



Fall 2016



### ***Rich in tradition, generous in compassion***

Celebrating 60 years of providing assistance to individuals who are at risk or in crisis due to poverty, mental or physical illness.

#### **Diamond Street Fire Victims**

14 people were left homeless after 3 buildings burned down in Brooklyn's Greenpoint neighborhood on February 14, 2016. You answered the call for donations and we thank you. The community reacted swiftly and over \$30,000 was collected and distributed to the fire victims. Life goes on and you made it easier to bear the burden. .... *more on page 3*

#### **Domestic Violence leaves 3 children without parents**

May 15, 2016, Staten Island. An estranged husband killed his wife, then he took his own life leaving behind three innocent children ages 10, 14 and 19. No more needs to be said. The children are devastated and they need help.. *more on page 3*

#### **Dying man's wish**

He knew he was dying and his condition was quickly deteriorating. At the last moment, Eryka Volker, our BOD member, arranged for a passage to Poland where he was picked up by his sister and 92-year old mother who has not seen him in 30 years. *more on page 3*

#### **60 Years of Tradition and Compassion**

Polish Assistance was created in 1956 by a group of successful Polish émigrés with the idea of rendering assistance to those who were less fortunate in the Polish American community. As the years progressed, this time tested mission is still as important. Are you the voice our mission needs to help those in need?

*More on page 2*

#### **One**

One individual is receiving assistance since 1996

#### **Two**

Two oldest assistance recipients are 81 and 91 years old

#### **Three**

Three new recipients were recently approved and more applicants are already under consideration

#### **Four**

Four needy individuals have been receiving assistance for over 10 yrs

#### **Five**

Five individuals are living in the long term acute care hospitals, the New York City's safety-net providers of healthcare services

.....

#### **Fourteen**

Diamond Street Fire Victims received assistance

#### **\$30,000**

Was distributed to the Diamond Street Fire Victims

***They thank you for your support***





**“We are driven by the desire to help”**

We consider financial hardship and health such as poor or incurable illness and age among the most significant factors. Our legacy is helping seniors age with dignity. Today’s needs encompass so much more.

Jadwiga Palade, President

*Polish Assistance Board of Directors Member*

On behalf of the Board of Polish Assistance and those who depend on your generosity, I want to thank our past, current and future donors for supporting Polish Assistance.

It has been 60 years since Maria Dembinski, supported by her world renowned friends, began the honorable tradition of helping those less fortunate in our Polish American community. Teresa Sulimirski continued the efforts and in 2006 I took over the arduous task of fundraising and distributing those funds to those who so depend on your generosity. I have been involved in the Polish Assistance for 44 years and now we see another generation take an active role.

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.

Today I am happy to advise you, that 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.

As we are taking a year off from our main fundraiser, the Bal Polonaise, we hope that you will find it in your heart to support our work by making a generous donation and participating in our Holiday Wishes Journal.



**“Giving is receiving”**

*Eryka Volker*

*community activist*

*Polish Assistance Board of Directors Member*

I see so much suffering. Please donate, we know where to make the difference. So many need our help.



**“Double your donation”**

*Russ Skibicki*

*3rd generation*

*Polish Assistance Voting Member*

Please check your company’s matching gift program. It’s a very quick way to double your impact.



**“Advocate our cause and mission on social media “**

*Marissa Goba*

*Continuing family tradition*

*Polish Assistance Voting Member*

Spread the word about our cause. Follow us and like our postings on Facebook and LinkedIn.



**“Please donate so that we can be ready”**

*Anna Sawicka*

*Diamond St. Fire Victims Committee*

When a disaster strikes, people step up to help. Please help us be ready. Just write a check. Winter is coming and we need to be ready.

**2016-2017 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, Eryka Volker, Greg White.

## Diamond Street Fire Victims

*Continued from page 1*



Special thanks goes to the organizing committee including: Eryka Volker, Anna Sawicka, Magdalena Sawicka, Father Stanislaw Choragwicki and Arthur Dybanowski. Neighbors and strangers stepped up by providing necessities, clothing and shelter.

The American Red Cross provided temporary housing for some. Both Polish & local community stepped up by collecting funds. Marissa Cadena of Lucky Luna Restaurant and Tony from Tony's Pizzeria set up collection boxes. St. Cyril & Methodius Church took up a collection. Polish Assistance, Pulaski Association, Polish National Home, PSC Community Services of Long Island, Amber Senior Club and very generous individuals contributed to the Polish Assistance's special account for the benefit of the Diamond Street Fire Victims that was set up at the Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union. All funds were distributed. Although you can never recover from a fire, all victims feel lucky to be alive and are very thankful for your support.

## Dying man's wish

*Continued from page 1*



He died amongst his family in his beloved Poland on the 4th of July, America's Independence Day. He was able to die in dignity instead of being buried in New York City's mass cemetery for those who have no family and/or money. His sister wrote: "Thank you for allowing my brother to return to his family and

his country. On his behalf, I thank you and say goodbye. God Bless."

We mourn the passing of Stanley S., who has been a recipient of our assistance since 2005. He passed at New York City's long term care facility on Roosevelt Island and was buried at a mass cemetery. Although we tried, we could not locate his family.



## Domestic Violence leaves 3 children without parents

*Continued from page 1*



Their mother will watch over them from above. But that is not enough. Recently their aunt became the younger children's legal guardian and they joined her family. There will be some Social Security assistance, but the family needs financial help. Polish Assistance's Grant Committee approved them to receive assistance.

