



POLISH-AMERICAN FREEDOM FOUNDATION



2018 Annual Report

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Letter from the PAFF Leadership



Andrew Nagorski
Chairman of the Board
of Directors



Jerzy Koźmiński
President and Chief
Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

We have the pleasure to present the annual report of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation summing up the Foundation's activities in 2018. The report was finalized in June 2019, following the completion of the consolidated financial audit report.

While we were preparing this report, Poland was celebrating the 30th anniversary of the country's political turning point in 1989 that paved the way for freedom, democracy and a market economy in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the 20th anniversary of Poland's joining NATO and the 15th anniversary of Poland's accession to the European Union. These anniversaries also provided a special occasion to recall the two main goals that were set for the Polish-American Freedom Foundation in 2000: to carry out activities aimed at consolidating the outcomes of the transformation that Poland initiated in 1989, and sharing the Polish experience with other countries of the region.

Since its establishment the Foundation has focused on those communities and groups in Poland that need particular support in the process of transition – mainly those in small towns and villages. Our programs aim to provide equal educational opportunities and improve the quality of education overall, as well as support the development of local communities. Between 2000 and 2018, the Foundation allocated more than USD 200 million for its activities, which includes the almost USD 13 million that was disbursed last year.

In the area of education, we would like to point out the results of the "Equal Opportunities" Program: over 3,000 local projects have helped 144,000 young people from small localities get their start in life. Since 2001 the program has been evolving toward a system that offers not only financial support for various non-governmental initiatives in education but also training and experience sharing, including regular educational forums.

PAFF has also worked to improve the quality of Polish education through its "Learning Schools" (LES) Program. Its activities are primarily aimed at bettering teachers' skills. The program covers almost 5,000 schools throughout Poland, including 1,500 that participate in its main component geared toward comprehensive development of the school and, to a great extent, is based on the formative assessment idea. The concept involves frequent, interactive assessment of progress achieved individually by students to decide about how each of them could be more effectively taught. Training courses offered by all "LES" Program's segments have been addressed to a total of more than 100,000 teachers. Last year the Learning School Academy of Education Leaders was added to the mix: thanks to the financial support of the European Social Fund, almost 900 managers of educational institutions from the Mazowieckie and Świętokrzyskie provinces participated in the training effort.

The Polish-American Freedom Foundation and University of Warsaw School of Education has entered its third academic year. It offers post-graduate courses for future Polish language and math teachers. Almost 30 students joined the group of graduates, while 26 new students were enrolled. From inception, the staff of the School of Education has worked not only with the students of the post-graduate courses but also with in-service-teachers. Last year, nearly 500 people participated in its broad array of professional teacher training efforts – seminars, workshops, and other activities.

All of PAFF's educational programs have had to take into account the recent major changes in the structure of Polish education. These included the elimination of junior high schools, which introduced a two-tier system based on 8-year primary schools and 4-year high schools.

We continued the Foundation's programs to facilitate the building of social capital, the solving of local communities' problems, while encouraging personal and community development. Under the auspices of the "Act Locally" Program, a total of 10,000 civic initiatives, since inception, have been supported with grants awarded in open grant competitions organized by a network of Act Locally Centers (ALC). Last year 5 new organizations joined the program as Affiliated Act Locally Centers, and currently the total ALC network is comprised of 71 organizations that cover 644 municipalities and rural communes (gminas) all over Poland. We also increased the PAFF Local Partnerships' network: in 2018 it was joined by 8 new partnerships. Now 45 such groups are part of this initiative, which spans 93 municipalities and rural communes and involve more than 620 local partners, 7,000 volunteers, and 130,000 members of local communities.

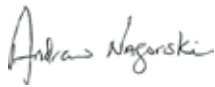
Building social capital and stimulating development is not possible without the active engagement of local leaders. It is noteworthy that 184 of the 620 alumni and current participants of the "PAFF Leaders" Program ran for office in the local government elections that were held in November 2018. Of that number, 83 local leaders won: 61 were elected members of district councils, and 22 became mayors of cities, towns or rural communes. The leaders' increasing eagerness to become involved in changing their local communities can also be seen through their active participation in other undertakings such as the "Sector 3.0" Program's network of Mobile Advisors. At present the team of Mobile Advisors – specialists providing free-of-charge training services and technical support for local NGOs – is comprised of 100 persons, including 20 who joined the network last year. For 6 years the Mobile Advisors have provided frequent advice and held training sessions for more than 12,000 participants.

We are also pleased to note the further extension of our projects aimed at sharing the Polish experience in domestic transformation and EU integration. Since inception we have awarded grants to over 1,000 projects enabling cooperation between Polish NGOs and their counterparts from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus under the "Region in Transition" (RITA) Program. More than 9,500 active university students and professionals from the East have participated in the "Study Tours to Poland" (STP) Program. Since 2000, a total of about 13,000 people have visited Poland under „RITA“, „STP“, and the Lane Kirkland Scholarships programs.

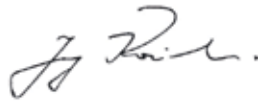
In May 2019, we sorrowfully bid farewell to John P. Birkelund, the co-founder of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and the Polish-American Enterprise Fund, who served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of both institutions. John was a great friend of Poland, he significantly contributed to Poland's economic and social transformation as well as to the increasingly close ties between Poles and Americans. He chaired the PAFF Board of Directors until 2012, and afterwards maintained close relations with Poland and with the Foundation, especially by offering us advice about investment policy. From the beginning, he was profoundly devoted to PAFF's programmatic activities; we could always count on his wisdom, advice and friendship. We will greatly miss him.

We would like to thank all our partners for their professionalism, involvement, and innovation that contributed to implementation of PAFF's numerous programs. Our special thanks goes to the Foundation's Board of Directors for their invaluable insights as well as support to the entire PAFF Team that manages the Foundation's activities on a daily basis.

New York/Warsaw, June 2019



Andrew Nagorski
Chairman of the Board of Directors



Jerzy Koźmiński
President and Chief Executive Officer

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THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$8,022,381

including \$622,648 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The “Nida” Development Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.englishteaching.org.pl

ENGLISH TEACHING

Introduced in 2000, this program launches and supports activities that promote the English language as well as improve the quality of English teaching to children and teenagers in small towns and rural areas. Thus it also promotes their equal access to educational opportunities. At the same time, the program contributes to the professional development of English language teachers working in small localities.

“English Teaching” is an undertaking designed to promote the study of English as well as stimulate and to develop a variety of civic initiatives. The results often transcend the original goals and frequently stimulate activity of local communities. The program’s actions are mainly addressed to English language teachers at public elementary and junior high schools as well as kindergartens in rural areas and small towns. The program’s offer includes training for teachers and it provides them with the support necessary to carry out small projects as well as consultancy in their preparation.

and take part in lessons conducted by native speakers. More than 65,000 students and approximately 4,100 teachers directly participated in the projects financed within the grant competitions. Indirectly they engaged over 170,000 parents and other members of local communities.

The program includes “Weekends with English Teaching” methodological training sessions for English language teachers in small localities. So far, 137 such training sessions have been conducted with 6,200 teachers participating.

During the period 2000-2018 1,033 projects were funded in grant competitions addressed to schools and non-governmental organizations from localities of up to 20,000 inhabitants.



Within the program’s editions, conducted in 2000-2018, approximately 1,000 projects were funded in grant competitions addressed to schools and non-governmental organizations from localities of up to 20,000 inhabitants. As a result, clubs of admirers of Anglo-Saxon culture and English language, little libraries of English-language books and press, as well as theater circles, were set up in many schools. Numerous contests of knowledge about English writers, culture and history as well as song festivals were held. Children and young people had a chance to watch English-language films in their original versions

The most active teachers participating in the program have a chance to expand their qualifications at a three-week Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Summer Institute, organized by Gonzaga University in the USA.

Under the program, 16 annual nationwide “English Teaching Market” meetings have been organized for teachers of English and interested institutions, organizations, schools and publishers. A total of more than 8,500 people have participated in them. The meetings are aimed at developing cooperation

networks of English-language teachers from small localities and are additionally supported by the community portal and regular e-news on other educational initiatives such as grants, training sessions and competitions.

In 2015, under the initiative of the English Teaching Program Ambassadors – the most

active teachers participating in the program – the English Teaching All-Poland English Teachers Association was established, whose objective is to carry out professional training for English teachers, especially those from villages and small towns, as well as advocacy activities on behalf of them. ■

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$15,050,532

including \$1,256,511 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

► The Polish Children and Youth Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.rownacszanse.pl

The objective of the program, implemented since 2001, is to support civic initiatives creating and promoting equal opportunities for a better start on the road to adulthood for young people from rural areas and small towns. That is achieved by improving their competencies and developing social skills, such as teamwork as well as the ability to win support for achieving one's goals and how to plan various activities.

Within the program, NGOs, community centers, libraries and informal groups apply for grants to finance projects stimulating the intellectual and creative aspirations of children and teenagers, developing their ability to realistically set and independently achieve goals, shaping active and open attitudes. Such projects also encourage efforts benefiting their communities and enable young people to participate in activities extending beyond the standard curricula offered by schools. In 2018, a total of 137 projects were financed under the All-Poland Grant Competition and the Regional Grant Competitions. They cover a variety of subjects, including projects aimed at creating conditions for young people to act for their local communities, to learn about local traditions and history, as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Rounding out the program are training sessions for project coordinators. The sessions deal with ways of conducting projects, particularly emphasizing the involvement of young people in the role of active creators, participants and direct implementers of an undertaking. The training offer for coordinators also covers such subjects as the use of ICT in educational projects' management and ICT popularization.

In 2018, as in the past, another round of summer school for the most active participants of projects was organized. The objective of the school is to improve skills required for implementing social initiatives benefiting the local environment and to develop leadership competencies. Summer school graduates have the opportunity to receive a grant

The program resulted in the implementation of nearly 3,000 projects involving approx. 144,000 participants (indirectly nearly 460,000 people have been involved) and stimulation as well as integration of local communities around activities benefiting children and youth.



for short-term projects benefiting their local communities. Last year 24 people attended the summer school classes.

An important component of the “Equal Opportunities” Program is its Local Forums held by organizations participating in the program. The Forum is a place for institutions and individuals involved in activities benefiting the youth in their communities to discuss the potential of the local environment as well as obstacles limiting the development opportunities for young people living in small towns.

Last year 13 local forums were held, participated in by over 350 users.

The program’s eighteen editions resulted in the implementation of nearly 3,000 projects involving approximately 144,000 participants (indirectly nearly 460,000 people have been involved), plus stimulation as well as integration of local communities around activities benefiting children and youth.

29 publications have been issued, describing the methodology of selected model projects which could be implemented in other parts

of Poland. The publications are available at the program’s website www.rownacszanse.pl. In addition, 150 local non-governmental organizations have been established and many projects are continued after the financial support provided by the program ceases.

Through the program the Foundation provides support to the “Young Explorer Clubs” initiative, which is an extension of the model project launched in 2002 by the Education Society of Kłodzko and currently implemented by the Copernicus Science Center. The goal of the “Young Explorer Clubs” is to promote interest in science among children and youth. The Clubs are based on learning through discovery and self-directed experiments with simple and easily accessible materials. Last year, the seventh edition of the “Young Explorer Clubs” Forum was held which gathered 240 people. The forum is a platform of contacts and exchange of experiences, also serving to promote the “Young Explorer Clubs”. The “Young Explorer Clubs” network comprises almost 450 clubs, including several dozen established in Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Georgia. ■

THE LEARNING SCHOOLS (LES)

Under the program, implemented since 2000, comprehensive activities have been conducted to improve the quality of Polish education patterned on the best foreign models. The quality of work of Polish schools, especially those in rural areas and small towns, is enhanced primarily by improving teaching techniques.

The “LES” Program introduces an original quality assurance system into the daily practice of schools, which ultimately increases the skills and autonomy of teaching staff, bolsters the position of the principal as the leader of her/his school’s transformation process and improves teamwork. All this leads to improved teaching results. It is a broad program that encompasses teacher on-line training sessions and courses, staff workshops, post-graduate courses and conferences for principals, a systemic program of formative assessment and other innovative educational practices. Schools participating in the program develop organizational solutions that professionalize teaching, monitor the results of their efforts, and share best practices. The program has resulted in quality improvement in key areas of a school’s activities: education (teaching and learning) effectiveness, the school as a learning institution, and the school’s cooperation with the outside community.

In 18 years, almost 4,000 schools participated in the program; 1,450 of them took part in the core part which is aimed at comprehensive development of the school thanks to introducing the formative assessment tool. Also, more than 100,000 teachers have taken advantage of the training opportunities offered within all components of the “LES” Program.

Since 2009 the “On-line Teachers Academy” (OTA) project has been carried out. It is implemented throughout Poland and involves an on-line distance training system for teachers of various subjects in different types and levels of schools as well as kindergartens. “OTA” courses make use of e-learning and on-line coaching and serve to prepare teachers to use modern information technologies in their work with pupils. “OTA” offers seven year-long courses of various types. Since the 2016/17 academic year teachers can also

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$12,062,919

including \$817,325 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

➤ The Center for Citizenship Education Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.sus.ceo.org.pl

In the course of the program's 18-year history, ca. 4,000 schools have participated (including more than 1,400 in the core part of "LES"). More than 100,000 teachers have taken advantage of the training opportunities offered within all components of the program.



choose a training course on "OK Notebook", a new tool that supports formative assessment. Each year ca. 800 teachers take part in on-line training courses.

The multi-year experience gained in the implementation of the "LES" Program was used in various educational initiatives financed from EU funds, such as the "Students' Academy" Program, completed in 2015, or the "Digital School".

The objective of the "Students' Academy" was to promote innovative teaching methods, especially in math and life sciences. The program was addressed to teachers and students from all over Poland and were participated in by more than 20,000 people.

Since the beginning of 2017/18 school year, "LES" has been implemented in a new environment resulting from broad changes introduced in the Polish educational system. Consequently, a part of the activities had to be adjusted to the new circumstances.

