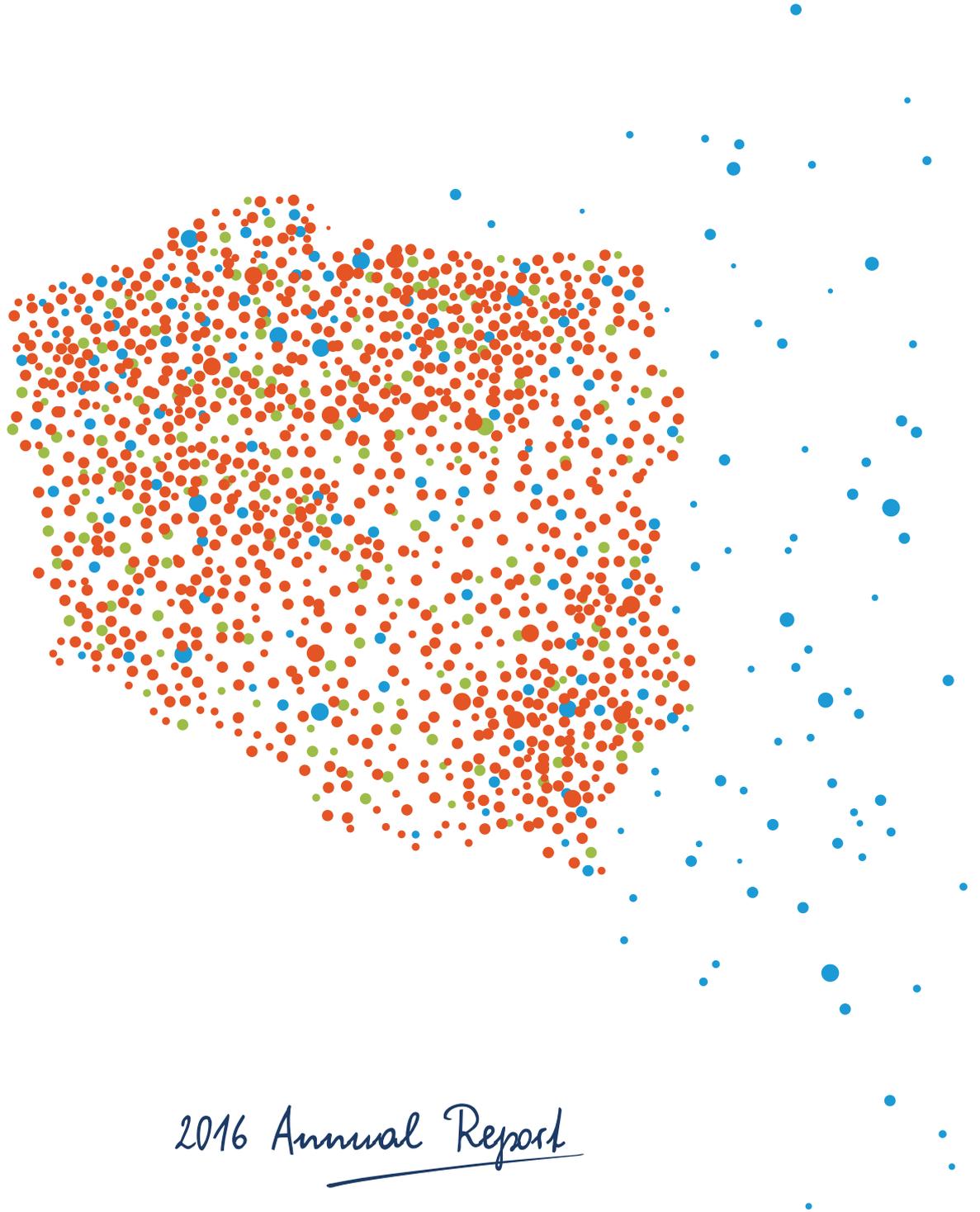




POLISH-AMERICAN FREEDOM FOUNDATION



2016 Annual Report

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Andrew Nagorski
Chairman of the Board
of Directors



Jerzy Koźmiński
President and Chief
Executive Officer

Dear Friends

During 2016 the Polish-American Freedom Foundation continued to carry out its mission, as defined by the founders, of consolidating the gains of the Polish transformation and sharing Poland's experience with other Central and Eastern European countries.

