

# Polish American Association

Working Today Toward a Better Tomorrow

## ANNUAL REPORT 2011



# DEAR FRIENDS,

## partners, and those we serve:

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Our theme for this year's Annual Report, "Working Today for a Better Tomorrow," succinctly describes our work each and every day. In any of our 28 programs, we assist thousands of clients per year in our common goal of improving lives. From our job training programs, to our clinical programs, immigration department, and food pantry where we feed the hungry and clothe the homeless, we are proud to say that we make a difference, and we have been doing so for 90 years. A stronger community, a brighter future, resources for changing lives. This, our esteemed friends, is our tireless mission. The following annual report speaks to the effectiveness of our programs.

Today, we have partnerships with nearly 200 community organizations and companies across the metropolitan area that have come together to serve our community and recognize our unique role within it. Now, more than ever, we are asked to do more with less. This need does not contract, but only expands with the stresses of daily life coupled with what the economy has brought us. But what would we be without YOU, our friends and allies in support of the common good? For us to serve the ever-increasing needs of the community, we must come together and partner in this joint effort. We ask for your help in several ways.

First, please read through this report and feel free to contact PAA with any questions that you may have. We want to hear from you. Second, share what we do by telling your family, friends and coworkers. If you work in a business that would like to explore a partnership with PAA, let us know. Finally, call our development department and let us know that you would like to help. We need your support to meet the ever increasing and changing needs of the Polish community. And to those individuals, businesses, and community leaders that have lent their support and stand proudly with us today, dziękuję – thank you!

Sign up on our email list through our newly designed web site ([www.polish.org](http://www.polish.org)) and you will be kept informed on how your support helps, and all of the exciting news the PAA has to offer. And don't forget our Facebook presence nearing 1,000 friends.

With our sincerest thanks and best wishes for the year ahead, we proudly present our Annual Report.

Robert J. Paszczak  
Chairman

Gary Kenzer  
Executive Director



## Welcome to the PAA. We need each other.

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 an emphasis on assisting immigrants.

### We believe:

- > Each client of the 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

# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Working together for a better tomorrow ...for those who seek help and counseling

The path to a better tomorrow can depend upon receiving supportive help and counseling. Recent immigrants and their families dealing with the pressures of adjusting to a new culture and language find the path particularly difficult. Victims of domestic violence, substance abuse, and depression can feel especially alone and isolated. Youth, who are coping with a new environment, sometimes need assistance and counseling to navigate. Seniors with diminishing resources and support system need help to maintain their independence and quality of life. For these individuals, PAA services can help them take the first steps on that path.

During FY 2011, the PAA provided professional support, advice, and assistance to over 3,000 clients through its social services programs:

- > Crisis Intervention
- > Individual and Family Counseling
- > Counseling and Advocacy for Victims of Domestic Violence
- > Partner Abuse Intervention Program
- > Summer camp for Children and Youth
- > Senior Services Programs
- > Domestic Violence Counseling
- > Substance Abuse Counseling and Prevention for Youth

Through these programs, the PAA addresses the serious problems affecting the Polish community. By providing holistic, linguistically and culturally sensitive programs and services, the PAA enables its clients to progress beyond an abusive domestic situation, a crippling addiction, and debilitating mental illnesses as depression. For victims of domestic abuse, the PAA offers crisis intervention, information and referral, individual and group counseling, interpretation and translation, assistance in applying for public assistance and other financial resources including medical and legal advocacy. These programs allow the victims and their families to receive the support they need to escape a violent relationship and build a better tomorrow for themselves.

### CLIENTS SERVED IN FY'11

Senior Services	453
Victims of Domestic Violence Counseling / Partner Abuse Intervention	217
General Counseling	211
Substance Abuse Counseling for Adults	152
Youth Services	81
Counseling for Teens	73
Substance Abuse Youth Program	42



## What Can You Do With Your Life: Halinka's Story

Halinka's needs were many. She had an abusive husband; she had two children to care for; and she had limited English language skills. Through the PAA, she received the counseling she needed to survive and move on from years of abuse. She was able to complete a nursing assistant program and English language classes. It wasn't easy, once she quit. But with the PAA support services and programs, she was able to create a better life for herself and her children.

# SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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## Working together for a better tomorrow ...for those who lack the basic necessities

The path to a better tomorrow can sometimes involve obtaining the very basic of necessities: food, shelter, and health care. For those who lack those essentials, self-sufficiency seems impossible when facing the day-to-day struggle of existence. For these individuals, the PAA's services help them take the first steps on that path.

This year, the PAA helped over 2,000 individuals and families with supplement food through our Food Pantry. Our Turning Point Homeless Shelter offered two daily hot meals, counseling services, and a supportive environment for 77 homeless men, providing the resources to change their lives. Our low-income energy and rental assistance program enabled over 1,000 individuals and their families to maintain adequate housing and utilities.

The PAA's Health Outreach and All Kids Applications help members of our community access the health care system offering education on important health care issues and resources to access quality medical care for poor, uninsured, and limited-English speaking individuals and their families. In addition, the PAA assists individuals in enrolling children of working-poor families, pregnant women and their babies in the state's All Kids health insurance plan.

### CLIENTS SERVED IN FY'11

Low-Income Energy & Rent Assistance	1,287
Outreach & Interpretation	1,013
Food Pantry	929
All Kids Applications	325
Homemaker Services for Seniors	260
Turning Point Homeless Shelter	77
Health Outreach	46



## What Can You Do With Your Life: Adam's Story

Adam had never asked for help before. Years ago when he came to the new country he worked at low-paying jobs with little, if any, benefits. As a senior, he was finding it difficult to meet his daily expenses of food, rent, and utilities. Access to medical care seemed out of the question. He felt humiliated by his “failure” and isolated by his age and limited knowledge of English. Through the PAA senior services, Adam was able to receive the assistance he needed.

# EDUCATION

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## Working together for a better tomorrow ...for those seeking a better future

The path to a better tomorrow often requires improved job and language skills. For these individuals, PAA services can help them take the first steps on that path.

The PAA assists immigrants in achieving that future by offering English classes, preparation for U.S. Citizenship exams, and opportunities for enhancing their job skills. Through these services, individuals are better able to compete within the job market and provide financial stability for themselves and their families.

This year, the PAA's Education and Employment programs provided over 1,000 individuals with courses in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. We offer computer classes and computer resource labs, enabling individuals to develop and improve their computer skills, conduct job searches, create resumes, and use e-mail.

### CLIENTS SERVED IN FY'11

English Classes	1,256
Computer Resources Room	780
Citizenship Classes	448
Computer Classes	344
Adult Basic Education	89





## What Can You Do With Your Life: Robert's Story

Robert was commuting to class from Midway where he lived, by a bus and often by bike. Distance or hard work didn't matter. Robert, like other students in the PAA Certified Nursing Assistant class, wanted a recession proof career but also one that required a short training period. The Certified Nursing Assistant course was the fastest way to utilize his physical therapy diploma from Poland and help bring his girlfriend to his new country. Robert was one of the first graduates from his class to get a job.

# EMPLOYMENT

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## Working together for a better tomorrow ...for those seeking employment

The path to a better tomorrow is made easier by good career counseling, decisions, and training. The PAA offers programs and services which provide the guidance needed to reach career goals. Since 1981, the PAA has successfully placed more than 10,000 individuals in full-time jobs. Since 1991, we have been certified by the Illinois Board of Education as a Private Business and Vocational School. For these individuals, PAA services can help them take the first steps on that path.

Our Employment Services are offered to both job seekers and providers at no charge. We maintain an extensive job bank and have a dedicated staff of job developers.

Additionally, the PAA offers resources on making career and job decisions. Our Career Counseling programs help individuals in their job search through individual guidance as well as seminars. In FY'11 we provided job counseling to over 500 individuals.

The PAA also offers classes for those wanting to enter careers in health care and office administration. In addition to vocational classes in office skills, we have well regarded programs in Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.) and Physical Rehabilitation Aide (P.R.A.) training.

### CLIENTS SERVED IN FY'11

Employment Placement	997
Career Counseling	456
Vocational Classes	140



## What Can You Do With Your Life: Marta's Story

Marta has a master's degree from a Polish university. But when she and her son immigrated to the United States, she couldn't find any work. Her son didn't go to college and barely graduated from high school. Depressed over her son's lack of vocation and vocational training, Marta initially contacted the PAA for help for her son with career and vocational counseling. The PAA helped him enroll in vocational classes and apply for a scholarship at a local community college. Marta also received counseling and enrolled in our office skills classes so she could find sustainable employment.