Based on the "LES" experience, in 2018, the "Learning School Academy of Education Leaders" (LES AEL) was launched as part of post-graduate studies for leaders of education conducted since 2007. "LES AEL" are post-graduate studies for 900 school and

kindergarten principals or vice principals and specific subject team leaders from the Mazowieckie and Świętokrzyskie provinces aimed at improvement of educational institution managers' qualifications in development of students' key skills. The studies are run in cooperation with Collegium Civitas and the Maria Grzegorzewska University-Academy of Special Education, and are co-financed from EU funds.

PAFF is a partner of the "School with Class 2.0" initiative, promoting innovative educational solutions based on information and communication technologies and the design thinking method. It expands on the "School with Class" project, launched in 2002 and inspired by the "LES" program. It was conducted by the Center for Citizenship Education Foundation (currently by the School with Class Foundation) in cooperation with the "Gazeta Wyborcza" daily. By the end of 2018, more than 9,000 schools from all over Poland and more than 150,000 teachers had participated. It included such initiatives as: "Teacher with Class", "Lego, Cogito, Ago", "Student with Class" and "School of Thinking". In 2014, the "First Class Teacher" project was launched offering training, expert support and inspiration for early childhood education teachers. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$2,562,107

including \$1,114,023 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Foundation for Quality Education

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.szkoledukacji.pl

PAFF AND UW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The School of Education is a joint undertaking of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and the University of Warsaw. It is the only school in Poland that conducts daily post-graduate teacher certificate studies. Currently the School is free of charge, and students may apply for a scholarship that will help them cover their costs of living, as well as accommodation at the UW dormitory.

The School of Education program has been developed in cooperation with a prestigious teacher training institution – Columbia University Teachers College in New York.

Currently the School of Education is running its third round of studies, attended by 28 students in two subjects – Polish language and mathematics. In the 2019/20 academic year the School of Education will open two new paths – History and Social Sciences, and Biology and Life Sciences.

a supporting teacher at the school where they do their internships. Academic classes are held for small groups. Great importance is paid to discussion and regular student progress self-evaluation.

Classes at the School of Education are conducted by persons experienced in school work, active in education, viewing it from various perspectives – practicing teachers, academics, and other people with a passion for education. The lecturers represent various universities

The students have their individual tutors at the School of Education, and a mentor – a supporting teacher at the school where they do their internships.



An integral part of teacher training are daily practical classes at schools. The students spend their time both in academic classes at the School of Education and at a selected school – they observe lessons, participate in conducting them or conduct them on their own. They also take part in the school staff meetings, and in parent-teacher conferences. Experimental knowledge gained at a given school is discussed during the students' academic classes on an on-going basis. The School of Education is responsible for the quality of the teaching practice and it cooperates with a network of carefully selected schools in Warsaw and surrounding areas.

The students have their individual tutors at the School of Education, and a mentor –

– they were trained by top American and European specialists in teachers' education. At the same time, the School of Education Staff has run workshops for teachers of schools where the internships are conducted, and the schools that hire the SE graduates. These workshops were attended by over 600 people.

There is also an Alumni Office at the PAFF and UW School of Education which offers long-term support to graduates, including assistance in finding a job. Graduates can also cooperate on a current basis with lecturers of the School, improving their teaching skills and sharing experiences.

Methods applied at the School of Education, along with its best practices are popularized

at schools and institutions responsible for training both future and in-service teachers.

In 2017, the School of Education launched free-of-charge training courses in literature and Polish language didactics, math didactics, and education and communication skills for in-service teachers, aimed at improving their subject and education skills. Presently they are being attended by 50 teachers.

The School of Education is located in the UW Center of New Technologies (CENT) building in Warsaw. The School was established thanks to the engagement and cooperation of PAFF, the University of Warsaw, the Foundation for Quality Education, and the Center for Citizenship Education Foundation. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$6,808,010

including \$386,904 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

► The Educational Enterprise Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.projektor.org.pl

PROJECTOR - STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

This program is aimed at equalizing educational opportunities for children and youth living in rural areas and small towns. Within the program groups of student volunteers (2 to 3 persons) implement the educational projects, which they have prepared, to develop the knowledge, skills and interests of children and youth. The projects are implemented in free time during the school year as well as during summer vacations and winter breaks.

The projects involve a specific field of knowledge, a subject or a selected area of activity, and consist of activities such as classes in fine arts, sports, information technology, theater, and linguistics. The program encourages pupils to develop their skills by promoting positive role models and shapes university students' sense of social responsibility while providing them with an attractive way to discover and fulfill their passions and interests.

Since 2003, in all program editions, over 37,000 educational projects have been carried out all over Poland in 2,500 schools involving 13,500 student volunteers and 370,000 pupils.

The program was supported by two former prime ministers, Professor Jerzy Buzek and Professor Marek Belka, who in 2007 volunteered to conduct vacation activities for children in several rural communes. In 2012, the Foundation for the Development of Voluntary Service, in cooperation with the Chancellery of the President of Poland, carried out the "Modern Patriotism" project, in which Ministers and Advisors at the Chancellery visited eight schools in small localities. The project under the honorary patronage of President Bronisław Komorowski was designed to popularize knowledge of patriotism, instill civic values among young people, teach local traditions and national symbols and foster tolerance and respect for other people.

Under the program, over 37,000 educational projects have been carried out all over Poland in 2,500 schools involving 13,500 student volunteers and 370,000 pupils.



Since 2011, the program has been monitored and projects carried out by student-volunteers have been evaluated on a regular basis. It serves both the direct measurement of the program results as well as recognition of its impact. Among the greatest advantages mentioned by student-volunteers are the opportunities to gain new, practical experiences, the development of communication skills, the possibility to establish new contacts, and the fact that schools of higher education acknowledge their civic activity. Educational institutions also find the program beneficial. It broadens their educational offer and improves school attractiveness, making parents pleased that their children are part of the undertaking.

In 2018, 52 summer projects carried out by IT female students were implemented. Their objective was to increase interest in technology and formal sciences. The participants learned the basics of programming and robotics, as well as of 3D printing applications. The projects were implemented thanks to cooperation with Perspektyw Education Foundation which carried out the second round of the "IT for SHE" Program in Poland. A total of over 1,500 children from small towns and villages participated in these projects.

In the years 2005-2010 the program was managed by the Polish Association of Pedagogues and Animators „Klanza”. Until 2017, the program was managed by the Foundation for Development of Voluntary Service. ■

BRIDGE SCHOLARSHIPS

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$23,421,949

including \$1,203,918 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGERS:

- › The Educational Enterprise Foundation
- › The Good Network Foundation ("My Scholarship" and "e-volunteering")

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.stypendia-pomostowe.pl

www.dobrasiec.org

This undertaking was launched in 2002 in response to a serious social problem – the clear disparity of access to higher education between urban and rural youth. The program helps talented young people from small localities, including former state-owned farm areas, make the decision to begin university studies by offering them first-year scholarships.

The Bridge Scholarships Program is a joint undertaking of many partners. It is financed by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, the National Bank of Poland, the Rural Development Foundation, the Orange Foundation, the BGŻ Foundation and a coalition of some 100 local NGOs. The undertaking is implemented with the organizational assistance of the National Support Centre for Agriculture and in cooperation with the Professor Bronisław Geremek Center as well as the Unit for Social Innovation and Research "Shipyard" Foundation. During seventeen editions of the program, the Partners have disbursed over PLN 111 million, with 65 percent of that amount being granted by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation. Since the beginning of the program, a total of over 22,700 scholarships have been awarded, including 16,000 scholarships for the first year of studies.

Since 2006, under the "Diploma of Dreams" campaign intended to encourage additional local NGOs to become involved in scholarship initiatives, 150 organizations have extended assistance to 4,300 scholarship holders.

The program is a scholarship system whose offer goes far beyond support for the first year of studies. Scholarship holders who do

extremely well in their academic pursuits have a chance for assistance in successive years of study – for the second year they may enter the "Top Student" competition. They may also try for corporate scholarships for their third and fourth years, a "Study Abroad" initiative and doctoral scholarships. The program's offer also includes language scholarships and workshops preparing scholarship holders for entering the job market.

Also available under the program are summer internships in the United States ("the Polish-American Internship Initiative"), organized in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. In the years 2011-2018, 100 students have worked as interns in 10 companies: Archer Daniels Midland Company, Boeing, Chevron North America, Citigroup, General Electric Hitachi, MoneyGram, Pittsburgh Glass Works LLC, Raytheon BBN Technologies, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation and Westinghouse Electric Company. Additionally, thanks to cooperation with Transatlantic Future Leaders Forum, 4 students did their internships at the United States Congress.

One segment of the program offered scholarships addressed to high-performing students of economics from small towns and

Since the beginning of the program, a total of 22,700 scholarships have been awarded, including over 16,000 scholarships for the first year of studies.



rural areas, enrolled in non-state institutions and private business schools. Between 2001-2014, nearly 7,000 of these scholarships were awarded.

A survey conducted among scholarship holders revealed that 94 percent of the program alumni believe the scholarship had significantly improved their financial situation when they were students, 90 percent of graduates had grade averages of "good" or better, 70 percent completed their courses without any delays, and only 4 percent dropped out.

Through its Bridge Scholarships Program, the PAFF also lends support to the scholarship

initiatives and volunteer activities conducted by the Good Network Foundation. These include the www.mojestypendium.pl portal, Poland's largest Internet service dedicated to scholarships, as well as the "Good Scholarships" competition promoting the best scholarship programs carried out by local governments, schools of higher education, companies and non-governmental organizations.

The program's media partners are "Rzeczpospolita" daily as well as "Forum Akademickie" (the Academic Forum) and "Perspektywy" (Perspectives) monthly. ■

THIRD AGE UNIVERSITIES (TAU)

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$4,758,590

including \$333,556 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Association of the Creative Initiatives „ę”

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.seniorzywakcji.pl

The objective of this program, launched in 2005, is to support education and stimulate social energy of the elderly as well as intergenerational initiatives. It is mainly carried out by supporting and promoting civic initiatives of senior citizens and harnessing their potential, knowledge, experience and time, to benefit communities. Support for the Third Age Universities' environment is also provided.

Within the "Seniors in Action" competition, grants and training are offered to people over 60 years of age, who wish to carry out civic and intergenerational actions based on their own ideas. They can do it on their own or in cooperation with a young person. The competition is addressed to active senior citizens involved in activities both within the framework of Third Age Universities and in cooperation with various other organizations and institutions.

To date, 327 intergenerational projects stimulating seniors to act for the benefit of their neighborhood and promoting senior volunteering were funded. 29 projects are being carried out under the 11th round of the competition.

Within the framework of support for Third Age Universities, the program offers training, workshops and an opportunity to share

So far 356 intergenerational projects stimulating seniors to act for the benefit of their communities and promoting their voluntary work have been carried out.



experiences at national conferences for TAU representatives. In 2004-2012 all-Poland gatherings were held in Kraków, Bydgoszcz, Słupsk, Płock, Warsaw, Nowy Sącz and Katowice. In 2011-2013, the program gave its support to 14 regional meetings of the Third Age Universities. Within the program, events important to the TAU environment are also supported – the annual Third Age University Forum, which is a part of the International Economic Forum in Krynica, and the Nationwide TAU Conventions.

Since 2013, the TAU representatives have been provided with an opportunity to take part in a series of workshops “TAU for Local Communities”, which support the establish-

ment of voluntary sections at TAUs and initiate cooperation with local communities. A total of 50 TAUs participated in five completed rounds of the project, while ten new ones are taking part in its present, sixth round.

In 2005-2008, within the grant competition addressed directly to the Third Age Universities, 131 grants were awarded for projects improving the quality of the educational offer, including computer and Internet courses enabling the Third Age Universities’ to reach a wider audience of senior citizens as well as stimulating seniors’ involvement in activities benefiting their local communities, particularly through voluntary work. ■

Development of Local Communities

› SUPPORT FOR NGOS	20
› ACT LOCALLY	21
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THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$9,859,303

including \$870,183 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGERS:

- › The Klon/Jawor Association ("MIS@NGO")
- › The Civil Society Development Foundation („FIMANGO")
- › The Academy of Civic Organizations Foundation ("PROMENGO")

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.ngo.pl

www.frso.pl

www.faoop.pl

SUPPORT FOR NGOS

The program provides institutional support for non-governmental organizations and community leaders in Poland, especially in small towns and rural areas.

The support includes access to information, advice and training. It leads to improvement of the conditions in which non-profit organizations work and thus to more effective operations and successful implementation of quality civic projects.

At present, the program operates along three paths.

The first is the "Mutual Information Society" ("MIS@NGO") – an information system for civil society organizations. Its main component is the ngo.pl portal – the largest Internet service for and about non-governmental organizations in Poland, recognizable by 73 percent of Polish NGOs. The portal is visited by over 3 million users a year, and its data base contains information about 170,000 Polish civic organizations. Additionally, the system consists of the Informatory and Helpline 801-646-719, as well as a studies and publications base.

Information and advocacy activities are out carried by the National Federation of Polish NGOs.

The third path – "NGO Training" – has two components. The first is "Financial Management for NGOs" ("FIM@NGO") which includes training, counseling and publications for people responsible for financial management of non-profit organizations, mainly those operating beyond major metropolitan areas. All told, during the period 2000-2018 ca. 4,500 people representing 3,000 organizations from all over Poland took advantage of these training opportunities. The training courses are implemented by the Civil Society Deve-

The ngo.pl portal is visited by over 3 million users a year, and its data base contains information about 170,000 Polish civic organizations.



The second path is "EURO-NGO+" – it is aimed at increasing the non-profit organizations' ability to acquire European Union funds. It is a continuation of PAFF's "EURO-NGO" Program carried out in 2003-2006, thanks to which Polish NGOs learned about structural funds and increased their competencies, which enabled them to apply successfully for EU funds. The program supported non-profit organizations in building partnerships, advocacy activities and being involved in planning structural funds for the years 2007-2013 and, currently 2014-2020.

lopment Foundation. The second part, launched in 2013, is a comprehensive education offer for NGO managers, comprised of the "PROMENGO" training program, the "Kursodrom" e-learning platform that has been used by over 5,000 people, and NGO-managing workshops whose main component is the Fundraising Education Program addressed to those who are in charge of raising funds in non-profit organizations. A supplement to the offer is "The Third Sector" quarterly, an academic publication on research and analyses of issues important to NGO development in Poland. That part

of the program is managed by the Academy of Civic Organizations Foundation established by PAFF.