Among our education-related initiatives that are aimed at improving the quality of teaching, we call special attention to the opening of the School of Education of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and the University of Warsaw. This new initiative was a product of the joint efforts of the University of Warsaw, PAFF, and the Foundation for Quality Education, with the participation of the Center for Citizenship Education Foundation. PAFF also worked closely with the Teachers College of Columbia University in New York to develop the curriculum, which is highly innovative for Poland. This initiative was designed to provide comprehensive, modern training for future teachers. In the first years, this post-graduate program will produce teachers of the Polish language and mathematics.

In the pilot-phase 2016-2017 academic year, the first group of students is benefitting from the support of a 12-person-strong faculty. Its members include experienced lecturers, experts, and consultants from the Ministry of National Education, professors from Warsaw University and the Jagiellonian University, PhDs, as well as people studying for their doctorates. Graduates from the School of Education will earn their teachers' diplomas required for work in primary schools, junior high schools, and high schools. In the first year of its activity, the School of Education not only continued its regular cooperation with Columbia University but also established contacts with similar institutions in other countries. It also began working with the School of Education of Indiana University, one of the largest universities in the United States that trains teachers. The School's Dean, Professor Terrence C. Mason, delivered lectures last autumn to the students and faculty of the PAFF and University of Warsaw School of Education, sharing his experience with teachers' studies that combine academic theories with school practice.

We are pleased with the results of the programs to equalize educational opportunities that the Foundation launched earlier in its existence. Nearly 1,000 initiatives that promote teaching English to children and youth from small towns and villages have so far been carried out under the "English Teach-

ing” Program. More than 70,000 school students and 4,500 teachers were involved. Due to the commitment of experts from the Wisconsin International Educational Scientific Cultural Organization (WIESCO), language classes with native speakers were held in 68 schools all over Poland. Selected teachers taking part in the “English Teaching” Program were also covered by the “Dreams and Teams” initiative implemented in cooperation with the British Council. There are also plans for projects to be implemented jointly by Polish schools and education centers in Great Britain.

The results of the Bridge Scholarships Program continue to be rewarding. The program started in 2002 as a response to the disproportionate problems faced by young people living in the countryside as compared to their peers in cities when they are seeking to gain access to a university education. Thanks to the program, more than 20,000 scholarships have already been awarded. In the 2016/17 academic year, 2,238 people received support, among them 700 first-year students. The success of the Bridge Scholarships Program is certainly a credit to all the Partners involved in this activity. Since inception, they have contributed nearly PLN 100,000,000. A significant effort in this regard was made by the National Bank of Poland.

The core part of the Foundation’s statutory work includes initiatives designed to strengthen and release citizens’ energy in rural areas and small towns, programs such as “Act Locally” and “PAFF Local Partnerships”. The former undertaking helped implement nearly 9,000 local projects supported with PLN 35 million (over \$ 10 million). The network of Act Locally Centers now includes 67 organizations covering more than 600 communes (gminy).

Representatives of these Centers were able to take advantage of a new opportunity - the FIMANGO Local Advisors School - which pools the resources of “Act Locally” and “Financial Management for NGOs” (FIMANGO) Programs. The objective is to improve competence in financial management and build a network of consultants to provide advisory and training services to local non-governmental organizations.

There also was a growing interest in the “PAFF Local Partnerships” Program. A record-high number of 26 Initiative Groups expressed their willingness to join the fifth program’s round that started in the past year.

It is also worth noting that the experience of the “Act Locally” Program will soon be transferred to Ukraine. In 2016 three Act Locally Centers received funds for implementation of partnership projects together with Ukrainian organizations. Those projects seek to build social capital, including the devel-

opment of local philanthropy, voluntary work, and partnerships in support of the common good. The long-term effect of this project may include setting up a chain of NGOs in Ukraine, modeled on the Polish Act Locally Centers.

Among the Foundation's international activities in support of democratic and free-market changes in Eastern Europe is the continuation of our commitment to the Warsaw Euro-Atlantic Summer Academy (WEASA). This is a joint project of the College of Europe, Natolin Campus, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and PAFF. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was a special guest of the 2016 WEASA round dedicated to regional politics and development.

