENTS SERVED IN FY’08

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Career Counseling.....	246
Employment Services.....	915

EDUCATION SERVICES

English Classes.....	1,518
Citizenship Classes	634
Vocational Classes.....	140
Literacy.....	155
Computer Resource Room.....	814
Computer Classes.....	133

IMMIGRATION

SERVICES: *Promoting citizenship for a strong democracy. For thousands of immigrants who cross American borders each year, U.S. citizenship equals freedom, respect, and opportunity. To become a U.S. citizen is to embrace diversity while gaining a unique sense of unified identity. PAA serves as a trusted clearinghouse and helps those seeking immigration assistance through dissemination of up-to-date information, hosting citizenship workshops, streamlining the naturalization application process, and preparing for the citizenship exam.*



The search for a better future

took Pawel on the most difficult and courageous journey of his life. After he won a green card in the immigration lottery, he left behind his pregnant fiancée and came to the U.S. from Poland to secure economic and educational opportunities for his family. Living alone, he quickly realized that making a new country feel like home takes years and is filled with challenges and obstacles. He decided to quickly reunite with his fiancée so they could build their life together in Chicago. Facing a language barrier, Pawel unknowingly relied on a bad advice that impeded the immigration process. Luckily, Pawel came across the PAA's Immigration Services and turned to its experienced staff for the support and assistance. Due to their expert guidance, Pawel and his Polish bride live happily in Chicago with their two children.

In FY'08, PAA reopened its Housing Resource Center, providing unbiased, bilingual counseling and seminars to help clients attain the American dream of purchasing their own home. In addition, the Center offers information on tenant-landlord disputes.

Health Outreach:

Securing access to quality healthcare

Every day thousands of poor and uninsured immigrants fall victim to preventable diseases because they lack the quality healthcare. For those facing language and financial barriers, navigating a complex medical system becomes an impossible task. PAA focuses on battling preventable diseases through free health screenings, seminars, and immunizations. The Health Outreach staff also works diligently to help the Polish American families secure a state-funded medical insurance for their children, access the affordable, bilingual healthcare, and other resources and services designed to improve their health and overall well-being.



CLIENTS SERVED IN FY'08

Immigration Services.....	1,047
Housing Services.....	84

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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, 2007 and June 30, 2008. Due to space limitations, we cannot list donations of \$1-\$249, but we sincerely appreciate all contributions. Thank you for your generosity.

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John Pfeiffer

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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago
Supports services for the poor and vulnerable served by PAA

Charter One Foundation
Supports services for the poor and vulnerable served by PAA

Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation
Provides provisions for PAA'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 the elderly

Chicago Housing Trust Fund
Supports services for the homeless

The McCormick Foundation
Supports English-As-A-Second Language tutoring, employment services, and immigrant leadership initiative

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CVS/pharmacy *Supports health outreach services for the poor and underserved*

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Supports emergency rental assistance

Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
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Greater Chicago Food Depository
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Home Depot
Supports facility improvements

Illinois Attorney General
Supports services for victims of violent crimes

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights *Administers funding for the New Americans Initiative and Outreach and Interpretation Programs*

Illinois Community College Board
Supports English-As-A-Second Language instruction

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity *Supports job training and employment services for underserved populations*

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services *Supports All Kids program for the working poor and pregnant women*

Illinois Department of Human Services
Supports substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, domestic violence prevention and immigrant services

Illinois Department on Aging
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LaSalle Bank *Supports services for the elderly*

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Supports substance abuse treatment and prevention programs for adults and teens

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(July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008)

