



Your past contributions and/or participation in one of our fundraising events provided financial assistance to desperate individuals in need of help.

We thank you on their behalf.

Today we are asking you, and those who believe in our mission, to donate so we can continue our efforts to stamp out hunger and ease misery in our community.

"Generous in compassion, rich in tradition". Our mission is to provide assistance, primarily financial, to persons of Polish origin who are at risk or needy. Our activities focus mostly on the New York metropolitan area, with a portion of the assistance given to out-of-state individuals. Some of our actions are quite transparent, some are not.

- We regularly receive new applications for assistance in addition to the current recipients. For example, last fall Polish Assistance approved aid to three additional individuals in need of assistance as a result of an article in the Polish Newspaper, Nowy Dziennik.
- In the summer of 2017 we contributed to and assisted in raising funds for the benefit of Janina Kokorudz. Her story appeared in the Polish Newspaper.
- We participated in a community action by donating and raising funds for the benefit of the Diamond Street Fire Victims.
- Every year we support "Wigilia" organized by the volunteers of SOS Homeless headed by Eryka Volker.

These are some of the more visible cases, in addition to the regular monthly assistance, that we provide. The need for aid is increasing as we gain visibility in our community. That is why we are asking for your continued support.

Generous in compassion

The official poverty guideline is at \$11,880 per person and \$16,020 for a family of two. Most of the applicants sadly fall well below these criteria.

When reviewing requests for assistance, our primary considerations are financial hardship, age and poor health such as incurable or terminal illness.

Read more..

- [*Generous in compassion*](#)
- [*Rich in Tradition*](#)
- [*How we choose our beneficiaries*](#)
- [*Your donations make a difference*](#)
- [*Feeling Compassion*](#)
- [*Fulfilling our mission*](#)

Rich in tradition



61 years ago, a successful and philanthropic group of Americans of Polish heritage formed an organization to support World War II heroes and political refugees who immigrated to America from Poland to escape communism. Most of them were ex-military, but there were also government officials, educators, writers and artists. The older ones especially found it difficult to adapt to their new circumstances. The passage of time has caused the majority of the current aid recipients to be more recent immigrants.

Today, a new generation of Polish Americans is upholding the tradition of providing assistance to individuals who are at risk or in crisis due to poverty, mental or physical illness. Their support enables Polish Assistance to bring stability to these individuals by providing basic needs for housing, food and healthcare.

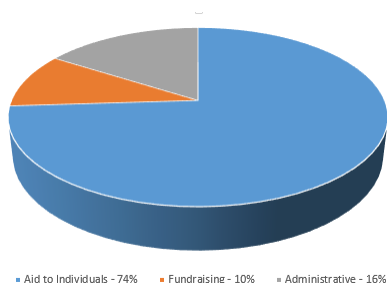
How do we choose the recipients and how are the funds distributed?

Each applicant goes through an initial review process by the Grant Committee and is reapproved annually. Once an applicant becomes our beneficiary, **Polish Assistance usually commits to his/her support for the remaining lifetime** as most of our recipients have little chance for improvement of quality of life. In most cases, these individuals are seniors with serious health issues that have no means of supporting themselves. We also provide assistance to patients in a “long term acute care hospital”, the city’s safety-net provider of healthcare services. At times when emergencies happen, or when the condition is temporary, we give temporary assistance for a very short time.

*Polish Assistance
endeavors to be responsible
stewards of your donations and
proudly provides assistance to those
who need it the most.*

How much assistance do we provide annually?

The simple answer is that the amount and size of our annual budget depends on donations. Aid varies between \$50 to \$300 per individual per month. It is not meant to give full financial support but to assist.



As of fiscal year end March 31, 2017

Our general and administrative expenses will drop substantially this fiscal year as all of our office activities are now handled by volunteers. We are in the process of evaluating our fundraising activities such as the traditional *Bal Polonaise* with an eye on expansion of our donor base.

Eryka Volker, local community activist as well as Polish Assistance Board Member states most eloquently.

“Funds are much harder to find than those who need our help.”

How your donation makes a difference

Our oldest recipient is 93 years old and has been receiving assistance since 2005. The longest supplemental assistance given, since 1996, is to an 81-year-old disabled woman confined to a wheelchair who can't make it on public assistance alone.

We provided financial support for 7 months to a waitress going through breast cancer treatments as she was unable to hold a full-time position. We're happy to report she was well enough to return to Poland this summer.