An interesting initiative was launched by the Lane Kirkland Scholarship Program alumni. They have established the Baltic-Black Sea Forum, proposed by Iryna Vereshchuk and Natalya Zubchenko from Ukraine. The first round of the Forum was held in Kiev under the auspices of the International Centre for Black Sea-Baltic Studies. The Forum's main goal is to develop good-neighborly cooperation and advanced tools of dialogue among the countries of Eastern Europe. The conference was attended by former Presidents of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk, Leonid Kuchma, and Viktor Yushchenko, the former President of Lithuania Vytautas Landsbergis, and the former President of Belarus Stanislav Shushkevich.

The situation that has developed in Poland after the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2015 affects several of the programs implemented by the Foundation. This is true for projects in the field of education, especially those in which principals, teachers, and students of junior secondary schools are taking part. This is because the planned reform of the educational system will dismantle the junior high schools in September 2017 after which Poland will have a two-tier system of 8-year primary schools and 4-year secondary schools. Considering the PAFF commitment to developing local communities in Poland, we are also closely watching the plan to establish the National Center for Civil Society Development. This Center would take over the tasks from the Department of Social Economy and Public Benefit of the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy, which has so far been responsible for cooperation with non-governmental organizations. As a result, the Center would manage the Civil Initiatives Fund (FIO) which has served the important role of both programmatic mechanism and financial support for the third sector in Poland since 2005.

2016 marks five years since the PAFF Representative Office built its own office in Poland, clearly an important stage in the evolution of the Foundation. It has opened new opportunities to organize a variety of events within the programs carried out by the Foundation. The advance conference facilities are used by implementers and participants in PAFF projects, coming there for workshops, training courses, and other meetings. Since December 2011 the Foundation's Head Office in Wilanów has hosted nearly 700 various events attended by over 13,000 people. The fact that people involved in the activities of the Foundation may take advantage of its modern conference infrastructure has been a major benefit to the development of PAFF's programmatic initiatives.

This Report is being written in great sorrow because we had to say goodbye to two Directors: Professor Aleksander Koj and Professor Zbigniew Brzeziński.

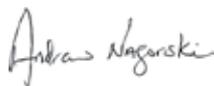
Professor Koj died in December 2016. An outstanding academic, university teacher, and social activist, he was always ready to help with his extensive knowledge and vast experience. He made a significant contribution to the implementation of the Foundation's mission since inception.

The news of Zbigniew Brzeziński's death reached us in May this year. He played an extremely important role in all developments that gave Poland its newfound freedom and security. He significantly contributed to the overthrowing of the Yalta postwar order and the expansion of NATO, which allowed Poland to join the Alliance. In the first years of Poland's transition, he actively supported economic and social reforms in the country. He was one of the initiators of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund. When the Fund reached its main objectives, as a Member of its Board of Directors, he worked to ensure that profits generated by PAEF would continue to serve the Polish nation. As a result, the Polish-American Freedom Foundation launched its activity in 2000. It is impossible to overstate the role of Professor Brzeziński in the Foundation. We could always rely on his wisdom, guidance, and friendship.

Both Professors were members of the PAFF Board of Directors from the beginning of the Foundation, and after finishing active work for the Board, each of them stayed close as a Director Emeritus. We will keep them in our memory as outstanding personalities and great Friends. They will be sorely missed.

We want to give our thanks to all who have collaborated with the Foundation and particularly to those who implement the Foundation's programs. We immensely appreciate their hard work, advice and support. We are grateful to the Members of the Board of Directors who are so dedicated to the development of the Foundation and who support the PAFF Team whole-heartedly. And we are delighted to welcome Sylwia Wilkos as the newest Member of the Board; she joined us in the autumn of 2016.

New York/Warsaw, June 2017



Andrew Nagorski
Chairman of the Board of Directors



Jerzy Koźmiński
President and Chief Executive Officer

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ENGLISH TEACHING

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

7.031.028 USD

including 522.283 USD w 2016 in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The “Nida” Development Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.englishteaching.org.pl

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 stimulating and developing a variety of civic initiatives. Their 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 possibility to carry out small projects along with consultancy in their preparation.

Within the program’s editions to date, conducted in 2000-2016, 864 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 and take part in lessons conducted by native speakers. More than 64,000 students and approx. 4,000 teachers directly participated in the projects financed within the grant competitions. Indirectly they engaged over 165,000 parents and other members of local communities.

The program includes “Weekends with English Teaching” methodological training sessions for English language teachers in localities with a population of up to 20,000 inhabitants. So far, 121 such training sessions have been conducted with more than 5,500 teachers participating.

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



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Languages (TESOL) Summer Institute, organized by Gonzaga University in the USA.

