

Polish American Association

Resources for Changing Lives

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Thank You

.....to all those who made PAA's 2001 Chairman's Brunch and Paczki Days for the Poor a success, and those who made generous donations to the Miracle Fund, especially to **Dr. Mark Sobor** and **SOMA Medical Clinic** for making the 10th anniversary celebration of SOMA Medical Clinic a fundraising benefit for the Polish American Association. We thank Dr. Sobor for his ongoing commitment to PAA's mission and service as the Medical Director of our alcohol abuse treatment and homeless programs. . . **LaSalle Bank** for its very generous contribution in support of **Jerry Smulik's** continued involvement with PAA...**The Estate of Bishop Alfred L. Abramowicz, Altheimer & Gray, Bank One, Kazimiera Bober, Leonard & Haline Borkowski, Rev. Martin Borowczyk, Chicago Society, P.N.A., Commonwealth Edison Co., Camille Einoder, Gordon & Pikarski, Michael & Natasha Isaacs, Stanley Jozefiak, Kasia's Deli, Inc., Kenard Management Corp., Henry & Michelle Kurzydowski, LaSalle National Corporation, Legion of Young Polish Women, Thaddeus Makarewicz, Edward & Anna Mazur, Aleksandra Mazurek, Theresa Mazurek, Ronald & Diane Nawrocki, Oppidan, Inc., Rev. Thomas Paprocki, Polish Women's Alliance, Richard's Bakery, Dr. Jadwiga Roguska-Kyts, Dr. Izabela Roman, Dr. Joanna Sawicka, SBC Ameritech, The Hon. Janice Schakowsky, Rev. Edmund Siedlecki, Mark & Anna Sobor, Walter & Bogna Solak, Jeanne M. Sowa, Ted Szywala, Donald & Joan Versen, Mitchell & Fran Wiet, Kathleen Wytmar, R.A. Zweig, Inc., . . .to Michelle Kurzydowski and Fran Wiet for co-chairing PAA's Chairman's Brunch, and to **Bogna Solak** and **Oak Mill Bakery** for donating floral arrangements and pastries, and **Marcin Januszkiewicz** for donating the gift of his beautiful music to this event . . . to the foundations that generously provide support for our programs: **The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, The Field Foundation Of Illinois, Kraft Foods, Inc., Retirement Research Foundation, Sara Lee Foundation, United Way Crusade of Mercy, WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation . . . to Binny's Beverage Depot** and the **Society of Young Polish Professionals** for sponsoring a wine tasting to benefit PAA . . . to **Dan & Sherri Boho** for hosting a beautiful event for PAA at their home . . . to **Jewish United Fund's TOV Volunteer Network** for brightening the day of our Seniors Club . . . to the **Illinois Arts Council**, a state agency, for their grant to partially support the **Lira Ensemble's** performance at PAA's 2001 Annual Gala . . . and to all those not mentioned here, but who have given to PAA in time, money and prayers, **Dziękujemy Bardzo!****



Polish
American
Association

Serving Polonia Since 1922

The Link

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Home Is Where the Heart Is...

It takes a strong and giving heart. It takes compassion and understanding. It takes a special person to care for someone who can no longer fully care for themselves, particularly when it's a stranger. But, thousands of homecare assistants throughout Illinois are helping the elderly to age with dignity and respect in the familiarity and security of their own home.

Since 1995, the Polish American Association has proudly been helping families with the difficult struggle of finding a way to help seniors remain in

their own home as long as possible through its Homemaker Program. Funded by the Illinois Department on Aging, PAA's program helps many eligible Polish-speaking elderly and others receive support and assistance with the activities of daily living, allowing them to live at home rather than residing in a nursing home.

Homemakers provide indispensable, in-home, personal-care services, which include meal preparation, assistance with grooming and bathing, cleaning, shopping, laundry, and other general non-medical support.

The program has grown from two homemakers and three clients to 70 homemakers, who annually serve more than 230 clients and provide as many as 7,500 hours of service monthly to Chicago seniors.