Additionally, under the program, the PAFF has been a co-organizer of the annual meeting of rural organizations in Maróz. Nearly 300 representatives of 160 organizations from different regions of Poland have parti-

cipated in the meetings which promote integration, experience sharing, the acquisition of new knowledge and skills as well as cooperation. The meetings are organized by the Rural Development Foundation and the "Nida" Development Foundation. PAFF also supports the third sector research which is carried out cyclically. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$15,578,061

including \$1,076,334 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

➤ The Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.dzialajlokalnie.pl

ACT LOCALLY

The objective of this program, launched in 2000, is to assist and encourage local communities in villages and small towns by lending support to civil initiatives that foster developmental aspirations, improve the quality of life as well as contribute to building social capital. Support is offered to encourage activity of local communities, in which the members define their own needs and undertake joint initiatives.

The program supports a wide range of projects, recognizing that people are different, as are their needs, traditions, experiences, and available resources.

Grants are awarded at the local level in open grant competitions, organized each year by a network of Act Locally Centers (ALC) which encompasses associations and foundations in localities with up to 50,000 residents. Their area of activity may cover from four communes up to several districts. The ALC network has successively expanded from 15 centers in 2004 to 72 organizations in 2018. At present, it involves more than 600 communes. There are at least two Act Locally Centers in each voivodship. They cooperate with other NGOs as well as local authorities and entrepreneurs. New ALCs are selected in an open recruitment procedure by the Competition Committee. The beneficiaries of local competitions are NGOs and informal groups of citizens on whose behalf applications may be submitted by organizations and local public institutions (schools, community centers, libraries) operating in localities of less than 20,000 inhabitants.

In the first three editions of the "Act Locally" Program 356 projects were supported in the national grant competition, involving more than \$1 million from PAFF funds. In 2004 local competitions were launched as well through the agency of Local Grant Organizations (currently known as Act Locally Centers). In the years 2004-2012, grants were awarded in nationwide competitions to 99 projects, while 4,886 grants were provided through

the Act Locally Centers' network. In 2013-2014, in two competitions, 1578 grants were awarded. In the next edition of the program a total of 1,720 projects were supported with grants. In January 2017 the 10th edition was launched. To date, 891 local projects have been funded.

All told, over 3.8 million participants including more than 220,000 volunteers joined forces to carry out more than 10,500 projects. The financially assisted initiatives mainly center around strengthening local community cooperation, creating new personal-development and leisure-time opportunities as well as enhancing the attractiveness of a given region. The common denominator of the assisted projects has been local involvement enabling residents to acquire news skills, learn how to self-organize better and react to new problems.

For those implementing financially assisted initiatives, a "Tell Me..." competition has been organized. Prizes are presented for the most interesting ways of promoting and communicating about the undertaken activities. The best films are presented at the program's website. Also, for several years a competition has been organized awarding the most creative ideas for carrying out campaigns informing about the possibility of peoples' submitting 1% of their income tax to a public charity organization.

Improvement of the Act Locally Centers' operation is served by training sessions, workshops, regional meetings, study visits

and webinars organized under the program. They make it possible to share best practices, improve knowledge and qualifications and strengthen cooperation within the network. ALCs meeting the highest standards in the implementation of the program are awarded with certificates. This is a form of appreciation for outstanding involvement and professionalism in carrying out activities aimed at the development and stimulation of local communities which can serve as models for other organizations. So far, 23 Centers have been presented with certificates.

“Act Locally” experiences are also shared with Ukrainian NGOs. “Act Locally in Ukraine”, the initiative being currently implemented and aimed at inspiring Ukrainian NGOs to build a network modeled on ALC, is a continuation and extension of the Global Challenges Local Solutions pilot program funded by PAFF as part of the “Region in Transition” (RITA) Program in 2016-2017. The project is managed by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland in cooperation with the Ukrainian ISAR Ednania Foundation. In September 2018, 10 Ukrainian NGOs

Over 3.8 million participants including 220,000 volunteers joined forces to carry out nearly 10,500 projects. The common denominator of the assisted projects has been local involvement.



The acquired experience is put to good use by the Act Locally Centers in other Foundation's undertakings such as “PAFF Local Partnerships”. There they can play a leadership role in coalitions with participants of different Foundation programs jointly engaged in projects benefiting the local community. In the “PAFF Leaders” Program, ALC representatives serve as leaders and tutors, and in the “Sector 3.0” Program they belong to the network of mobile advisors assisting other organizations in ICT use.

In 2016, the FIMANGO Local Advisors School was opened. It is based on two PAFF programs – “Act Locally” and “Financial Management for NGOs” (FIMANGO). The school offers an intensive training program to improve the competencies of ALC representatives in financial management counseling to smaller, local organizations cooperating with them. Additionally, in 2017, the Advisory Board for Development of the ALC Network was appointed. The Board is composed of representatives of the most experienced, certified ALCs and two independent experts.

participated in Act Locally in Ukraine Summer School held in Warsaw. Ukrainian NGOs learned about functioning of Act Locally Centers in Poland and the methods of fundraising and building local partnership networks.

Within the program, PAFF supports the “Benefactor of the Year” Competition and maintains patronage of the “Local Involvement” category. The Competition promotes civic engagement of companies, many of which contribute to long-term local changes in cooperation with ALCs. The Foundation is also the main partner of the “Civic Leader of the Year” Competition, organized by “Newsweek Polska” (the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland is the strategic partner). The aim of the Competition is to award pro-civic attitudes and to promote the activities of individual people and organizations, backing them in solving various social problems.

The Foundation also supports the “Charity Stars” plebiscite organized by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland. It awards well-known people for their charitable activities. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$2,532,226

including \$529,530 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Information Society
Development Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.sektor3-0.pl

SECTOR 3.0

The program – formerly known as “ICT for Local Development” – has been implemented since 2012 and is a continuation of PAFF’s activities aimed at supporting the use of new information and communication technologies for local development. Its goal is to broaden the knowledge and skills of non-governmental organizations’ employees, particularly from small local communities, in an effective use of technologies in their everyday work.

The implementation of the program was preceded by a series of analyses which had been carried out by the Unit for Social Innovation and Research “Shipyards” Foundation. Consultations with domestic and foreign experts were held. Information collected on the progress made by NGOs in the ICT field and on the knowledge and qualifications of their staff in that area has been made available.

Under the program, thematic training for NGOs was carried out showing examples of the effective use of modern technologies in communication, marketing and management. Subsequently, some of those organizations received grants for purchase of hardware and software as well as for financing projects focusing on the practical use of ICT in third sector activities. The program’s offer also includes an ICT Mobile Advisors’ Network – 100 experts providing free educational and technological support services for local NGOs. So far, Mobile Advisors have provided counselling 6,000 times and 10,000 NGOs’ representatives from all over Poland benefited from it.

The program also has a financial component in the form of a Fund supporting the creation

of new ICT tools that can be then used by non-profit organizations. Particular emphasis is placed on providing knowledge on how to identify potential areas where information technologies can be harnessed by NGOs. A network of TechClubs has been set up in 16 Polish cities where representatives of NGOs, business, local governments and the academic community meet on a cyclical basis to share experiences of putting the potential of modern technologies to practical use. Since 2012, the TechClub meetings have been participated in by nearly 16,000 people.

An important part of the program is an international conference – “Sector 3.0” Festival – held in Warsaw annually. They gather representatives of non-governmental organizations, ICT professionals from business circles, politicians, academics as well as foreign experts (including representatives of the USA, the UK, South Korea and India). They constitute a platform for the exchange of information about current trends in ICT and Internet use in social/civic activities. Between 2012 and 2018, 4,000 people participated in the 8 editions of the annual “Sector 3.0” conference held in Warsaw. ■

So far, Mobile Advisors have provided counselling 6,000 times and over 10,000 NGOs’ representatives from all over Poland benefited from it. In 16 Polish cities the TechClub meetings have been participated by nearly 16,000 people.



THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$4,749,936

including \$409,132 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The School for Leaders Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.liderzy.pl

PAFF LEADERS

The objective of this program, implemented by the School for Leaders Foundation, is to support the development of skills and qualifications of individuals working for the benefit of their communities. This is achieved mainly through the use of the tutorial method which involves the regular cooperation of an experienced tutor with a local leader.

The program is addressed to active participants of projects financed by various programs of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation: "Act Locally", "Equal Opportunities", "English Teaching", "Region in Transition" (RITA), "PAFF Local Partnerships" and the Library Development Program.

The core part of the program is a twelve-month cooperation between a leader and a tutor coupled with a series of training sessions adapted to the participants' particular needs and priorities, which primarily focuses on interpersonal development planning, team building, managing an organization, communication, community involvement and building local partnerships. The skills acquired in the program help leaders undertake valuable activities benefiting their local communities.

grants for carrying out projects. Through the electronic newsletter alumni regularly receive information about current undertakings carried out within the program. Leaders may also exchange experiences during annual meetings of participants as well as via civic portals.

Since 2008, study visits of selected leaders to the United States have been organized as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Poland. In 2018, another group of leaders and tutors participated in such a visit. To date, a total of more than 100 PAFF Leaders have visited the USA.

As a result of the program's 13 editions the qualifications of 580 local leaders from

As a result of the program's twelve editions the qualifications of 580 local leaders from all over Poland have been improved, and an active nationwide network has emerged. In addition, more than 70 tutoring experts have been trained.



An essential component of the program is the offer for program graduates – the "Alumni Initiative", which involves cooperation and experience sharing. It provides an opportunity to participate in meetings with well-known figures of public life and in workshops adapted to alumni needs. Also, within the alumni initiative fund, the participants may obtain

all over Poland have been improved, and an active nationwide network has emerged. In addition, more than 70 tutoring experts have been trained. In the 14th (current) edition, which began in 2018, 40 leaders and 12 tutors are participating. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$2,490,004

including \$24,024 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

- › The „Pro Publico Bono” Competition Foundation (2000-2014)
- › The Local Press Association

“PRO PUBLICO BONO” COMPETITION

The “Pro Publico Bono” Competition for the Best Civil Initiative was launched in 1999 by Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek. Since 2000, the Polish-American Freedom Foundation has funded the prizes awarded in the Competition.

The objective of the Competition was to support the development of civil society by annually selecting and promoting the most valuable and creative NGO activities – on a national, regional, and especially local level – in the fields of education, culture and national heritage, health protection, social and charitable assistance, environment and regional development, as well as public diplomacy and European integration.

When considering an initiative submitted for the competition, the Competition Chapter (whose first honorary chairman was Jan Nowak-Jeziorański) took into account the social significance of the initiative, its innovativeness, impact on the development and competitiveness of local communities, and the effectiveness and transparency with which it makes use of public funds. Also, the Chapter considered the institutional stability of the nominated organization, compliance with ethical standards in its activity, and its cooperation with public administration and other institutions. The competition winners were rewarded with financial support which most frequently was allocated for the continuation of their efforts.

As part of the program, in 2007 PAFF took the role of a sponsor of Bolesław Wierzbiański Award for editorial staff of local press. Until 2011 the award was granted by the Polish Journalists Association, and currently is awarded by the Local Newspapers Association. The winner of the 2018 Bolesław Wierzbiański Award was the editorial staff of the “Gazeta Radomszczańska”.

Within the program the Foundation also supported the Civic Congress organized by the Institute for Market Economics. The event, held annually since 2005, is a unique form of engaging citizens in a dialogue about the directions of state development, the condition of society and the common good. The Congress is an open event and each year is attended by over one thousand participants, including representatives of central and local administration, NGOs, academics, student organizations, businesses, and local communities. The 13th Civic Congress which was held in 2018 with the motto “The Power of Localism, the Power of Poland” was attended by 300 participants. The “PAFF Local Partnerships” Program was a partner of the “Local Common Good – What Is It And How to Create It” thematic session. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$4,761,708

including \$429,873 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

- › The Information Society Development Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.biblioteki.org

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The program is addressed to public libraries and their branches in rural areas and small towns (up to 20,000 inhabitants). The principal goal of the Library Development Program was to assist them in transforming themselves into modern, multi-function information, cultural and education centers, stimulating civic involvement.

Thanks to the assistance received by nearly 4,000 libraries, residents of small localities gained an opportunity to improve their quality of life. Raising librarians’ competencies and building the prestige of their profession constituted an important component of the program.

Until April 2015, the program was carried out in partnership between the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It was part of “Glo-

bal Libraries” – a broader project in which the Gates Foundation created partnerships in selected countries to provide citizens with free access to information and communication technologies via a public-library network.

In 2008, PAFF established the Information Society Development Foundation through which it prepared a plan of assistance to Polish libraries by way of providing them with computer hardware and software as well as training opportunities for the librarians.

PAFF also signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage which launched a long-term program called "Library+" managed by the Book Institute. The aim of PAFF and the Ministry was to shape both undertakings to reinforce and complement each other.

and sharing of experiences. As a result, at present the libraries serve as "third places" in their local communities: meeting places open to all.

Within the program the Partnership for Library Development was supported. It brought together more than 100 representatives from

Thanks to the assistance received by nearly 4,000 libraries, residents of small localities gained an opportunity to improve their quality of life. Raising librarians' competencies and building the prestige of their profession constituted an important component of the program.



In 2009 the recruitment process was carried out by competition. As many as 1,873 libraries qualified for the first edition. 1,454 libraries qualified for the second edition of the program in 2011. In 2013, recruitment to their third edition was carried out, which was made possible thanks to the effective management of funds granted by the Gates Foundation and PAFF's additional financial contribution. The program now covers 3,808 libraries in 1,250 communes, which comprises almost 60 percent of all Polish libraries in villages and small towns.