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ESPERANZA M. ANTAZO
JADWIGA ARENDARSKA
JAN S. ARENDARSKI
ANNA T. AUGUST
BARBARA BAGDZIUS
JOANNA M. BARAN
LUCYNA BASTRZYK
MALGORZATA E. BATOG
TERESA H. BAUT
EWA H. BIALON
KAROLINA BIELSKA
JADWIGA BINKOWSKA
KATARZYNA E. BLANDO
BERNADETTA BLASZYNSKA
HENRYKA BLUSIEWICZ
TERESA BOBROWSKI
MALGORZATA M. BODYZIAK
JOANNA K. BOHDZIEWICZ-BOROWIEC
HALINA BOZEK
JADWIGA BRANICKA
ANNA BRYJA
ELZBIETA M. BUJAK
KAROLINA BUJNY
JOANNA CABAJ
JOANNA CEREMON
HALINA CHMIELOWIEC
MALGORZATA CHMURA-WITUSIK
ALINA CHOJNOWSKA
URSZULA D. CHOLEWA
ELZBIETA CHRZANOWSKA
MICHAL CHYBOWSKI
MALGORZATA CIESLAK
ANA B. CRUZ
MARTA CRUZ
KRZYSTYNA CWIEK
LILLA CZAJCZYK
SLAWOMIR CZAJKOWSKI
ZBIGNIEW J. CZAJKOWSKI
MARIA CZERNECKA
ELZBIETA CZERWONKA
URSZULA DABROS
AGNIESZKA DABROWIECKA
ANETA DABROWSKI
ANGELIKA DANEK
DONNA DEAN
MAGDALENA DOLAS
LIDIA E. DUDEK
CECYLIA DUDZINSKI
MARIA DZIADKOWIEC
ANITA EILMES
DOROTA FELINSKA
HECTOR J. FERRER
KAROLINA FIALA
DANUTA FRANCZYK
MALGORZATA FRIEDMAN
BOGUSLAWA GADULA
EWA GADZINKSKA
MARIA GALENT
MARIA GANCZAR
ANDRZEJ J. GASIENICA
TADEUSZ GASZCZ
RENATA GAWLE
BARBARA GAWRONSKA
KRZYSTYNA GIERCZYK
TERESA GLEN
EWELINA GORSKA
MAGDALENA GORZELANY
MARTA M. GRZESKOWIAK
EWA GRZYBOWSKI
KRZYSTYNA GURKA
AGNIESZKA L. HAMERLIK
BARBARA HANIACZYK
GRAZYNA HATALA
EWA HISZCZYNSKI
LIDIA JACHIMOWICZ
MARIA JACHYMIAK
MARIA JANDURA
TERESA JAROCH
URSZULA M. JARONCZYK
IRMINA JASKOLKA
RENATA JASNIUK
ANNA JASTRZEBSKA
MARIA S. JAWORSKA
MALGORZATA J. JEDELUK
JULIA G. JURCZAK
ZANETA M. JURCZYK
MARIA JURCZYKOWSKA
WLADYSLAWA KACZMARCZYK-ODROWSKI
TERESA KAMINSKA
BIANKA A. KAMINSKA
JANINA KAPINOS
ELZBIETA KAPUSCINSKA
ONA KASTAUNIENE
BARBARA KASZA
HALINA KLARICH
EWA M. KLEPACZKO
MARZENA A. KLIKUSZEWSKI
WANDA KLIMECKA
ANISJA KLINGER
JOLANTA KOC
MARIA KOMPERDA
KATHERINE A. KOPTILIN
ZOFIA KOSCIELNIAK
DANUTA KOSINSKA
ELZBIETA KOT
BARBARA KOTARSKA
MARIA KOWAL
EWA KOZIOL
TERESA KOZLOWSKA
EWA KRASON
MIROSLAWA KROLIKOWSKA
MALGORZATA KRYDKA
MAGDALENA KRZEMINSKA
ANDRZEJ KRZYKALA
MALGORZATA KUCHTA
EWA KULAS
ANNA KUPINSKA
MALGORZATA KURDZIEL
HELENA KUREK
ADAM KUSZ
BOZENA KWASNA
MIROSLAWA KWIECIEN
BARBARA LACZ
MARIA LEJA
STANISLAWA LES
KRZYSTOF LEWANDOWSKI
EULA LEWIS
AGNIESZKA LIPOWICZ
IWONA M. LIPPERT
BARBARA LUKASZEK
HANNA MACKOWIAK
URSZULA MADALINSKA-DARSKA
ELZBIETA MAKOWIECKA
JANINA C. MALEWICZ
BARBARA MARCHINSKA
NORMA MARTINEZ
KRZYSTYNA MASS
ZOFIA MATACHOWSKA
ANEITA MATEJA
ALINA MATEL
AGNIESZKA MECIWODA-SCHMIDT
KRZYSTYNA MIASIK
DOMINIKA G. MILLER
AGNIESZKA MISIASZEK
EWA MITTLEMAN
JADWIGA MORZY
RAFAL MOSIOR
DAVID MOZDZEN
JADWIGA D. MYSZKA
MALGORZATA OLCZAK
HALINA OLEJNIK
KATARZYNA OLENDER
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LIDIA PALIWODA
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ZBIGNIEW PIENKOWSKI
TOMASZ F. PIK
KATARZYNA PILEWICZ
RYSZARDA PLUZYCZKA
DANUTA PODBILSKA
MALGORZATA POPEK
ALICJA POSNIAK
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KATARZYNA PRZYCHODZEN
HALINA PUCKOWSKI
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TREASURER'S

REPORT: *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 21 member voluntary board of directors is responsible for overseeing and charting the organization's operations, including its financial activities. Financial statements are presented for a review and approval on a monthly basis. The condensed financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2008, appearing in this report were derived from the audited financial statements. The full audited financial statements are available upon request.*

Robert J. Paszczak, Treasurer
Polish American Association

Expenses

90.4% Programs
9.6% Support Services

Income

80.0% Government Grants & Contracts
8.2% Contributions & Special Events
4.0% Program Service Fees
6.7% Corporate/Foundation Grants
0.4% United Way
0.7% Other

POLISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Condensed Statement of Financial Position for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008

Assets

Current Assets	\$ 846,383
Property and Equipment	1,044,735
Total Assets	\$ 1,891,118

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	\$ 829,684
Unrestricted Net Assets	953,512
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	107,922
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,891,118

Expenses

Program Services

Social Services	\$ 1,212,626
Employment and Training Services	443,936
Immigration Services	198,569
Education	1,427,056
Homemaker Services	1,323,073

Support Services

Management/Fundraising	487,910
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Total Expenses	\$ 5,093,170
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(Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ (156,237)
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Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 3,139
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(Decrease) in Total Net Assets	\$ (153,098)
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Condensed Statement of Activities for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008

Revenues

Contributions and Special Events	\$ 331,584
United Way	18,211
Government Agencies	3,971,793
Corporate and Foundation Grants	402,048
Program Service Fees	199,182

Other Revenue	14,115
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Total Revenues	\$ 4,936,933
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Graphic Design & Project Execution: Colorphonic, Inc.

Printer: Artpol Printing, Inc.

Photographers: David Kamba, PAA archives

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