# IMMIGRANT SERVICES

## Working together for a better tomorrow ...for those seeking US citizenship

The path to a better tomorrow is embodied by U.S. Citizenship, by the freedom and opportunity offered by inclusion into the greater American community. For the immigrants who come here, U.S. Citizenship is worth the linguistic and cultural displacements of leaving their home countries. For these individuals, PAA services can help them take the first steps on that path.

The PAA is the only Polish agency accredited by the National Board of Immigration Appeals of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. The PAA Immigration Services staff provides accurate information on citizenship, host immigration workshops, and help streamline the application process. They help clients prepare for the U.S. Citizenship exams, apply for citizenship, adjust immigration status, and complete necessary paperwork to reunite families.

PAA's Housing Resource Center provides individuals with information and services to enable more Polish immigrants to enter the home-buying market. Trained counselors provide clients with unbiased, bilingual information and counseling necessary to facilitate knowledgeable and thoughtful home-purchasing decisions as well as rudimentary financial advice.

The Housing Resource Center also assists clients with landlord-tenant conflict resolution, lock-outs, evictions, security deposits, retaliation, discrimination and access to affordable housing for persons with special needs.

### CLIENTS SERVED IN FY'11

Immigration Services	1524
Housing Resource Center	391



## What Can You Do With Your Life: Jacek's Story

Born in Poznan, Jacek has been a legal resident of the US for the past five years. A construction worker, he has been out of work for over a year due to the recession. Jacek is eligible to apply for citizenship but doesn't have the required \$680. The PAA assisted him with the fee waiver program as well as helping him obtain other forms of assistance. He is now attending citizenship classes and expects to become a U.S. citizen soon.

# OUR CONTRIBUTORS

The Polish American Association is grateful to all of those whose contributions provided the resources needed to change lives. The donors listed in this report made contributions between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. 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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*In the Honor*  
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We are also seeking additional corporate and family foundation support and would welcome an invitation to meet with you at your convenience. Please contact Gary Kenzer, Executive Director at 773-427-6317 and/or [gary.kenzer@polish.org](mailto:gary.kenzer@polish.org).