Under the program, 14 annual nationwide “English Teaching Market” meetings have been organized for teachers of English and interested institutions, organizations, schools and publishers. A total of approx. 6,700 people have participated in them. The meetings

are aimed at the development of 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

12.964.433 USD

including 499.491 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Polish Children and Youth Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.rownaczsanse.pl

The objective of the program, implemented since 2001, is to support civic initiatives fostering equal opportunities for a better start on the road to adulthood for young people from rural areas and small towns (of up to 20,000 inhabitants). That is achieved by improving their competencies and developing social skills, such as teamwork, the ability to win support for achieving one’s goals and planning 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 achieve in-

dependently and realistically set 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 2016, 139 projects were funded within the All-Poland Grant Competition and the Regional Grant Competition.

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 project coordinators can take advantage of ICT training sessions as part of the “ICT for Local Development” Program.

An important component of the “Equal Opportunities” Program are its Local Forums, held by organizations participating in the program. The Forums are



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 barriers limiting the development opportunities for young people living in small towns. In 2016, 10 forums were held with participation of 300 people.

The program's sixteen editions resulted in the implementation of more than 2,700 projects involving approx. 140,000 participants (indirectly nearly 450,000 people have been involved) and stimulation as well as integration of local communities around activities benefiting children and youth. 27 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 pro-

gram's website www.rownaczsanse.pl. In addition, 150 local non-governmental

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organizations have been established and many projects are continued after the financial support provided by the program ceases.

Also last year, another edition of the summer school for 24 most active project participants took place. Its objective was to improve the skills of social initiatives implementation targeted at local environment and development of leadership skills. The summer school graduates have

the opportunity to obtain a grant for carrying out short-term projects benefitting their local communities.

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 fifth edition of the "Young Explorer Clubs" Forum was held which gathered more than 260 people. The forum is the platform of contacts and exchange of experiences, serving also the promotion of Young Explorer Clubs. The "Young Explorer Clubs" network comprises almost 700 clubs, including those established in Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Georgia.

THE LEARNING SCHOOLS (LES)

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

10.493.534 USD

including 749.833 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Center for Citizenship Education Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.sus.ceo.org.pl

Under the "Learning Schools" (LES) Program, implemented since 2000, comprehensive activities have been conducted to improve the quality of Polish education on the basis of the best foreign models.

The quality of Polish schools, especially those in rural areas and small towns, is raised chiefly by improving the teaching techniques of teachers. The "LES" Program introduces an original quality-enhancement system into their daily practice which ultimately increases the autonomy of the teaching staff, bolsters the position of the headmaster as the leader of his school's transformation process and improves teamwork. All this leads to improved teaching results.

A broad offer of the "LES" Program encompasses teacher training, staff workshops, conferences for headmasters,

Internet courses, a systemic program facilitating the introduction of formative assessment, educational labs and post-graduate studies. Schools participating in the program develop organizational solutions professionalizing teachers' performance and monitoring the effects of their efforts as well as sharing the best practices. The program's implementation has resulted in quality improvement in key areas of the school's activities: effective education (teaching and learning), the school as an institution and the school's relations with the outside community.

In the course of the program's 16-year history, more than 3,400 schools have participated (including more than 1,400 in the core part of "LES", introducing

year-long courses. Since 2016/17 academic year teachers can also choose a training course on "OK Zeszyt", the new tool that supports formative assessment.



them to the basics of the formative assessment). More than 65,000 teachers have taken advantage of the training opportunities offered within all components of the "LES" Program.

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Since 2009 the "Online Teachers Academy" (OTA) project has been carried out. It is Poland's largest online 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 online coaching and among other things, serve to prepare teachers to use modern information technologies in their work with pupils. "OTA" offers seven

Each year ca. 1,500 teachers takes part in "OTA" training courses.

The many-year experience gained in the implementation of the "LES" Program was used in the "Students' Academy" Program, completed in 2015, financed from the EU funds. Its objective was to promote math and science at the junior high school level. The program covered 310 junior high schools,

1,500 teachers and over 40,000 students. Among other things, the participating schools received grants for running student math, physics, chemistry and biology research clubs, young discoverer's kits and an opportunity to take part in science fairs.

Since 2007, the "Post-Graduate Studies for Educational Leaders" Program has been carried out in cooperation with Collegium Civitas and the All-Poland Educational Management Staff Association. Their objective is skill-improvement training for management staff: headmasters and supervisory organs as well as the staff of the school superintendents' offices. So far, 331 persons have received the post-graduate study program's completion diplomas.