PAA provides each homemaker with 20 hours of pre-service training and ongoing supervision, in-service training and support to ensure the client's changing needs are met. Not only are these homemakers skilled in the mechanics of care giving, but they are a vital link between the client, working or geographically distanced family members, and the case manager

Often they become much more than caregivers to seniors who are homebound and alone. Sometimes they are the only friend their clients have, sometimes they take the place of absent family, and there is even a time when one of our homemakers has prayed with and held the hand of a dying client.

"It's important to me that I treat my clients the way I would want to be treated if I were in their situation. You need to give from your heart, and treat people with understanding, compassion and sympathy," says long-time PAA homemaker **Barbara Kasza**. The sincerity and heart with which Barbara performs her work is evident — so much so that she was recently awarded the 2002 **Mary I. Hill Homecare Assistant Award** by the Illinois Association of Community Care Program Homecare Providers.

A couple whom Barbara cares for recently wrote "...She has made our house the way it was before our illness. ... We love Barbara and we are thankful for the wonderful help. ... There are really no words to express how much she has helped us

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PAA Homemaker Barbara Kasza with her client Mrs. Chavosky. Kasza has cared for Mrs. Chavosky and her husband for since last July.



PAA Homemaker Program Coordinator Joanna Tkacz (left) congratulates Homemaker Barbara Kasza on being awarded the prestigious 2002 Mary I. Hill Homecare Assistant Award by the Illinois Association of Community Care Program Homecare Providers. She was selected from 21 nominations to receive this award. The award ceremony took place in April at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield.

From The Chairman . . .

As many of you are aware, Illinois is facing a significant budgetary shortfall for the current fiscal year, due in large part to the economic downturn. The proposed budget cuts to eliminate this gap include devastating reductions to human service and health providers throughout the state, including PAA, which receives a significant amount of support from the state to provide many of its programs and services for the poor.

Hundreds of non-profit human service organizations providing social services on behalf of the state are targeted to be severely impacted by these cuts. Many organizations like PAA are looking at the painful choices they will need to make if these cuts are not restored.

It is most ironic that the organizations that people turn to for assistance in uncertain economic times, are the ones most at risk when government budgets need to be slashed. Although most of us understand that the state has a serious budget problem, we do believe that there are ways to incorporate alternative revenue sources into the budget that would prevent cuts in programs to those who are most in need.

PAA has been involved in advocacy efforts on its own and with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights, the Immigrant Services Work Group and the Emergency Campaign for a Fair Budget, broad coalitions of groups opposing state cuts in human services and health. We, like many other social service providers, have not only had to freeze salaries and implement other cost-saving measures, but more painfully begin a process of possibly eliminating some programs that are unique and important to the community.

What makes this a particularly difficult situation is that many of the private and corporate foundations that non-profits have been able to turn to in difficult times are also experiencing impacts from the economic downturn and September 11, and will need to either decrease the number of programs they fund or limit the amount of funds they distribute. This budget crisis has the potential to impact non-profits for many years to come if something is not done now.

I urge you to contact your state legislators and the Governor's office to let them know of your concern about these proposed cuts and urge them to carefully examine some of the proposed alternative sources of revenue to meet the shortfall. In addition, we kindly ask you to support PAA's various fundraising efforts throughout the year, especially our annual Miracle Fund.

Thank you to our donors and volunteers for your ongoing support of the mission and programs of PAA.

Stanley Jozefiak

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Painting Joy . . .



A big thanks to the Jewish United Fund's TOV Volunteer Network which brightened a recent meeting of PAA's Seniors Club with a flower-pot painting project and their kind hearts and smiling faces. A TOV volunteer (left) and a PAA Seniors Club member (right) share some laughs together as they experiment with different flower-pot painting techniques. PAA's Senior's Club operates both on Chicago's Southwest and North side. The group has weekly meetings that include social activities and informative sessions on current issues and health.

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We have never had such wonderful care. Thank you for sending us such a wonderful worker and companion."

Qualifying clients must be age 60 or older and meet health and income eligibility criteria to receive these services. Eligibility and the plan of care are both determined by the State's designated case management unit, after a case

worker is sent to the home to evaluate the client's needs.