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- John F. Kennedy

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Halina Bozek	Zaneta Jurczyk	Krystyna Mass	Jozefa Swiatek
Jadwiga Branicka	Wladyslawa Kaczmarczyk-	Zofia Matachowska	Zuzanna Swiderska
Marta Buchanan	Odrowski	Alina Matel	Katarzyna Swigon
Irena Burns	Anna Kadzielawa	Agnieszka Meciwoda	Halina Szarkowski
Joanna Cabaj	Bianka A. Kaminska	Ewa Z. Mikolajewska	Josefa Szezewyk
Joanna Ceremon	Teresa Kaminska	Radoslaw Misiarz	Elzbieta Szczerba
Halina Chmielowiec	Janina Kapinos	Ewa Mittleman	Marzenna Szwarc
Elzbieta Chranawska	Monika Kapinos	Jadwiga Morzy	Christoper Szykula
Michal Chybowski	Ona Kastaniene	Jolanta Nicieja-Janczarek	Zofia A. Szymonik
Malgorzata Cieslak	Barbara Kasza	Zofia Obacz	Alicja Szremska
Marta Cruz	Malgorzata Kedra	Janina Okoniewska	Renata Teper
Krystyna Cwiek	Lucyna A. Kedra-Gas	Malgorzata Olczak	Maria Trzmielewska
Lilla Czajczyk	Gary Kenzer	Halina Olejnik	Alexandra Tomala
Slawomir Czajkowski	Ewa Klepaczko	Katarzyna Olender-Misiarz	Jadwiga Tomaszewski
Elzbieta Czerwonka	Halina Klaich	Jessie Oddgeirsson	Helena Torres
Urszula Dabros	Wanda Klimecka	Teresa Palac	Dorota Trybula
Agnieszka Dabrowiecka	Jolanta Koc	Lidia Paliwoda	Maria Trzmielewska
Aneta Dabrowski	Piotr Kochanowicz	Jadwiga Panfil	Natalia Twarog
Angelika Danek	Zofia Kojtek	Helena Para	Ludwina Waksmundska
Donna Dean	Elzbieta Kolosa	Anna Pater	Urszula Waksmundski
Magdalena Dolas	Katherine Koptilin	Marta Pereyra	Malgorzata Walkowska
Lidia E. Dudek	Maria Koscielniak	Urszula S. Piekarska	Boguslawa Wazydrag
Cecylia Dudzinski	Zofia Koscielniak	Zofia Piekarczyk	Magdalena Wazydrag
Marzena Dudzinski	Danuta Kosinska	Zbigniew Pienkowski	Paulina Wegierek
Krystna Drzalowska	Elzbieta Kot	Ludmila Pietraszek	Elzbieta Wierzchon
Anita Eilmes	Barbara Kotarska	Barbara Pietrowski	Krystyna Wiszowata
Ruth Elbaum	Malgorzata Kousiakis	Thomasz F. Pik	Edyta Wojno
Stanislawa Falewicz	Maria Kowal	Alicja Piwnicka	Krystyna Wojtas-Zak
Dorota Felinska	Ewa Koziol	Ryszarda Pluzyczka	Bozena Zajac
Danuta Franczyk	Teresa Kozłowska	Malgorzata Popek	Stanislawa Wojton
Boguslawa Gadula	Iwona Krasnowska-Guzek	Alicja Posniak	Irena Wojtkowski
Maria Ganczar	Mirosława Krolikowska	Teresa Poznanski	Mirella Wolak
Andrzej Gasiénica	Malgorzata Krydka	Janina Prymska-Niedzwiedz	Dorota Zaghoul
Tadeusz Gaszcz	Magdalena Krzeminska	Halina Puckowski	Grazyna Zajackowska
Renata Gawle	Andrzej Krzykala	Katarzyna Rachwal	Magdalena Zakrzewska
Barbara Gawronska	Malgorzata Kuchta	Dorota Redlich-Lewandowska	Elizbieta Zaworski
Ewelina Geneja	Malgorzata Kurdziel	Astryda Reiter	Bozena W. Zdrzalka
Krystyna Gierczyk	Helena Kurek	Jadwiga Rozanska	Maria Zebrowski
Teresa Glen	Adam Kusz	Teresa Rusin	Daniela Zimmnicka
Helena Glista	Bozena Kwasna	Bozena Sajdak	Krystyna Znorko
Elzbieta Goc	Barbara Lacz	Irena Sajdak	Teresa Zygula
Dana Grymova	Gertruda Labeledz-Monaco	Lidia Jachimowicz-Seeger	Jack W. Zurowski
Marta Grzeskowiak	Agnieszka Ladzinska	Krystyna Sip	

# TREASURER'S REPORT

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The Polish American Association is an Illinois non-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. The 22 member volunteer board of directors is responsible for setting policy as well as oversight of the organization's operations including its finances. Financial statements are prepared monthly, reviewed and approved quarterly and audited on an annual basis. The condensed financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2011 appearing in this report were derived from audited financial statements. The full audited financial statements are available upon request.

Kenneth A. Berezewski  
Treasurer Polish American Association

## Expenses

95.0%	Programs
5.0%	Support Services

## Income

89.1%	Government Grants & Contracts
3.7%	Contributors & Special Events
2.5%	Program Service Fees
3.9%	Foundations & Corporations
.6%	United Way
.2%	Other



## Assets

Current Assets	\$1,297,328
Property & Equipment	\$ 909,822
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,207,150</b>

## Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities	\$ 753,750
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,058,777
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$394,623
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,207,150</b>

## Revenues

Contributions and Special Events	\$204,263
United Way	\$33,322
Government Agencies	\$4,859,666
Corporate and Foundation Grants	\$211,905
Program Service Fees	\$133,801
Other Revenue	\$10,487
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,453,444</b>

## Program Services

Education	\$1,403,713
Social Services	\$967,372
Employment	\$407,101
Immigration	\$158,685
Homemakers	\$1,939,640

## Supporting Services

Management/Fundraising	\$255,985
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## Total Expenses \$5,132,496

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$37,019
Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$283,929
Board Designated Funds	\$320,948



**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 Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60638  
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**Writing**

Mary Gembicki & PAA Staff

**Creative development**

AND agency

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