Program participants received content-related support in the form of various training courses (such as library planning workshops, IT training and other training which helps further development of the libraries to meet the needs of their local communities) and technical assistance in the form of modern computer equipment (including computers, laptops, tablets, multifunctional devices, printers, projectors and digital cameras) together with software contributed for free by Microsoft. Libraries also had an opportunity to apply for grants to finance activities included in the libraries' development plans, which enhanced their offer for library users with computer and Internet courses, meetings with interesting people and organization of exhibitions. Also, they could receive grants for the organization of meetings for cooperating institutions aimed at integrating the local librarians' environment

the world of science, art, economy, the media, politics and the non-governmental sector. 16 Regional Partnerships with provincial authorities were established by the Information Society Development Foundation. Their task is to promote the modernization of public libraries in small localities. The partnerships for the development of libraries were also set up at the commune level. They are of an open character: in addition to local-governments other institutions important to social life at the local level may participate, such as schools, non-governmental organizations, business entities, mass media as well as local leaders.

Actions were taken to promote libraries, such as social campaigns organized within the program, e.g. an all-Poland promotional-informational campaign "Library. A Place of Reading. A Place of Activity" and an Internet competition "Let's Meet in the Library" as well as an all-Poland public libraries' convention held every year since 2010 with the participation of over 400 people each time, mainly librarians from small localities. The "LABiB" initiative is also being developed, which encompasses a network of a few dozen librarian-innovators, who, via a dedicated social networking site, create and popularize best practices in library activities.

Also engaged in activities benefiting libraries were third sector organizations such

as the Center for Citizenship Education Foundation, the KARTA Center Foundation, the Comenius Foundation for Child Development and the Association of Creative Initiatives “e”. Within the “Non-governmental Organizations for Libraries” offer, they prepared proposals for joint actions and initiatives broadening the libraries’ services. Other initiatives were also taken to enhance the entire library system by cooperating with the National Library, voivodship public libraries and the Association of Polish Librarians.

In 2012 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Ministry of Administration and Digitization, the Information Society Development Foundation and Orange Polska concluded an agreement critical to the Library Development Program – extending for the next three years their joint efforts for the digitization of Polish public libraries. The agreement was first signed in 2009. Orange Polska declared then to provide all commune public libraries with free Internet access via cable technology, and in other localities – a wireless system with the highest-capacity links at a given location, plus exemption from subscription fees. Approx. 3,500 libraries benefited from the offer.

In 2012, the Information Society Development Foundation was presented with the “E-Inclusion Award for the Implementation of the Library Development Program 2012” in the competition organized by the European Commission. The competition awards initiatives aimed at promoting best practices in the use of new information and communication technologies as well as those countering digital exclusion.

After three years of the program’s implementation, the Unit for Social Innovation and Research “Shipyard” Foundation conducted quantitative and qualitative studies in communes covered by the program in order to discover how Poles benefit from library use. The research results were presented in the “What do Poles Need Libraries For?” report. The im-

pact of the program on the libraries participating in it was also analyzed on the basis of the data provided by the Central Statistical Office and then described in the “What Has Changed in Libraries?” study published in July 2014. Among other things the results showed that more and more libraries are playing the role of a “third place” that is friendly and open to everybody. Libraries are also the site where residents can access new technologies – 37% of the library computer users have used the Internet for the first time in a library.

The Library Development Program was financed by a \$31 million grant made available to PAFF by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Microsoft donated to the libraries (both participants and non-participants in the Library Development Program) computer software worth an estimated \$18 million. The implementation of the program in cooperation with the Gates Foundation ended in March 2015.

Support for libraries is continued as part of the strategy aimed at building the Library Development Program’s sustainability. It serves to reinforce the changes in functioning of Polish public libraries, especially in rural areas and small towns, so that the libraries can contribute even more to local communities’ development. It also helps strengthen long-term effects such as popularization of modern information and communication technologies, facilitating access to information, knowledge, culture and education as well as stimulating civil activity. At present, activities under the program include training sessions and e-learning courses for librarians (including members of the LABiB network for library environment leaders) and their local partners; grants for improvement of technological capabilities of selected libraries; support for networking and cooperation aimed at local community development as well as establishing and developing innovation incubators based on the library infrastructure. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$2,616,828

including \$446,280 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.lokalnepartnerstwa.org.pl

PAFF LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

The purpose of the program is to initiate and develop cooperation among beneficiaries of various PAFF programs, promoting the creation of partnerships around implementation of social projects important to local communities. The program uses the method of animating local communities and bringing them together around the idea of the common good, which is defined on the basis of a social diagnosis.

Thanks to PAFF's broad and diversified program offer, in many local communities in Poland projects have been carried out which create opportunities to unleash new civic energy. The "PAFF Local Partnerships" Program offers an opportunity to create partnership projects utilizing this potential in work benefiting their local communities, helping build synergies between the experiences gained and results achieved as part of various initiatives. In the communes where PAFF programs have been implemented local partnerships emerge comprised of participants in PAFF programs who form the core of the coalition. They are then joined by local-governments, NGOs, institutions, firms and the local media that have not taken part in the Foundation's programs in the past. Since 2014 the partnerships may be led by organizations taking part in one of the following programs: "English Teaching", "Equal Opportunities", "The Learning Schools", "PAFF Leaders", Library Development Program, "Region in Transition" (RITA) and "The Third Age Universities". Numerous local residents and volunteers are engaged in the implementation of the program.

During 6 editions of the program, carried out from 2009 to 2018, 45 partnerships have

been established. They cover 92 rural communes and their operations involve over 600 partners that have made an impact in their local communities. It was thanks to partnership projects that the legal regulations were changed which required the reduction of air pollution in Żywiec. They also managed to set up an Internet civic TV in Grodzisk Mazowiecki, develop a public park in Biłgoraj, and establish a district volunteering center in Dębica. The results of the projects include popularization of local initiatives – the Carp Trail in the Barycza River Valley or the Apple Trail near Warka, the Youth-friendly Places in Podkarpacie Region and the Volcano Activity Center in Złotoryja where priority is given to actions involving young people, and the Youth Forest Guard in Niemce which cares for the cleanliness and beauty of the Kozłowieckie Forest and popularizes pro-ecological attitudes. Additional financial support granted by PAFF enables the partnerships to continue their operations and motivates them to develop strategies of embedding their projects' results as well as making them self-sufficient.

In the present 6th round, projects in the area of public space development, regional

During 6 editions of the program, carried out from 2009 to 2018, 45 partnerships have been established. They cover 92 rural communes and their operations involve over 600 partners that have made an impact in their local communities.



product promotion, as well as local residents' activation around their regional heritage and tourism development, along with building intergenerational ties are being implemented.

The program also popularizes a method of animating local communities, developed in cooperation with experts from the Unit for Social Innovation and Research "Shipyard" Foundation and then presented in the publication "How to Build The Common Good? A Guide For Those Who Act Locally". In 2015 the publication entitled "How to Build Local Partnerships" was issued, presenting expert materials dealing with problems important to building coalitions and working on their sustainability. They are all illustrated with projects implemented under the program. Regular regional meetings, workshops and an e-bulletin of the program co-created by members of the partnerships help to enhance the sustainability of the partnerships and enable the sharing of experience.

Partnerships set up in the first three program editions take part in the alumni initiative, called the "Common Good Lab". The Lab aims to popularize the cooperation of local communities working for the common good, promoting methods of animating local communities and enhancing the sustainability of existing partnerships. The program also offers support by experts, regular alumni meetings, training sessions and webinars, as well as access to a material base. Most active participants are included in the Animators Community and work not only on improving the animation method and developing local community activation tools but also support establishing new partnerships in places that haven't yet been included in the program. 2018 was the first time the program supported small-scale start-ups assisted by Common Good Lab Animators. ■

Sharing the Polish Experiences in Transformation

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LANE KIRKLAND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$13,593,142

including \$825,056 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Leaders of Change Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.kirkland.edu.pl

The objective of the program, implemented since 2000, is to share Polish experiences in transformation and European integration with representatives from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia during two-semester complementary studies at Polish universities. The program is currently addressed to candidates from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Under individual study programs, the scholarship holders study selected aspects of economics and management, public administration and business, law, social and political sciences, journalism, NGO management and culture management.

The program begins with an introductory course, the purpose of which is to provide students with the history as well as the current political, social and economic situation of Poland. Kirkland scholarship holders then proceed with their individually-programmed studies at universities in Warsaw, Kraków, Poznań, Wrocław or Lublin. They prepare their end-of-term papers and diploma dissertations under the supervision of academic tutors.

They also participate in integration meetings, thematic integration gatherings and have traineeships at state institutions (including the Supreme Court, the National Bank of Poland and regional marshal offices) as well as non-governmental organizations. Courses on civic project implementation and teamwork supplement the curriculum.

In September 2016, the Kirkland Research Program, a new project was launched. It offers a one-semester research internship for

people with established scholarly positions who come from countries covered by the program. Individual work under the eye of an academic tutor should result in a scientific article written by the intern.

Each year, the Lane Kirkland Scholarship Program is participated in by approximately 45 people. Between 2000 and 2018, 789 scholarship holders coming from 11 countries completed the program. Of that number 433 were from Ukraine, 147 from Belarus, 54 from Georgia, 48 from Russia, 29 from Armenia, 22 from Moldova, 18 from Kazakhstan, 12 from Lithuania, 10 from Slovakia, 8 from Kyrgyzstan and 8 from Azerbaijan. The majority of scholarship holders studied economics and management, and law as well as social science, journalism, political science, and international relations. Academic staff have accounted for the largest number of professionals followed by public officials and experts.

After the program's completion, contact with graduates is regularly maintained thanks to the bulletin, reunions of graduates and the website www.kirkland.edu.pl. The alumni conferences, held every 4 years, help maintain graduates' contacts with Poland and establish new contacts. They also provide the opportunity

Each year, the program is participated in by approximately 45 people. Between 2000 and 2018, 789 scholarship holders coming from 11 countries completed the program.



to broaden the Kirklanders' knowledge of Poland and the European Union and discuss possible directions of transformation that can take place in the countries of the Region. Former scholarship holders are supported by the Coordinator of Post-Scholarship Projects whose task it is to maintain graduates' contacts with Poland and encourage

them to undertake joint initiatives such as graduates' associations.

In the years 2001-2013, the program was managed by the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission. Then, until 2016 the Manager of the program was the Education for Democracy Foundation. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$14,636,928

including \$829,135 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

► The Education for Democracy Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.programrita.org

REGION IN TRANSITION (RITA)

The program, launched in 2000, is addressed to non-governmental organizations and educational institutions willing to share Poland's experiences of social and economic transformation with partners from other Eastern European countries, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The program's open grant competitions award grants to Polish non-governmental organizations for projects designed to share Polish experiences, especially in building civil society, strengthening social activities, promoting local government transformation, reforming education, and functioning of the free media. The maximum grant amount is \$17,500. About 30 grants are awarded annually.

Under the program, it is possible to apply for small travel grants which may be earmarked for project consultation before it is submitted, strengthening cooperation with a partner organization or evaluation of an implemented project. As part of a special path the "RITA" Program grants may be used for co-financing a larger project for which a given organization has been awarded a grant from other sources – Polish or foreign. However, such projects must comply with the "RITA" Program's ob-

jectives as well as geographic and thematic areas of operation.

Additionally, the program offers Polish NGOs and schools training opportunities and experts' support as well as assistance in establishing contacts and developing co-operation with foreign partners. Every two years, the meetings of the "RITA" Program Polish grant recipients, named "Ambassadors of Transition in the Regions", are held. They serve to integrate the Polish non-governmental organizations operating abroad and share experience on the subject of international cooperation. The social networking site www.civicportal.org which facilitates information-sharing between organizations and civic leaders is also available. The portal is also an e-learning platform offering training to Polish and foreign NGOs.

In the years 2000-2018 a total of 1030 projects designed to share Polish experiences, especially in building civil society, strengthening social activities, promoting local government transformation, reforming education, and functioning of the free media, have been supported.



The main grant competition is announced twice a year. Applications can be submitted by mid-March and by mid-October. Applications for travel grants and subsidies for larger projects are accepted on an on-going basis

until the funds set aside for these activities are exhausted.

In the years 2000-2018 a total of 1030 projects have been supported. ■

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$6,154,614

including \$208,209 in 2018.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

► The Leaders of Change Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.studytours.pl

STUDY TOURS TO POLAND (STP)

The program, launched in 2004, offers study tours to Poland to active students and professionals from Eastern European countries. The objective of the program is to demonstrate the realities of Poland and the European Union and at the same time develop and strengthen professional and personal contacts between leaders from Eastern Europe and their Polish hosts.

The students are offered 12-day long study tours to Poland; the eligible candidates must be persons between the ages of 18 and 21, coming from Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation (currently from the Briansk, Kaliningrad, Novgorod, Leninograd and St. Petersburg oblasts, as well as Moscow and Voronezh). Students participating in the "STP" have an opportunity to meet people in the Polish academic environment, civic organizations, leaders of public life as well as participate in lectures, workshops, seminars and cultural events.

Students apply to the program individually. The tours are organized for groups of 10-12 participants from various countries. They are held twice a year, in the spring and in the fall, and managed by experienced Polish NGOs selected in an open competition. The program is coordinated by the "Borussia" Foundation from Olsztyn.

The offer for professionals is addressed to representatives of local governments, central administration, central public institutions, NGOs, media, the educational sector and other professional groups from countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The tours, aimed at sharing the Polish experiences in transformation and European integration, are held in cooperation with Polish NGOs as well as central and local administrations. After the Maidan events in 2014, special emphasis in contacts with Ukraine has been placed on sharing experiences with people actively participating in local government reform and activities aimed at Ukraine's integration with EU structures. Between 2014-2018 6,058 citizens of Ukraine participated in "Study Tours to Poland", including 4,064 professionals and 1994 students.

The recruitment of participants in study tours for professionals must be preceded by

Between 2004-2018 9,500 participants, both university students and professionals representing various environments, took part in the study tours. Each year Poland is visited by more than 300 professionals and more than 200 students.



a letter of intent sent to the program office in Warsaw by an interested institution and its partner organization from the countries of the region, or by a Polish NGO or institution.