Last year we mourned the passing of Teresa Zak of the Coler Rehabilitation and Nursing Care Center. She was one of our beneficiaries for the past 11 years. Unfortunately, we were not able to locate her next of kin.

We continue to provide aid to other residents at the Coler Campus. \$50 per month allows them to buy a much needed personal items.



"Wigilia" Holiday meal—Photo: Wojtek Maslanka / Nowy Dziennik

With the help of donations from supporters such as yourself and the local community, we will continue to provide assistance so that our elderly and sick can live out their years with dignity.

What is the most satisfying part of being part of Polish Assistance?

Making a difference in someone's life. We provided aid to victims of domestic violence that left 3 children without parents. Today they are under loving care of the family members. With the initial help of Polish Assistance and others in the Polish community, the family is on the mend. To quote a family member, "We thank you for your support, now please use your resources to help those who need it more than us".

What is the hardest part of our mission?

Due to budget constraints – we have to prioritize who receives assistance. Most deserve it, **but making a priority of one person's misery over another's is heart-wrenching.**

Another dilemma is being non-judgmental. Let's take the case of 79-year old Janina Kokorudz who was evicted from her apartment where she lived for 20 years and whose companion took advantage of her. Some will say "She should have known better. She was naïve." But the reality is that the individual took advantage of an elderly person, took all of her money because "he lost his job and needed it for himself." He did not pay her back. She had no money, she had no income, and she did not speak English. She was homeless with no family. She would not have survived on the streets. Our goal was to send her back to Poland. There was no time nor resources to untangle the mess her affairs were in.



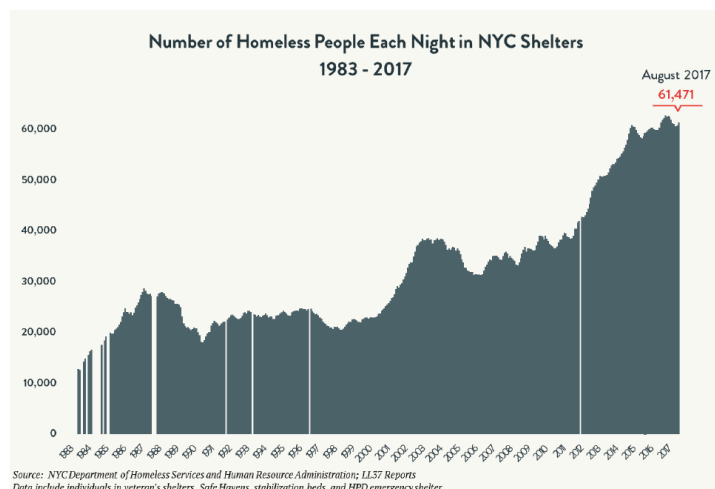
We are part of the greater community

New York City is one of the wealthiest cities in the world, yet there are so many that live here in poverty and misery.



First and foremost, in order to be relevant in our community, we need funds. Charity begins at home but to really make an impact it has to spread to those outside.

Poverty, illness and despair have no nationality.



Reference: Coalition for the Homeless

- In recent years, homelessness in New York City has reached **the highest levels since the Great Depression of the 1930s**.
- In August 2017, there were **61,471 homeless people**, including **15,315 homeless families with 22,970 homeless children**, sleeping each night in the New York City municipal shelter system.

Because of your donations, we are able to provide assistance to those who,
due to their dire circumstances, might not be able to survive.
But our work is not done.
There is so much more that can and needs to be done.
And it all starts with you.
Please donate.

Together we will make a difference and we thank you in advance for your support.

To make a donation to Polish Assistance and its beneficiaries, please send a check to Polish Assistance or donate on line at www.polishassistance.org

Applications for assistance are available on the website or by calling 212-570-5560.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jadwiga Palade (*President*), Nina Thiessen, M.D. (*Vice President*), Eva Skibicki (*Treasurer*), Eva Meyerhoff, Nina Mlodzinska de Rovira, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Eryka Volker, Greg White.

A copy of the most recent annual report is available from the State of New York Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York, 10271. Returns are posted on the New York State Charities Search website www.bartlett.oag.state.ny.us/Char_Forms/search_charities.jsp Registration with a state agency does not constitute or imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by that state. A copy of the annual report and registration filed may also be obtained by contacting Polish Assistance, Inc. at 15 East 65th Street, New York, NY 10065, (212)570-5560 or office@polishassistance.org.