



1956—2016

Summer 2015



Charity begins at home but to really make an impact it has to spread to those outside. Poverty, illness and despair have no nationality. In 2016, Polish Assistance will mark its 60 years of servicing those in need in the Polish American Community. Please be generous and donate so we can continue our mission. Let's celebrate your generosity of spirit by upholding the Polish traditions of generosity and compassion. You are cordially invited to attend our 57<sup>th</sup> *Bal Polonaise* to benefit Polish Assistance on Saturday, February 6th, 2016, Grand Ballroom of The Plaza Hotel, New York City

## They depend on your donation

In 1956, we helped war veterans and immigrants assimilate in the U.S. as war damaged Poland was taken over by communism. Today assistance is granted to individuals and families on a regular monthly basis - usually to supplement very low social security payments, or ad-hoc to meet urgent needs, such as the payment of medical bills.

We share a few of their appeals:

### *Desperate mother's plea*



I am 76 years old, riddled with diabetes, high cholesterol and joint pain. I cannot work and I rely on a small social security income. My son has had sepsis and has been bedridden in a public hospital since 2011. Every day I commute from Brooklyn to Harlem to see him. I don't have enough money to take public transportation to see my son in the hospital. I am desperate.

### *I am a widow with 5 young children*

My husband died of cancer while I was pregnant with our fifth child. Today, the youngest is 3 years old and the oldest is 12. We have no family here to help out. We live frugally but I need help. I am at the mercy of federal assistance and the goodwill of other people. The Polish community rallied by holding a fundraiser. Polish Assistance provides monthly support.

### *I am old and sick*

Polish Assistance has been helping me since 2003. I am 81 year old widow and I have been diagnosed with angina, coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, and osteoporosis degenerative disc disease. I have no family. I am confined to a wheelchair. I rely on the goodwill of my church and of Polish Assistance.



### *We just need a bit*

We are patients at Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital, a long term acute care hospital, the New York City's safety-net provider of healthcare services. We have no income and no families. Most likely we will never leave here. Help from Polish Assistance lets us keep our dignity. Thank you.

*Please donate—we know you care*



## SAVE THE DATE

You are cordially invited to attend  
**57<sup>th</sup> Bal Polonaise**  
to benefit Polish Assistance  
on Saturday, February 6th, 2016  
Grand Ballroom of The Plaza Hotel  
New York City

*Grand Celebration of 60 years of Polish Assistance*

### Mission Statement

To provide assistance, primarily financial, to persons of Polish origin who are at risk or needy

Despair of those who we assist does not make the local news, it does not generate the intense media attention of much larger disasters. But nonetheless, it is devastating to those whom we help. Emergency food, shelter, or assistance with medical expenses... it all comes to helping those who run out of options. Over the years, so many of you have supported and continue to this day to support those who are less fortunate. You deserve recognition and our special gratitude.

Polish Assistance' endeavors to be responsible stewards of your donations and proudly provides assistance to those who need it the most. The Board of Directors and the Grant Committee consider each case. Dr. Nina Thiessen for many years has been reviewing the applications; many of them have pages and pages of medical records attached. Eryka Volker is a well-known activist in the Polish community and has been involved in charity work for over 25 years. She has great insight into the needs of those who are less fortunate. Her work on behalf of the needy has been profiled in many newspaper articles as well as on local TV.

**2015-2016 Board of Directors:** Jadwiga Palade - President, Nina Thiessen, M.D. - Vice President, Christopher Kurczaba, Esq - Secretary, Eva Skibicki - Treasurer, Ewa Meyerhoff, Nina Mlodzinska de Rovira, Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel, Malina Stadnik, Eryka Volker, Greg White.

### Thank you and welcome!

Many thanks to Chevalier Cesare L. Santeramo, K.C.S.J. for over 50 years of support and Board Membership. As he steps down from the Board and his role as a Secretary, he graciously has agreed to stay on as a voting member and to continue his support of our efforts which include duties as a Master of Ceremonies of the 57th Annual *Bal Polonaise*. We welcome Chris Kurczaba as the new Secretary. We're excited to have Mr. Kurczaba take on additional duties and lead us forward. We also welcome our new voting members. Please get involved and become a member, just call us!

### 3 actions to take

**Donate** we accept donations by mail and on our website

**Forward** this newsletter to others

**Attend** our fundraisers

15 East 65th Street, New York, New York 10065 (212)-570-5560

[www.polishassistance.org](http://www.polishassistance.org) email: [office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org)

Polish Assistance, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Copy of Polish Assistance latest annual report may be obtained upon request, from the Polish Assistance, Inc. or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271

#### Priorities

##### Financial Hardship

*Income below U.S.  
poverty guidelines*

##### Health

*poor or incurable  
illness*

##### Age

*helping seniors age with dignity*