Between 2004-2018 over 9,500 participants, both university students and professionals representing various environments, took part in the study tours. Each year Poland is visited by more than 300 professionals and more than 200 students.

Within the “Study Tours to Poland” Program, the Foundation supports the Warsaw Euro-Atlantic Summer Academy – WEASA – a common undertaking of PAFF, the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the College of Europe. WEASA offers two weeks of classes, based at the Natolin campus,

addressed to experts from the Eastern Partnership countries, i.e. analysts, political and government advisors, NGO and think tanks staff, civic service representatives and journalists. The thematic scope encompasses political transformation, European integration and transatlantic relations. Students are offered lectures, workshops, and meetings with practitioners, with participation of prominent lecturers and experts from Poland and abroad. The previous 6 editions of WEASA (2013-2018) were participated in by a total of 273 people from the Eastern Partnership countries and Western Balkan countries, including: 29 students from Armenia, 21 from Azerbaijan, 28 from Belarus, 50 from Georgia, 32 from Moldova, and 84 from Ukraine. ■

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ANALYSES (MEVA)

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

\$2,156,711

including \$147,693 in 2018.

Launched in 2005, the program's mission is to conduct analytical work that serves to develop the Foundation programs and enhance their effectiveness.

The analytic work helps to find out to what extent the goals defined in these programs, the activities undertaken, and the results achieved correspond to existing needs, especially with regard to local communities. The methods developed as part of the program and the results of analyses also serve other NGOs in implementing their initiatives.

The results of the PAFF programs evaluation, e.g. the Library Development Program, "Act Locally", "PAFF Local Partnerships", "English Teaching" or "PAFF Leaders" serve both suggesting future program activities and modifying the existing ones. One of the "MEVA" duties is to monitor the initiatives completed by the Foundation in terms of the sustainability of achieved results.

Potential PAFF activities are considered in the context of existing and anticipated social needs. To that end, the selected social groups are examined (e.g. village youth, librarians or NGO employees) and new initiatives tested. One, for example, was the study of trends in ICT use in Poland and abroad, which enabled preparation of the report that recommended launching the "ICT for Local Development" Program. Another was analysis of the impact of the Library Development Program on its participants in comparison with

the libraries and communities that did not participate in the program.

Under the "MEVA" Program, mutually complementing and strengthening elements of PAFF programs are analyzed in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of the Foundation's activities. Among the projects serving that aim is the "Squared Evaluation" initiative helping develop the evaluation culture in the environment of organizations cooperating with PAFF, as part of which the "Evaluation – How do You Carry It out?" guide was prepared. Also, regular seminars on evaluation studies are held.

An additional project of that kind is „Influence on the social capital in PAFF communities" (the so-called „BOX") project whose aim was to work out a set of methods and research techniques (the toolbox) enabling program managers to define the changes in the social capital level resulting from the influence of the Foundation programs on local communities.

Within the program the Foundation also supports the Unit for Social Innovation and Research "Shipyard" Foundation (one of its co-founders was PAFF). A significant part of the "MEVA" Program is managed by the "Shipyard" Foundation. ■

Under the "MEVA" Program, mutually complementing and strengthening elements of PAFF programs are analyzed in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of the Foundation's activities.



People, Projects, Initiatives

ENGLISH TEACHING

- › “American Dream” – Scholarship at Gonzaga University

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- › Chodzież Believes in Young People

PAFF AND UW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

- › 1st Meeting of the School of Education Alumni

PROJECTOR – STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

- › Volunteers of “PROJECTOR” Against Hate

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- › “Seniors in Action” Program Animators Support Gothic Monuments Protection

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- › The Act Locally Centers Network Expands

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PAFF LEADERS

- › A PAFF Leader Awarded the “Village Head of the Year Title”

PAFF LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

- › “Volcano” of Activity in Złotoryja

LANE KIRKLAND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- › Kirklanders Share Culture of Their Countries

STUDY TOURS TO POLAND (STP)

- › “STP” Alumnus Created the Best Resident Service Office in Ukraine

ENGLISH TEACHING

“American Dream” – Scholarship at Gonzaga University

In 2018, two teachers from Poland, Ambassadors of the “English Teaching” Program Dorota Starz and Jolanta Gradowska attended a month-long summer course for teachers of English held at Gonzaga University in Spokane, the USA, under the TESOL Summer Institute.

The Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) course improves qualifications for teaching English, as well as creates an opportunity to meet interesting people from various countries and cultures. Its primary purpose is to learn new teaching methods and how to use them in practice during classes held for immigrants’ children under the Summer Language School. This year the SLS was attended by over 250 students, mainly from Africa, but also Mongolia, Thailand, China, the Marshall Islands, Japan, Korea, and Russia. “They were mainly learning use of English according to the CLIL method (Content and Language Integrated Learning): learning vocabulary and grammar in life sciences and new technologies classes,” Dorota Starz explains.

Apart from attending classes conducted by experienced American teachers, the English Teaching Program Ambassadors also had an opportunity to conduct their own classes with the language camp participants: immigrants who didn’t speak English. “I was very impressed with the way they worked with children. Teachers were presenting the material and examples, and children were overcoming social and language barriers. Sometimes they had to make a great effort. But every child gets very positive and motivating feedback from his teacher every day. Even the smallest success is noticed and praised,” Dorota Starz says.

After four weeks of intensive classes the participants of the TESOL Summer Institute received the English Teacher international certificate. “It was for me a valuable experience to conduct life sciences classes in English. My ‘American Dream’ was a great adventure, experience, and prize for me and it motivated me to confront new challenges,” the English Teaching Program Ambassador concluded.



I was very impressed with the way they worked with children. Teachers were presenting the material and examples, and children were overcoming social and language barriers.

—
Dorota Starz,
the English Teaching
Program Ambassador



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Chodzież Believes in Young People

Existing for over 40 years Friends of the Chodzież Region Association, Chodzież, Wielkopolskie Province, has been participating in the “Equal Opportunities” Program since 2015. “The program offers more than merely financial support for educational projects. Especially important for us is the knowledge of how best to carry out such initiatives. The idea of the program is that we rely on young people’s creativity; young people are those who have the final say,” Dariusz Sałata, the Project Coordinator, says.

The best example of this is the “Who Would Believe That In Chodzież...” project implemented in 2018. Its initiators were young people who decided to promote their town with a video-presentation. Over the period of 6 months, they learned new skills and competencies - such as team work, getting support for their activities, self-presentation, etc. – and they spent almost 100 hours on a film set and in the editing room. The video was recorded in twelve places in five localities. They used

a car, a horse cart, a motor-boat, a drone, and even an armored vehicle. The result was a 20-minute dynamic video about Chodzież available on YouTube channel of the Friends of the Chodzież Region Association.

The youth film crew consisted of both experienced participants of educational projects, and those who were doing it for the first time. “Acting as a film director required that I kept a balance between following our assumptions and accepting implementation of new ideas. I had to work with a team and that helped me improve my skills of collaborating with other people in various difficult situations,” said Karolina, the video director who, together with her friend Anna, presented the initiative in a live interview on regional TV.

Participants of the project implemented in Chodzież feel they belong to a bigger community of Equal Opportunities Program participants. In the future they want to carry out similar initiatives.

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We rely on young people’s creativity; young people are those who have the final say.

Dariusz Sałata,
the Project Coordinator,
the Chodzież Region Association



PAFF AND UW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

1st Meeting of the School of Education Alumni

“There was a very shy girl in one class, and she was hardly ever active. But when she started writing her own texts she turned out to have huge literary potential. I think the most beautiful thing in the teaching profession is that we can have real impact on a student’s life,” Joanna Pietraszek confessed during the first Meeting of Alumni of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and University of Warsaw School of Education that took place in Sierock in June 2018.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the alumni’s experiences of their first year of work at the school.

They had a chance to share their best practices – ideas they experimentally implemented at their schools which turned out to work. An important element of their presentations was the creation of suitable conditions and giving space for students to make independent decisions. At classes conducted by Aleksandra Węclawska, Ewa Kordzińska, and Monika Tłaga students can choose

the place and position where they want to read texts or carry out individual work. Joanna Pietraszek decided to display poems written by her students: first outside the class door, and next on the walls in the hall. The collection of the poems was published and the students were the proofreaders, editors and graphic designers.

The special challenge over the first year’s work as a teacher is undoubtedly establishing good relations with students. “I told them they were important to me; that it is important for me what they feel, what they want. And I tried to get them interested in Polish,” Joanna Pietraszek said. The compensatory classes, conducted by Marta Chmiel, were attended by students because, as they confessed, “they played there, not learned.”

SE alumni also discussed other subjects such as those related to a teacher’s entering the job market, defining their teacher values and finding the proper workplace where they can implement these values successfully.

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I think the most beautiful thing in the teaching profession is that we can have real impact on a student’s life.

—
Joanna Pietraszek,
Alumni of the PAFF
and UW School of Education



PROJECTOR – STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers of “PROJECTOR” Against Hate

An important component of the “PROJECTOR – Student Volunteers” Program is supporting skills and knowledge of participating students and enhancing their sense of social responsibility, as well as inspiring them to act for the benefit of others. The support is provided in the form of training sessions on promoting volunteering, animating student community, or preparing a social project. As a result of training offered in 2018, 29 educational initiatives were started, such as scientific picnics, city games, social actions, and workshops participated in by a total of 3,000 people.

One of such initiatives was the “Stop Hating, Hug Me” project implemented in the fall by Aleksandra Niemiec and Patrycja Pączek together with students of the King Jagiello Comprehensive and Vocational Schools Complex in Przeworsk, the Podkarpackie Province. “It was a reaction to indifference about the fact that every act has its effect. Young people realize they can’t change the world but at least they can call for reflection,” explains Aleksandra Niemiec, one of the project’s initiators.

„Stop Hating, Hug Me” was a slogan used by students to organize a day of hugging at school. One of them, dressed as Olaf Snowman (a character in the “Frozen” film) hugged students in the school halls. It was supplemented by an exhibition of pictures taken at the session calling for reflecting on hate. Students recorded a song that was broadcast on the school radio, and the preparations could be watched on Facebook. The project was very popular and reached almost 128,000 people observing it on social media, while 300 students were directly involved in carrying it out.

And how was it received by the school community? “Taking part in that project enabled me to better understand how serious and important right now the problem of hate is. We tried to prevent hate, especially in our school, where that problem sometimes was very visible. The action we organized gave the students of our school a lot to think about but, primarily, it helped us break down the barriers and unite around an important goal,” commented Patrycja, one of the project participants.

”

Taking part in that project enabled me to better understand how serious and important right now the problem of hate is. We tried to prevent hate, especially in our school, where that problem sometimes was very visible.

Patrycja,
the project participant



THIRD AGE UNIVERSITIES (TAU)

“Seniors in Action” Program Animators Support Gothic Monuments Protection

Chojna is a small town in the Zachodniopomorskie Province, where a lot of unique, Gothic monuments can be found. Among the most important of them is St. Mary's Church – a monumental cathedral, one of the biggest Gothic churches in Poland. This centuries-old building requires a lot of conservation work which means investing quite a lot.

Magdalena Ziętkiewicz (animator 60+) and Michał Gierke (animator 30+) involved the local community, mainly young people from junior high school and seniors, to carry out various activities aimed at protection of the Gothic heritage of the town under the “Touch Gothic” project. They organized a series of workshops, such as one on tourism – aimed at preparing young people to act as town tour guides, or a photography workshop – that allowed both old and young people create their own photo reports on Chojna monuments. Additionally, the residents cleaned the areas around the defensive walls and collected over 14 pallets of old Gothic bricks that can be used for reconstruction work in the future. It soon turned out that the protection of monuments became an important topic of local discussion that raised the interest of the Provincial Conservator of Monuments. Also local

government got involved and decided to revitalize Chojna monuments. “The biggest success of the project was that we managed to make the local community aware of the problem of crumbling monuments. We got a group of people of all ages involved and thanks to our project they became advocates of the idea of monuments’ preservation. The meeting with the Provincial Conservator of Monuments organized by us started a heated debate on the Chojna monuments fate in the local newspaper,” Magdalena Ziętkiewicz said.

In June 2018, an outdoor event was held to mark the completion of the project. Young people guided groups of residents on a tour of the Chojna monuments, presenting the history, architecture and interesting events related to each of them. The effects of the workshop groups’ work were displayed on a square in front of the Cathedral, people could have a photo taken in front of the monuments, participate in a city game, or listen to a lecture on the Gothic motifs in pop culture. “We managed to get a group of local people involved in the project. What is important is that people of all ages worked together and learned from each other,” one of the seniors summed up the project.



The biggest success of the project was that we managed to make the local community aware of the problem of crumbling monuments. We got a group of people of all ages involved and thanks to our project they became advocates of the idea of monuments’ preservation.

—
Magdalena Ziętkiewicz,
the “Seniors in Action”
Program Animator



SUPPORT FOR NGOS

New Appearance of the ngo.pl Portal

Clear and understandable, intuitively navigated, with contents presented in an attractive form, and using modern technology – these are just a few changes introduced in the ngo.pl portal in 2018.

The portal is the first and the largest source of reliable information, practical advice and contact data for the non-profit community in Poland.

It was created in 2000, thanks to the Polish-American Freedom Foundation's involvement under the "Mutual Information Society" Program. After almost 20 years, it's now a brand recognized by 73% of associations and foundations in Poland, and its resources are used by ca. 3.5 million users a year.

"A dozen months of intensive work, user needs research, looking for inspirations, idea collecting and implementing the best of them brought fruit. Now the ngo.pl portal offers its users much easier use of its resources. It is modern, intuitive, understandable, and still reliable

and substantive," Alina Gałązka, the ngo.pl portal editor-in-chief, comments on the changes. Navigation has been improved – the contents of a dozen services has been consolidated in eight sections: Facts, Funds, Publications, Guide, Advertisements, Services and Events, List of Organizations, and Warsaw Service.