If you know of someone who is elderly and Polish-speaking and may need Homemaker services, please contact one of our Homemaker Program coordinators for more information: North side - Boguslawa Wazydrag at 773-282-8206 ext. 330 or South-west side: Joanna Tkacz at 773-767-7773 ext. 207.

A Worldwide Tribute to Honor Someone Special

Are you looking for a meaningful gift for someone dear to you—maybe for a Birthday, anniversary or Father's Day? Maybe you want to remember a deceased

family member or friend in a special way. If you are a current PAA donor at the Friends Circle level or above, worry no more! The Polish American Association invites its donors to submit personalized tributes and memorials in honor of individuals who have positively touched their lives.

As a donor benefit, PAA will post your tribute on its website free of charge. If this is a gift and you provide us with the information, we can notify the recipient of the tribute you posted.

If you are not a current donor, you may have your tribute posted on PAA's web site as a benefit of joining one of our giving circles. Members of PAA's giving circles have made gifts to PAA of at least \$250 in this fiscal year.

For more information visit our website at www.polish.org or call our Development office at 773/282-8206 ext. 309.

Did You Know . . . The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 was the first modern constitution in Europe and only the second in the world after the American Constitution of September 17, 1787.

Save the Date . . . PAA's Annual Gala will take place on Saturday, November 23, 2002 at the O'Hare Marriott. We are pleased to announce that Bogna Solak will be honored at this event as the Recipient of PAA's 2002 Presidential Award for her dedication of time talent, and effort toward PAA's mission. For more information, please call 773-282-8206 ext. 308

Rallying Support . . .

PAA's Outreach & Interpretation Project staff members Henryka Blusiewicz and Magdalena Surowka, along with PAA clients and supporters rallied in Springfield recently to urge legislators to pass a fair state budget that would maintain programs for the most needy in these uncertain economic times. The rally, organized by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, drew hundreds of supporters from health and social services organizations throughout the state.



Snow Optional . . .



More than 100 high school and college students participated in PAA's Polish Snowball weekend in March. The annual event at YMCA's Camp Duncan, modeled after Operation Snowball, focuses on leadership development to empower youth to lead drug-free lives. The weekend is organized and led by PAA staff, teen leaders and volunteers. This is the first year that a group of college-aged youth, who previously attended while in high school, returned again demonstrating the program's success. Polish Snowball is just one part of PAA's multifaceted Youth Development Program.

Hats Off To . . .

Nancy Kaszak and Dr. Izabela Roman were recently appointed to PAA's Board of Directors. Nancy Kaszak, a former Illinois State Representative, is the executive director of CorLands, a nonprofit organization that works with local governments in northeastern Illinois to save open space for public enjoyment. Dr. Izabela Roman is the medical Director of Target Research Associates, a clinical research company she founded in 1992. We warmly welcome them both!

PAA Board Member Father Edmund Siedlecki celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his Ordination into the priesthood. Congratulations and God's continued blessings on him!

PAA KidCare Coordinator Anna Jastrzebska was presented with the KidCare Excellence in Service Award by Covering Kids Illinois at the Partners for Healthy Kids Statewide KidCare Conference in May. Last year, Anna helped more than 500 children and pregnant women get insured, and designed a KidCare outreach campaign for Polish media.

PAA Board Member and former Controller of ComEd Roger Kovack was invited to be part of a team traveling on overseas aid and trade development missions sponsored by various federal agencies to present seminars on electric utility financial management. His recent travels have included places such as Tirana, Albania and Muscat, Oman.

The Illinois Department of Human Services awarded Bozena Miltko, Case Manager for PAA's Outreach and Interpretation Project, a certificate of appreciation for Exemplary Support in Assisting Our Customers in Becoming Self Sufficient.

Case Manager for PAA's Outreach and Interpretation Project Henryka Blusiewicz and Immigration Counselor Barbara Lacz were both presented the Outstanding Case Manager Award given annually to PAA staff member(s) for their exceptional work on behalf of clients.