Now we need your donations. Let's show them that we care. Please donate.

## 60 Years of Tradition and Compassion

*continued from page 1*

**Please donate.** 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. In 2016, Polish Assistance marks 60 years of servicing those in need in the Polish American Community. There are still so many that need your help!

**Please volunteer.** We are planning a series of fundraising events. We want to continue to provide you with opportunities to network. But more importantly, since we are a charity, we need to raise money.

**Support our cause by serving on our Board.** Serving on the board of a nonprofit is a wonderful, enriching experience. Boards of directors are the governing bodies of nonprofits, and they approve budgets, establish long-term strategy, oversee various organizational policies, and help raise money. Please join us!

**Place an Ad in our Holiday Wishes Journal.** Show your care for those less fortunate. Send holiday greetings to your family and friends. Advertise your business. Details follow on the next page.

The needs of Polish Assistance and its recipients remain countless and we depend on your support. Please make a generous donation.

We have so much to be thankful for and we wish to share our joy with those less fortunate. We wish you a happy holiday season.





## Holiday Wishes Journal

**Greetings  
Traditions  
Holiday Recipes**

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

Polish Assistance is one of the sponsors of the traditional Christmas Eve dinner organized by Erika Volker's SOS Homeless volunteer group for the homeless and lonely in Greenpoint. Eryka, who is a well respected community activist, is also a member of the Polish Assistance Board of Directors.

Show you care for those less fortunate by contributing to the Holiday Wishes Journal. Send holiday greetings to your family and friends. Advertise your business. This special Holiday Wishes Journal publication will be posted on our website, advertised on social media, emailed to friends and associates of Polish Assistance as well as hard copies will be mailed to the contributors and supporters of Polish Assistance. The Journal's success will ultimately benefit those whom our charity supports.

By contributing, you can show your personal support for our cause or showcase your business by increasing visibility to a prominent group of individuals. Most importantly, you will be helping change the lives of those in need in the Polish American community.

We thank you in advance for your generosity. Please use the enclosed order form.

Polish Assistance is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that depends on your generous contributions to fulfill its mission of providing assistance to individuals who are at risk or in crisis due to poverty, mental or physical illness. We do not receive funding from federal, state or local government sources. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.



■ General and administrative - 11%  
■ Fundraising - 9%  
■ Aid to individuals - 80%

## We deliver what most of us take for granted

Polish Assistance provides financial support to needy persons who are facing unforeseen hardships. As a member of our organization or a contributor to our cause, your donations are the mainstay of our ability to help those in need.

Our membership categories are:

Benefactor	\$1,000 and more
Sponsor	\$500 to \$999
Patron	\$100 to \$499
Donor	\$ 50 to \$ 99
Student Member	\$25

We thank you in advance for your generosity. Please let us know if you would like to be recognized on our website.

To donate, go to [www.polishassistance.org/donate.html](http://www.polishassistance.org/donate.html) or you can also make your tax deductible contribution by check payable to Polish Assistance at the address below.

For further information and to receive occasional updates please e-mail [office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org) or call 212-570-5560



With the upcoming holiday season, please consider making a donation in the name of those on your holiday list. We will send them a beautiful holiday card expressing your generosity and the assistance that will be provided in their name. These cards make a great gift for hard to shop friends and relatives. The gift cards can also be sent to you so that you can give them out personally. Just let us know if you wish us to disclose the amount of the donation.

## POLISH ASSISTANCE — POLSKA BRATNIA POMOC

15 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10065

Tel. 212-570-5560 Fax 212-570-5561

[www.polishassistance.org](http://www.polishassistance.org)

e-mail: [office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org)





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- ☐ Enclosed please find my contribution to help individuals who are at risk or in crisis due to poverty, mental or physical illness
- ☐ Please keep me on your mailing list.
- ☐ To keep Polish Assistance costs down, just contact me by email at: (we keep our mailing lists confidential) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I no longer wish to receive communications from Polish Assistance. Unsubscribe to [office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org)

☐ Benefactor \$1,000 and more \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sponsor \$500 to \$999 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Patron \$100 to \$499 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Donor \$50 to \$99 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Student Member \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Gift Cards "Give something that means something" \_\_\_\_\_

See instructions on the back page

### HOLIDAY WISHES JOURNAL

- ☐ I would like to place an ad(s) in the Holiday Wishes Journal Each
- ☐ Corporate Full Page (7.5"x10") \$300 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Personal Full Page (7.5"x10") \$200 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Half Page (4.75" x 7.5") \$150 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Quarter Page (3.50" x 4.75") \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose payment or use PayPal

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## HOLIDAY WISHES JOURNAL

Advertising in the Holiday Wishes Journal: Please include your message below or send your digital artwork ad to: [office@polishassistance.org](mailto:office@polishassistance.org) or fax to: 212-570-5561.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at 212-570-5560.

**Deadline for copy: November 18, 2016**

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## Holiday Wish List — Give something that means something

With the upcoming holiday season, please consider making a donation in the name of those on your holiday list. We will send them a beautiful holiday card expressing your generosity and the assistance that will be provided in their name. These cards make a great gift for hard to shop for friends and relatives.

- ☐ Please send the holiday gift card(s) to me directly so that I can give them out personally.
- ☐ Please disclose the amount of the donation.
- ☐ Please mail to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like us to sign it? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like us to sign it? \_\_\_\_\_

(to add more names, please include blank paper)