Also, the way of news presentation has changed. The editorial office puts emphasis on videos, pictures and infographics as the modern form of posting advice and journalism. The site is available for mobile devices, and the technical solutions used make it easy for the disabled to use the resources of the portal. "The new architecture, including the change of its look, improves access to information and makes use of the site easier and intuitive. User friendly coloring makes browsing it easier and the site is clear and understandable," the editor-in-chief says.

The portal is administered by the Klon/Jawor Association.

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Now the ngo.pl portal offers its users much easier use of its resources. It is modern, intuitive, understandable, and still reliable and substantive.

—
Alina Gałązka,
the ngo.pl portal editor-in-chief



ACT LOCALLY

The Act Locally Centers Network Expands

In 2018, five new affiliated Act Locally Centers joined the network of dynamic NGOs carrying out local grant competitions and supporting the activity of residents of villages and small towns. These new centers are: the Together We Can Do More Foundation at the Children's Home in Kłodzk, Dolnośląskie Province; the Association of Łowicz Region Local Activity Group, Łowicz, the Łódzkie Province; the Noteć Forest Association, Międzychód, the Wielkopolskie Province; the Crown of Northern Kraków Association, Raciborowice, the Małopolskie Province; and the Upon Warta Union, Słupca, the Wielkopolskie Province. Currently, the ALCs network comprises 72 organizations, including 9 Affiliated ALCs, and covers almost 620 municipalities and rural communes. There are at least two Act Locally Centers in each province.

"Although we've been active for our community for over a decade, the "Act Locally" Program opened new horizons and opportunities for us," Anita Kubicka, President of the Upon Warta Union says. "Thanks to our participation in the program, we were able to get closer to small organizations and activists who start their ventures with social activity. And we could realize that building the community and common good do not require very big funds," she adds.

Affiliated Act Locally Centers are NGOs with their seats in towns of up to 50,000 residents, acting for local

development, and experienced in fundraising, which means they have their own funds to finance projects implemented under the program. The "Act Locally" Program provides them with seed grants of up to PLN 10,000 for carrying out a local grant competition or a fundraising campaign to obtain funds for grants. They are fully fledged members of the ALC network and can use all of its resources.

"Our driving engine was our study tour to the Żywiec Development Foundation, which is one of the most experienced ALCs. We went there in the company of our grant holders. We saw how they implement the program and got some valuable tips which we are implementing in our area," the Act Locally coordinator of the Crown of Northern Kraków Association said, while Damian Ślak, President of the Together We Can Do More Foundation emphasizes the importance of training offered by the program: "Annual ALC network meetings provide an opportunity to meet program coordinators from all over Poland. Contacts and knowledge help implement the program tasks even better." Apart from study tours and robust training sessions, the program also offers workshops, regional congresses and webinars, which enable the sharing of good practices, improving knowledge and skills, and enhancing cooperation within the network.

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Although we've been active for our community for over a decade, the "Act Locally" Program opened new horizons and opportunities for us.

—
Anita Kubicka,
President of the Upon Warta
Union Association



SECTOR 3.0

Mobile Advisors Apply Photons for Teaching Programming

Can one use an educational robot for kids to teach adults how to program? Yes – as the example of training for the Sector 3.0 Mobile Advisors shows.

Photon is the first in the world interactive robot that is developing with the child. Its creators – a team of young programmers and constructors headed by Marcin Joka – obtained funds by means of crowdfunding.

The idea of cooperation with the “Sector 3.0” Program arose after Photon was presented and programming workshops held at the Sector 3.0 Festival in May, 2018. Following that, the program got 30 Photons that allowed it to extend the offer with training in the basics of programming. “We keep improving Photon adding new abilities to it. Today, apart from the well-known block-based programming interfaces, such as Scratch or Blockly, the robot can be programmed using popular scripting languages – JavaScript and Python. That allows the practice and development of programming skills by both young people and adults,” says Marcin Joka, a Photon co-author.

The workshops, which started in the fall last year, are attended primarily by representatives of NGOs and educators. They learn how to program, make simple interactions, and find errors in created programs. Over 300 people took part in these training sessions by the end of 2018.

At present, the network of Sector 3.0 Mobile Advisors consists of 100 people. “They are volunteers who operate all over Poland, in small villages as well as larger towns. They conduct training sessions and webinars, and give individual advice mainly to small NGOs but also schools or libraries. They teach basics, such as use of e-mail box or what Internet security is. They also advise which computer equipment should be chosen,” Dawid Szarański of the Information Society Development Foundation explains. Over 6 years, the Mobile Advisors had given advice over 6,000 times, and trainings organized by them had been attended by more than 12,000 people.

”

Today, apart from the well-known block-based programming interfaces, such as Scratch or Blockly, the robot can be programmed using popular scripting languages – JavaScript and Python. That allows the practice and development of programming skills by both young people and adults.

Marcin Joka,
a Photon co-author



PAFF LEADERS

A PAFF Leader Awarded the “Village Head of the Year” Title

“I’m driven by the need to change. If something is missing, you have to provide it, so that life is better,” Jacek Piwowski, the Village Head of Wiązownica, a graduate of the 8th round of PAFF Leaders program and a participant of the “Act Locally” Program, says. In 2018, he was awarded with the “Village Head of the Year” title in a competition organized by the National Association of Village Heads and Gazeta Solecza monthly.

He has been the Village Head of Wiązownica, the Podkarpackie Province, since 2012. Prior to that he was Chairman of the Village Council, a teacher, a Vice President of the Bukowianie Friends of School and the Bukowa Village Association, and the editor-in-chief of Gazeta Lokalna Osiek. He is also a co-author of “Bukowa and the Bukowians. The history of the village and its residents” publication.

He says that the secret of successful cooperation with the commune residents lies first of all in openness and transparency. He runs the soltyswski.pl blog, where on a current basis he reports his work, informs about

events that take place in the commune, and communicates with the local community. “People can ask a question, or post a comment. I write about everything – what the money was spent on, what I did – I post minutes of the meetings. And people like it. Senior residents are informed by those who read my blog. I post everything, and never delete any comments,” the Wiązownica Village Head explains.

He is involved in social activity. As a PAFF Sector 3.0 Mobile Advisor he shares his expertise in the use of new technologies for small NGO activities.

“I’m full of ideas. I’m an extrovert. Thanks to ‘Act Locally’ and ‘PAFF Leaders’ programs I have learned that you have to give people the space for their own ideas. Earlier I tried to fill that space myself,” Jacek Piwowski says. “I’m allergic to such statements as – I’ve done this, my idea, my village, my people. These are the phrases used by those who love power. I keep saying: village heads can do as much as village residents help them.”



I’m driven by the need to change. If something is missing, you have to provide it, so that life is better.

—
Jacek Piwowski,
the Village Head of Wiązownica,
a PAFF Leader



PAFF LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

“Volcano” of Activity in Złotoryja

The Volcano Social Activity Center in Złotoryja, Dolnośląskie Province, was established in 2016 at the initiative of the Kaczawa Association, the Our Rio Association, and a PAFF Leader, Barbara Zwierzyńska-Doskocz. “We established a PAFF Local Partnership in order to develop the huge potential of the young people of the Złotoryja municipality and create opportunities for comprehensive development and gaining the skills and knowledge necessary for a positive adult life. We also wanted to make use of the unique resources of the region, as well as the natural and cultural heritage which we believe are important tools in working with the local community,” Barbara Zwierzyńska-Doskocz explains.

Thanks to cooperation with the local government they obtained premises which young people volunteered to redecorate and adjust for the Center. Before they started to redecorate they had attended workshops conducted by an interior architect who had helped the volunteers design the Center. Next the young people participated in outdoor classes and learned about the neighborhood attractions. The funds received in the “Act Locally” grant competition enabled them to organize a multimedia exhibition.

New initiatives were implemented, such as the “SuperMum” Club that organizes meetings for parents

of children of up to 1 year, the Dolnośląskie Local Government Academy, or the Złotoryja Volunteering Center. There is also a seat of the Senior Club in Volcano Center, which facilitates intergenerational cooperation, and winning the Orange Lab competition made it possible to provide the Club with computer equipment and access to the Internet. The Center keeps developing and is broadening its offer thanks to a grant received in the PAFF Local Partnerships competition in 2018 for continuation of partnership activities. It runs various workshops such as animation, self-presentation, and even gold panning (it is one of the tourist attractions of the region). With the support of Barbara Zwierzyńska-Doskocz, the young people designed Złotoryja Express city game that uses a free mobile application. In September 2018 a special round of the city game was held in the Old Town and its participants had to solve the riddles related to the history of the town. The event gained publicity and now groups of young people from other villages and towns apply to the next rounds of funding, for example from Legnica, which is 20 km away.

The Volcano Center is an important place in Złotoryja, a young people’s activity incubator and a real local community asset.



We established a PAFF Local Partnership in order to develop the huge potential of the young people of the Złotoryja municipality and create opportunities for comprehensive development and gaining the skills and knowledge necessary for a positive adult life.

Barbara Zwierzyńska-Doskocz,
a PAFF Leader



LANE KIRKLAND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Kirklanders Share Culture of Their Countries

Holders of Kirkland Program scholarships come to Poland to do two-semester university courses and internships, but their activity while in Poland often goes beyond just studying. They become involved in social campaigns and events that popularize the culture of their homeland.

One of these initiatives was a workshop on the Georgian language combined with tasting Georgian cuisine organized by a current scholarship holder, Ivane Kopadze, who came from Georgia. "I wanted to present a piece of my homeland and therefore I chose the Georgian alphabet, and of course our cuisine which we are very proud of. The implementation of the project was possible thanks to a grant awarded by the PAFF 'Region in Transition' (RITA) Program," Ivane Kopadze explained. The workshop, held at the University of Warsaw Library in April, was participated in by several dozen people. "The workshop combined knowledge of the language and history, and habits of my homeland. The crowning point was a competition awarding small prizes, and of course tasting Georgian refreshments," the scholarship holder from Tbilisi said.

In June a group of scholarship holders from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus who were studying in Lublin,

prepared a mural that symbolizes the multicultural nature of this city. It was a result of Kirklanders cooperation with the KReAdukcja Educational Activities Foundation and Youth Councils of Lublin Districts. Prior to implementation of the project, there had been numerous meetings and workshops which enabled people to learn more about the countries the scholarship holders came from, as well as about the multicultural history of Lublin. "Working together on the mural provided an opportunity to include the Kirklanders into local community activities and at the same time to tell local organizations, activists, and Lublin residents about the idea of the program. Our young people have a lot of good memories from working on the mural together with the Kirklanders. Thanks to that cooperation they were able to learn more about our neighbors' culture. Residents of blocs of flats around that building on which the painting was made were very curious what it would look like, and when they saw the project, they started to support us. The work on mural was a new experience for us all and therefore we are very happy we contributed to adorning Lublin," Ewelina Pyzik of the KReAdukcja Foundation and a Lublin animator of the Kirkland Program said.

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The workshop combined knowledge of the language and history, and habits of my homeland.

Ivane Kopadze,
Georgia



STUDY TOURS TO POLAND (STP)

„STP” Alumnus Created the Best Resident Service Office in Ukraine

Bohdan Pytel from Ukraine came to his first study tour to Poland in 2007 as a student of the fourth year of Law Studies at the university in Ivano-Frankivsk. “Participation in the ‘Study Tours to Poland’ Program was a breakthrough moment for me. I understood that a single person can make significant changes in their neighborhood. I found the areas where I wanted to pursue my goals,” Bohdan recalls.

After coming back to Ukraine, he completed his studies and got a job at the Ivano-Frankivsk City Hall. He stayed in contact with the „STP” organizers as well.

Bohdan’s professional career was developing. His organizational abilities were noticed at the Ivano-Frankivsk City Hall and soon the Mayor assigned him the task of establishing a modern Resident Service Office. “In implementing that task I used my observations from Poland. They helped me find an idea about how to establish a professional and innovative office where residents feel like clients, not applicants, and – what seems the most important – their problems are handled effectively,” Bohdan Pytel explained. His efforts have been appre-

ciated not only by the community of Ivano-Frankivsk but also the Resident Service Office managed by him was recognized to be the best in its category and won an award for the Best Practices of Local Government in in the 2016 competition held by the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, and Municipal Economy, and by the Council of Europe.

In 2018, Bohdan visited Poland again at the invitation from “Study Tours to Poland” Program and took part in a pilot round of the professional internships. He did a month-long internship at Lublin City Hall where he learned about the system of work by individual departments and analyze the issues related to the scope of responsibilities, the document circulation, or practices of servicing the residents of Lublin. “Experiences from that study tour inspired me to introduce new solutions at the Ivano-Frankivsk City Hall. Additionally, I gained new, valuable skills. I am also happy that while in Lublin I could help to maintain good relations between Lublin and Ivano-Frankivsk, which are partner cities,” Bohdan Pytel concludes.



Participation in the ‘Study Tours to Poland’ Program was a breakthrough moment for me. I understood that a single person can make significant changes in their neighborhood.

Bohdan Pytel



Consolidated Financial Statements

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (the "Corporation"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of December 31, 2018, and the related consolidated statements of activities, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Corporation's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as of December 31, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Warsaw, April 25, 2019



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2018

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

ASSETS

ASSETS:

Investments, at fair value (Notes 3 and 6):

Common and Preferred Stocks	\$	50,281,473
Public Mutual Funds - Equity		16,570,957
Public Mutual Fund – Fixed Income		597,088
Alternative Investments		136,142,724
Private Mutual Fund - Equity		23,378,921
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 3 and 5)		27,882,645
Investment redemptions receivable		2,551,678
Land and fixed assets, net (Note 7)		4,373,280
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses (Note 9)		4,040,818
Prepaid expenses and other assets		51,776

Total assets	\$	265,871,361
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:

Grants payable (Note 3)	\$	2,924,367
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		259,172

Total liabilities		3,183,539
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NET ASSETS (Note 2):

With donor restrictions		-
Without donor restrictions		262,687,822
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	265,871,361

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	Without Donor Restrictions
Changes in net assets without donor restrictions:	
Increases in net assets without donor restrictions:	
Interest and dividend income	\$ 1,434,120
Decreases in net assets without donor restrictions:	
Employee compensation and benefits	1,408,461
Operating expenses	865,040
Occupancy	121,022
Depreciation and amortization	124,005
Total decrease in net assets without donor restrictions	2,518,528
Grants (Note 3)	(8,525,592)
Grants and decrease in net assets without donor restrictions in excess of income	(9,610,000)
Net realized gain on investments (Note 6)	13,363,597
Net unrealized depreciation on investments (Note 6)	(31,442,678)
Net currency remeasurement loss (Note 3)	(629,912)
Total decrease in net assets without donor restrictions	(28,318,993)
Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of the year	291,006,815
Net assets without donor restrictions, end of the year	\$ 262,687,822

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Decrease in net assets without donor restrictions	\$ (28,318,993)
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets without donor restrictions to net cash used in operating activities:	
Net realized gain on investments	(13,363,597)
Net unrealized depreciation on investments	31,442,678
Net currency remeasurement loss	629,912
Provision for loan losses	119,368
Depreciation and amortization	124,005
Increase in accrued interest on loans	(7,822)
Increase in accrued interest on investments	(23,606)
Increase in investment redemption receivable	(2,551,678)
Decrease in prepaid expenses	13,511
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(1,044)
Decrease in grants payable	(3,248,910)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(15,186,176)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Proceeds from sales/redemption of investments	59,434,592
Cost of investments purchased	(38,013,496)
Loans disbursed	(3,800,706)
Proceeds from loan repayments	3,861,122
Purchase of fixed assets	(18,810)
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>21,462,702</u>
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	<u>(570,932)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	5,705,595
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>22,177,050</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 27,882,645</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements as of December 31, 2018

1. ORGANIZATION

The Polish-American Freedom Foundation (the “Foundation”, and, together with its subsidiary, the “Corporation”) is a U.S. not-for-profit corporation established on August 11, 1999. The Foundation was created by the Polish-American Enterprise Fund (the “Fund”) to advance the purposes of the Support for East European Democracy Act of 1989 by building upon the successful assistance programs and sound practices established by the Fund, and to undertake other developmental initiatives designed to solidify Poland’s successful transition to democracy and free markets.

The Foundation concentrates its efforts in three main program areas: (i) Initiatives in Education, (ii) Development of Local Communities, and (iii) Sharing the Polish Experiences in Transformation. The Foundation generally seeks an external program manager (typically a well-established non-governmental organization in Poland) to execute the objectives of each individual grant, thereby leveraging the Foundation’s resources. The Foundation does not have ownership or control of the external program managers.

With the permission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, the Foundation maintains a representative office in Poland (the “Representative Office”), the purpose of which is to engage in activities to promote the Foundation and to provide information and consultation to the Foundation with respect to its activities.

Polsko-Amerykański Fundusz Pożyczkowy Inicjatyw Obywatelskich Sp. z o.o. (“PAFPIO”) is a separately managed subsidiary of the Foundation which extends loans to non-governmental organizations, associations and other non-profit initiatives in Poland. On May 31, 2011, the Fund contributed 100% of the shares of PAFPIO as a grant to the Foundation. PAFPIO is an independent and distinct business unit from the Foundation and, given that the Foundation owns all the outstanding shares, PAFPIO is consolidated with the accounts of the Foundation, as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”).

2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

In accordance with U.S. GAAP, the Corporation is required to classify information regarding its consolidated financial position and consolidated activities into certain classes of net assets. At December 31, 2018, the entire balance of net assets was classified as net assets without donor restrictions and the Corporation had no net assets with donor restrictions and no net assets designated by the Board of Directors as restricted.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

PRINCIPLES OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated financial statements are prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP and include the accounts of the Foundation and PAFPIO, the Foundation’s only subsidiary. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

INVESTMENTS, AT FAIR VALUE

The Corporation records investment transactions on the trade date. Interest and dividend income, unrealized appreciation and depreciation and realized gains and losses are reported in the consolidated statement of activities. The Corporation’s investments are assets of the Foundation. The Corporation engages professional investment managers and advisors who

manage and monitor the Corporation's investments. See Note 6 for more detailed disclosures of the Corporation's investments. Investments, at fair value, are categorized according to the "fair value hierarchy" or measured at net asset value ("NAV"), as described below.

INVESTMENTS, AT FAIR VALUE, CATEGORIZED ACCORDING TO THE FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY

The Corporation's investments categorized according to "fair value hierarchy" are valued at fair value and disclosed according to the "fair value hierarchy" in the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures. The fair value hierarchy defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Corporation's investments categorized according to fair value hierarchy are classified as described below:

- **Level 1:** Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices available in active markets for identical assets or liabilities as of the reporting date;
- **Level 2:** Inputs to the valuation methodology are other than quoted prices in active markets, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date, and fair value can be determined through the use of models or other valuation methodologies; and
- **Level 3:** Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable in situations where there is little or no market activity for the asset or liability and the reporting entity makes estimates and assumptions related to the pricing of the asset or liability including assumptions regarding risk. The inputs into the determination of fair value require significant judgment. Due to the inherent uncertainty of these estimates, these values may differ materially from the values that would have been used had a ready market for these assets and liabilities existed.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. A description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value, including the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the fair value hierarchy, is presented below:

- *Common and Preferred Stocks and Fixed Income Securities:* Equity and fixed income securities (primarily Polish government treasury securities) are valued based upon the closing price as quoted on major exchanges. Common and preferred stocks and certain fixed income securities are classified within level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.
- *Public Mutual Funds – Equity and Fixed Income:* These investments are public investment vehicles valued using the NAV provided by the administrator of the investment vehicle. The NAV for public mutual funds is a quoted market price and classified within level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

INVESTMENTS, AT FAIR VALUE, MEASURED AT NET ASSET VALUE

Investments measured at NAV are valued using the NAV of the investment vehicle as a practical expedient. The NAV is based on the value of the underlying assets owned by the investment vehicle, minus its liabilities. The fair value of investments valued using NAV represents the portion of the NAV owned by the Corporation

- **Alternative Investments:** These investments are private investment vehicles valued using the NAV provided by the investment vehicle manager. Underlying investments that are determined by the investment vehicle manager to be illiquid and/or lacking a readily accessible market value are valued using current estimates provided by the investment vehicle manager. Valuation inputs and methodologies are determined by the investment vehicle manager.
- **Private Mutual Fund – Equity:** This investment is a private investment vehicle valued using the NAV provided by the administrator of the investment vehicle. The NAV for this private mutual fund is the NAV's unit price which is quoted on a private market that is not active; however, the unit price is based on underlying investments which are traded on active markets and the Corporation can redeem its investment at the measurement date or within the near term without redemption restrictions.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

For purposes of the consolidated statement of cash flows, the Corporation considers all highly liquid financial instruments with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. At December 31, 2018, the Corporation had no restricted cash.

GRANTS AND GRANTS PAYABLE

Grants are recorded as grant expense in the consolidated statement of activities and grants payable in the consolidated statement of financial position when the grant is approved in accordance with policies set by the Board of Directors, negotiations have been finalized with the grantee, and the parties have signed the grant agreement.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are reported as income in the consolidated statement of activities in the period the grant agreement between the Corporation and the donor is signed to the extent there are no donor-imposed conditions or there are donor-imposed conditions but the likelihood of the Corporation not meeting such conditions is remote.

INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME

Interest income is recognized on an accrual basis. Dividend income is recorded in the period in which the dividend is declared and the Corporation was the holder of the security as of the record date.

FOREIGN CURRENCY

The Corporation's functional and reporting currency is the U.S. dollar. The functional currency of the Representative Office and PAFPIO is the Polish zloty. Income and expenses transacted in Polish zlotys are translated into United States dollars during the year at current exchange rates. Polish zloty denominated assets and liabilities are translated at the year-end spot currency rate. Remeasurement and translation adjustments are reflected in the consolidated statement of activities.

DONATED SERVICES

The Corporation's American directors receive no compensation or fees for serving as directors. Such directors donate significant amounts of their time to the Corporation. No amounts have been reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements for such donated services, inasmuch as no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services. The Corporation's chairman of the board of directors (the "Chairman") receives an honorarium in exchange for his services as the Chairman. The Corporation's non-executive Polish directors receive a fee for providing advice and assistance to the Corporation. For the year ended December 31, 2018, the total fees paid to all Polish directors and the Chairman amounted to \$81,056.

DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION

Land and fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. All fixed assets, other than land, which is not depreciated, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows: land improvements, 15 years, building, 39 years, and computer equipment, software, furniture, equipment and automobiles, from three to five years.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Professional services, expenses of Board of Directors meetings, fees paid to Polish directors and the Chairman, expenses for travel, lodging and meals, administrative expenses and VAT and PAFPIO Polish income tax and allowance for loan losses are classified as operating expenses.

CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the possibility that loss may occur from counterparty failure to perform according to the terms of a contract. Unless noted otherwise, collateral or other security is not normally required by the Corporation to support financial instruments or loans with credit risk. At December 31, 2018, the Corporation had credit exposure mainly from debt instruments in the Corporation's investment portfolio and loans extended by PAFPIO. The maximum risk of loss from these assets is represented by their respective consolidated statement of financial position amounts.

RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In August 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standard Update (“ASU”) 2016-14, Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities (“ASU 2016-14”). ASU 2016-14 amends the requirements for financial statements and notes in Accounting Standards Codification Topic 958, Not-for-Profit Entities. The main provisions of ASU 2016-14 that impact the Corporation would require the Corporation to (a) provide qualitative information regarding how the Corporation manages its liquid resources available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year of the balance sheet date, (b) provide qualitative information, either on the face of the balance sheet or in the notes, and additional qualitative information in the notes as necessary, that communicates the availability of the Corporations’ financial assets at the balance sheet date to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year of the balance sheet date, (c) provide amounts of expenses by both their natural classification and their functional classification, (d) provide the method(s) used to allocate costs among program and support functions, (e) report investment return net of external and direct internal investment expenses and no longer require disclosure of those netted expenses, and (f) present in the statement of financial position at the end of the period only two classes of net assets – net assets with donor restrictions and net assets without donor restrictions. The Corporation implemented ASU 2016-14 in 2018.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-13 Disclosure Framework—Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement (“ASU 2018-13”) set forth in Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820 (“Topic 820”). ASU 2018-13 modifies the disclosure requirements of fair value measurements in Topic 820. The following disclosure requirements were removed from Topic 820: (i) the amount of and reasons for transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, (ii) the policy for timing of transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy, (iii) the valuation processes for Level 3 fair value measurements and (iv) the changes in unrealized gains and losses for the period included in earnings for recurring Level 3 fair value measurements held at the end of the reporting period. The following disclosure requirements were modified in Topic 820: (i) in lieu of a rollforward for Level 3 fair value measurements, a nonpublic entity is required to disclose transfers into and out of Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy and purchases and issues of Level 3 assets and liabilities, (ii) for investments in certain entities that calculate net asset value, an entity is required to disclose the timing of liquidation of an investee’s assets and the date when restrictions from redemption might lapse only if the investee has communicated the timing to the entity or announced the timing publicly, and (iii) the amendments clarify that the measurement uncertainty disclosure is to communicate information about the uncertainty in measurement as of the reporting date. The amendments in ASU 2018-13 are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019 and the Corporation does not expect this amendment to have a material effect on its financial statements.

4. POLISH-AMERICAN ENTERPRISE FUND GRANT

Pursuant to an agreement signed in 1999 between the Fund and the U.S. Government and in consultation with the Government of Poland, the Fund returned \$120 million of the Fund’s assets to the U.S. Treasury and contributed the Fund’s remaining assets to the Foundation pursuant to a grant agreement between the Fund and the Foundation (as amended, the “Grant Agreement”). The total amount the Fund contributed to the Foundation was \$255.3 million, which was recorded as unrestricted net assets. According to the terms of the final amendment to the Grant Agreement, the Grant Agreement terminated upon the Fund’s dissolution on December 27, 2011 except that certain provisions survived termination, including that the U.S. Government may require the Foundation to return the assets received from the Fund, together with any earnings generated thereby, to the U.S. Treasury if the U. S. Government determines that the Foundation has provided grants to or otherwise financed certain prohibited activities.

5. MANAGEMENT OF LIQUID RESOURCES

The Foundation relies on returns on its investment portfolio (the “Portfolio”) and PAFPIO relies on interest income from loans to support spending for operations, which are the costs incurred to carry out the mission of the Foundation and the mission of PAFPIO. The Foundation has adopted an investment policy to govern the management of the Portfolio, which includes a spending policy that provides that annual spending, which includes grants and operating expenses, shall be based on approximately 5.0% of the average quarter-end Portfolio value for the most recent twelve quarters. Approximately 95% of the Foundation’s spending is in Polish zlotys. The Foundation seeks to maintain approximately two years of estimated spending in Polish zlotys. At December 31, 2018, the Foundation held approximately 1.7 years of spending in Polish zlotys. To meet cash needs for operations within one year of the balance sheet date, the Corporation had available liquid resources of \$27.9 million held in cash. In addition, \$67.5 million of the Corporation’s investments at fair value have daily liquidity. None of the Corporation’s cash or investments are subject to any donor or board restrictions.

6. INVESTMENTS AT FAIR VALUE

See "Investments, at Fair Value" in Note 3, above, for discussion of the methodologies and assumptions used to determine the fair value of the Corporation's Investments. The cost, fair value and accumulated unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments at December 31, 2018 is presented in the table below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Accumulated Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Investments Categorized According to the Fair Value Hierarchy:			
Common and Preferred Stocks	\$ 25,431,224	\$ 50,281,473	\$ 24,850,249
Public Mutual Funds - Equity	18,824,128	16,570,957	(2,253,171)
Public Mutual Fund - Fixed Income	604,397	597,088	(7,309)
Investments Measured at NAV:			
Alternative Investments	118,253,338	136,142,724	17,889,386
Private Mutual Fund - Equity	13,860,006	23,378,921	9,518,915
	<u>\$ 176,973,093</u>	<u>\$ 226,971,163</u>	<u>\$ 49,998,070</u>

The net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) and net realized gain / (loss) on investments for the year-ended December 31, 2018 is presented in the table below:

	Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)	Net Realized Gain / (Loss)
Investments Categorized According to the Fair Value Hierarchy:		
Common and Preferred Stocks	\$ (9,393,039)	\$ 5,802,714
Public Mutual Funds - Equity	(6,691,055)	3,867,698
Fixed Income Securities	35,968	-
Public Mutual Fund - Fixed Income	(792,013)	801,744
Investments Measured at NAV:		
Alternative Investments	(9,463,701)	2,032,041
Private Mutual Fund - Equity	(5,138,838)	859,400
	<u>\$ (31,442,678)</u>	<u>\$ 13,363,597</u>

Set forth in the table below are the Corporation's investments as of December 31, 2018, at fair value on a recurring basis by the hierarchy levels described in Note 3:

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Measured at Net Asset Value	Total
Investments Categorized According to the Fair Value Hierarchy:			
Common and Preferred Stock	\$ 50,281,473	\$ -	\$ 50,281,473
Public Mutual Funds - Equity	16,570,957	-	16,570,957
Public Mutual Fund - Fixed Income	597,088	-	597,088
Investments Measured at NAV:			
Alternative Investments	-	136,142,724	136,142,724
Private Mutual Fund - Equity	-	23,378,921	23,378,921
	<u>\$ 67,449,518</u>	<u>\$ 159,521,645</u>	<u>\$ 226,971,163</u>
% of total	29.7%	70.3%	100.0%

For the year ended December 31, 2018, the Foundation's investments, net of external and direct internal investments expenses had an annual rate of return of (6.3%).

Presented in the table below is information about the Corporation's investments valued using the NAV of the investment vehicle as a practical expedient, categorized by investment strategy, as of December 31, 2018:

	Fair Value	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Alternative Investments:			
Multi-strategy	\$ 48,757,477	See note.	45-90 days (a)
Emerging markets	23,050,233	Monthly.	20-60 days (b)
Long/short equity	32,450,378	See note.	30-90 days (c)
Long Only	21,772,017	See note.	30-45 days (d)
Private equity	10,112,619	Not able to redeem.	Not applicable. (e)
	<u>136,142,724</u>		
Private Mutual Fund – Equity:			
International	23,378,921	Monthly.	10 business days (f)
	<u>\$ 159,521,645</u>		

There are no unfunded commitments to the Corporation's investments other than as disclosed in note (e), below. It is probable that the amount ultimately received if investments measured at NAV were to be sold would be different than the fair value of these investments at December 31, 2018.

- (a) *Multi-strategy*: This category includes alternative investment funds that pursue multiple investment strategies, including long/short equity, event driven, credit, merger arbitrage, distressed debt and private transactions primarily in the United States and countries comprising the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. 71% of the investments in this category are redeemable quarterly and 29% of the investments in this category are redeemable annually. The amount ultimately received from the sale of these investments will likely be different from the present fair value.
- (b) *Emerging markets*: This category includes three alternative investment funds that pursue a long-only strategy for investment in emerging markets. One of the funds representing 36% of this category invests solely in the Asia Pacific region excluding Japan, primarily in emerging markets, but may invest in Australia or New Zealand. Another fund representing 34% of this category primarily invests in companies located in countries that are included in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index or MSCI Frontier Markets Index. The third fund representing 30% of this category invests principally in companies established or operating in emerging market and frontier countries, principally in Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Redemptions may be made from these funds monthly.
- (c) *Long/short equity*: This category includes alternative investment funds that pursue long/short equity strategies, with a focus on investment in (i) value equities, event equities and distressed debt (24% of this category), (ii) equities focused on the global technology, media and telecommunications sectors (54% of this category), and (iii) global equity securities (22% of this category) 47% of the investments in this category may be redeemed quarterly. The percentages of investments in this category that cannot be redeemed currently are as follows: (a) 28%, which can be redeemed every three years beginning after December 31, 2021, and (b), 24%, which can be redeemed over eight consecutive quarters.
- (d) *Long Only*: This category is comprised of two investments which focus on equity investments in the healthcare, industrial, and consumer discretionary sectors. 52% of the investments in this category are redeemable monthly and 48% are redeemable quarterly.
- (e) *Private equity*: This category is comprised of (i) two investments in private equity funds that invest in the energy sector in North America; the Corporation has committed to invest \$9.0 million in these funds, \$4.5 million to each, and, at December 31, 2018, the Foundation's remaining commitment to both funds was a total of \$1.4 million, (ii) an investment in two private equity funds that invest in expansion and growth-stage healthcare investments primarily in the specialty pharmaceuticals, medical technologies and healthcare services sectors; the Corporation has committed to invest \$10.0 million to these funds and, at December 31, 2018, the Foundation's remaining commitment to these funds was a total of \$6.0 million and (iii) an investment in a private equity fund that is a dislocation fund that is designed to invest during periods of market stress, with a focus on stressed and distressed securities, mainly in the United States and OECD countries; the Corporation has committed to invest \$5.0 million to this fund and, at December 31, 2018, the Foundation's remaining commitment to this fund was a total of \$4.1 million. These funds do not provide for redemptions as distributions are expected to be made as the underlying assets are sold by the funds; it is not possible to estimate the period of time over which the underlying assets will be sold; pursuant to the fund documents, all distributions are due to be made by the termination date of each fund (which may be extended for up to two years), which is in 2022 for the first energy fund, 2025 for the second energy fund, 2025 for the first healthcare fund, ten years from the initial drawdown date, which had not occurred as of December 31, 2018, for the second healthcare fund and 2024 for the dislocation fund.
- (f) *International*: This category has one investment fund whose objective is to achieve long-term growth primarily by investing in a diversified portfolio of non-tobacco equity securities of companies located in any country other than the United States. The fund invests primarily in established international markets; however, a portion of the fund's assets may be invested in emerging market securities and currencies.

7. LAND AND FIXED ASSETS

As of December 31, 2018, land and fixed assets consisted of:

Land	\$	1,913,359
Land improvements		174,158
Building		2,769,692
Computer equipment and software		168,523
Furniture and equipment		285,842
Automobiles		80,548
		<hr/> 5,392,122
Less - Accumulated depreciation and amortization		1,018,842
Net book value	\$	<hr/> <hr/> 4,373,280

8. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION AND ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

Set forth below are the Corporation's expenses for the year ended December 31, 2018, reported by functional expense classification.

	Decreases in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions and Grants	Program Services	Management and General
Employee compensation and benefits	\$ 1,408,461	\$ 980,272	\$ 428,189
Operating expenses	865,040	237,267	627,773
Occupancy	121,022	81,472	39,550
Depreciation and amortization	124,005	79,084	44,921
Total decrease in net assets without donor restrictions	<hr/> 2,518,528	<hr/> 1,378,095	<hr/> 1,140,433
Grants	8,525,592	8,525,592	-
Grants and decrease in net assets without donor restrictions	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 11,044,120	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 9,903,687	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 1,140,433

The costs of the Corporation's operations incurred to carry out the mission of the Foundation and the mission of PAFPIO are classified as grants and decreases in net assets without donor restrictions in the Consolidated Statement of Activities ("Decreases in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions"). Program services consist of services rendered to beneficiaries that fulfill the mission of the Foundation and the mission of PAFPIO ("Program Services"). Management and general expenses are all other activities of the Corporation that support program services ("Management and General"). The Corporation had no fundraising expenses in 2018. Included on the Statement of Activities are Decreases in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions that are attributable to (i) Program Services and (ii) Management and General which require that expenses be allocated to those functional expense classifications on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. Employee compensation and benefits and depreciation and amortization are allocated by employee based on estimates of time and effort spent on the Program Services and Management and General classifications. The majority of operating expenses by their nature are not programmatic expenses and are allocated to the Management and General classification. Occupancy is allocated based on square footage and estimates by employee of time and effort spent on the Program Services and Management and General classifications.

9. LOANS AND ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN LOSSES

Loans are generated by PAFPIO and are stated at the principal amount outstanding plus accrued interest reduced by an allowance for loan losses. Interest on loans is credited to income based on principal amounts outstanding at applicable rates. The accrual of interest is discontinued when the loan agreement is terminated or there is doubt regarding collectability.

The allowance for loan losses is maintained at a level determined by PAFPIO management to adequately absorb potential losses in the loan portfolio. This determination is based on the exposure to loss related to specific borrower situations, including their financial position, payment history and collateral values, and other relevant factors and estimates which are subject to change over time. Estimating the risk of loss and amount of loss on any loan is necessarily subjective and ultimate losses may vary from current estimates. These estimates are reviewed by PAFPIO management periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, are reported in the periods in which they become known. The allowance for loan losses is (i) increased by provisions for loan losses charged to operations, (ii) decreased by recoveries of loans previously provided for in the allowance for loan losses and (iii) decreased by write-offs. Collection efforts continue after a loan is charged-off by PAFPIO Management and future recoveries may occur.

Changes in the PAFPIO allowance for loan losses for the year ended December 31, 2018 were as follows:

Beginning balance	\$	547,483
Additional provision charged to operations		119,368
Recoveries of loans previously provided for in allowance for loan losses		(1,503)
Loans written-off		(17,884)
Foreign currency translation adjustment		(42,327)
Balance, end of year	\$	<u>605,136</u>

10. COMMITMENTS AND OFF-BALANCE SHEET COMMITMENTS

As of December 31, 2018, the Corporation had approved 19 programs totaling \$19.9 million that were subject to the completion of grant negotiations and the signing of grant agreements to the satisfaction of all parties. Subsequent to December 31, 2018 the Corporation signed grant agreements for these approved programs in the total amount of \$11.1 million.

One of PAFPIO's revenue streams is fees received for granting guarantees. At December 31, 2018, PAFPIO had granted guarantees in the amount of \$284,490 to three Polish non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"). Guarantees in the amount of \$277,841 are required by a grant provider of the NGOs to secure the NGOs' performance under the grants and guarantees in the amount of \$6,649 are required by a lender to an NGO to partially secure a loan. The guarantees expire as follows: \$265,871 on February 29, 2020, \$11,969 on June 30, 2020 and \$6,649 on April 30, 2021. To the extent the NGO beneficiaries of these guarantees do not perform, PAFPIO would be obligated in the amounts set forth above.

11. TAX STATUS

UNITED STATES

The Foundation is exempt from U.S. Federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(4) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"). In addition, the Foundation is exempt from state and local income taxes.

POLAND

The Representative Office is not subject to Polish corporate income taxation. PAFPIO is a Polish limited liability corporation subject to Polish Corporate income tax. For the year ended December 31, 2018, PAFPIO incurred \$37,934 of income tax expense, which is included in operating expenses in the consolidated statement of activities.

12. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Corporation has evaluated subsequent events through April 25, 2019, the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued, and has determined there were no additional events requiring consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018.

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› MANAGEMENT AND STAFF	65

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* as of June 2019

ANDREW NAGORSKI – CHAIRMAN

Award-winning journalist and author, former foreign correspondent and senior editor of Newsweek International

JOSEPH C. BELL

Senior Partner, Hogan Lovells

ALFRED B. BIEĆ

Former Undersecretary of State, Office of the Council of Ministers, Secretary of the Government's Economic Committee, former President and CEO of the Bank PEKAO New York and the Post Bank

ANNA FORMALCZYK

Former President of the Polish Office for Competition and Consumer Protection

CHRISTOPHER HILL

Chief Advisor to the Chancellor for Global Engagement and Professor of the Practice in Diplomacy, University of Denver; former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Republic of Korea, Poland, Macedonia, and Special Envoy to Kosovo, former Assistant Secretary for East Asia/Pacific Affairs

GEOFFREY HOGUET

Managing Member, GRH Holdings, LLC

JERZY KOŹMIŃSKI

Former Polish Ambassador to the United States, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation

DAVID NIEMIEC

Senior Advisor, Saratoga Partners

KRZYSZTOF PAWŁOWSKI

President of the High School of Business-National Louis University in Nowy Sacz, former Polish Senator

CARLA H. SKODINSKI

Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, KCM, LLC

SYLWIA WILKOS

Chief Executive Officer, Scorpio Studio; academic teacher in social and political studies

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO POLAND, PARTICIPATING
IN THE WORK OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GEORGETTE MOSBACHER

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

MAREK BELKA – 2000-2010

MICHAŁ BONI – 2000-2008

JOHN P. BIRKELUND † – 2000-2019

FREDERICK M. BOHEN † – 2003-2013

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZIŃSKI † – 2000-2015

JOHN H'DARMS † – 2000-2002

ROBERT G. FARIS † – 2000-2015

ALEKSANDER KOJ † – 2000-2010

NICHOLAS A. REY † – 2000-2009

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

* as of June 2019

President and Chief Executive Officer

JERZY KOŹMIŃSKI

Head of the Representative Office

GRZEGORZ JĘDRYS

Program Directors:

RADOSŁAW JASIŃSKI

RENATA KOŹLICKA-GLIŃSKA

JOANNA LEMPART

MARIANNA HAJDUKIEWICZ

Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

Secretary to the Board of Directors

NORMAN E. HASLUN III

Senior Consultant

C. DOUGLAS ADES

Program Officers:

MIROSŁAW CZYŻEWSKI

AGNIESZKA MAZUR

KATARZYNA ŚWIĄTKIEWICZ

KALINA GRZESZUK-ZAJĄCZKOWSKA

Chief Accountant

AGNIESZKA KWIATKOWSKA

Programs' Financial Controller

MIRA OSIECKA *(until December 2018)*

JUSTYNA PODRAZA

Public Relations Specialist

PRZEMYSŁAW ZAROŃ

Analyst

MACIEJ MAKULSKI

Accounting

GRAŻYNA SKRZYPIEC

Assistants / Administration:

JOANNA RECHNIO *(until August 2018)*

KAROLINA REWSKA

TOMASZ WOJCIECHOWSKI

ALEKSANDRA WRÓBLEWSKA

POLISH-AMERICAN FREEDOM FOUNDATION

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