PAFF is a partner of the "School with Class 2.0" undertaking, promoting the use of information and communication technologies in learning and teaching. It expands on the "School with Class" mass campaign, 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 newspaper. By the end of 2016, all stages of the undertaking were completed by more than 9,000 schools from all over Poland. Its extensions were such initiatives as the "Teacher with Class", "Lego, Cogito, Ago", the "Student with Class" and the "School of Thinking". In 2014, the "First Class Teacher" project was launched that offers training, expert support and inspiration for early childhood education teachers. By the end of 2015, almost 800 teachers joined the project.

PAFF AND UW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED
568.286 USD IN 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:
› The Foundation for Quality Education

MORE INFORMATION AT:
www.szkoledukacji.pl

The School of Education of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and the University of Warsaw is a new initiative aimed at preparing candidates to teacher profession. Over first years of its operation, the School is to educate Polish language and math teachers. Starting from the 2016/17 academic year, the School offers a one-year full-time postgraduate studies that closely combines theory with practice.

The School of Education was established thanks to the engagement and cooperation of the PAFF, the University of Warsaw, the Foundation for Quality Education and the Center for Citizenship Education Foundation.

The innovative curriculum, carried out in an unprecedented in Poland format of daily postgraduate studies, has been developed in cooperation with a prestigious teacher training institution - Teachers College, Columbia University.

Prior to launching its operation, the School of Education recruited staff; 13 people out of 160 applying were selected. They include experienced educators, the Ministry of Education experts and consultants, the University of Warsaw and Jagiellonian University academic teachers, as well as doctoral students and doctors.

The offer of the School of Education is addressed to graduates of studies in Polish language or mathematics. The current, pilot edition (academic year 2015/16) is participated by 22 students. The School of Education graduates will obtain the teacher license required to be entitled to work in elementary, junior high and high schools.

Students have both academic classes as well as teaching practice at schools. Teaching practice is the key part of the curriculum, and experience gained in this way is discussed on an ongoing basis. The School of Education is responsible for the quality of the teaching practice and it cooperates with a network of carefully selected, Warsaw-based schools.

The first edition of the studies is free of charge for students. Applicants also have an opportunity to take advantage of the scholarship offer prepared for them, which, among other costs, covers subsidies for accommodation in Warsaw.

The PAFF and UW School of Education plans to open the Alumni Office offering long-term support to graduates, including, wherever possible, assistance in finding employment as teachers.



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The School of Education is located in the UW Center of New Technologies building in Warsaw. The Program Manager on behalf of PAFF is the Foundation for Quality Education, established

for that purpose by PAFF three years ago. In November 2015, the Foundation for Quality Education and the University of Warsaw established a joint institution, the Center for Innovations

and Educational Research. The Center will develop two components: research and didactic, the PAFF and UW School of Education being part of it.

PROJECTOR - STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

6.038.121 USD

including 352.928 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› Educational Enterprise Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.projektor.org.pl

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 educational projects 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, infor-

mation 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 32,000 educational projects have been carried out all over Poland in 2,207 schools involving more than 13,000 student volunteers and 300,000 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 President's 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 sym-



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bols and foster tolerance and respect for other people.

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 oppor-

tunity 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 the years 2005-2010 the program was managed by the Polish Association of Pedagogues and Animators „Klanza”. Next, up until 2017, the program was managed by the Foundation for Development of Voluntary Service.

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education has assumed an honorary patronage over the program.

BRIDGE SCHOLARSHIPS

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

20.450.323 USD

including 1.229.831 USD in 2015.

PROGRAM MANAGERS:

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

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.stypendia-pomostowe.pl

www.paii.pl

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 PZU Foundation (State

Insurance Group), the BGK 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 Agricultural Property Agency and in cooperation with Professor Bronisław Geremek’s Center as well as the Unit for Social Innovation and Research “Shipyard” Foundation. During the fourteen editions of the program the Partners have disbursed close to PLN 100 million, including PLN 56.7 million provided by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation.

Since 2006, under the “Diploma of Dreams” campaign intended to encourage and support additional local NGOs to become involved in scholarship initiatives, 179 organizations have extended assistance to 5,228 scholarship holders.

Since the beginning of the program, a total of over 20,600 scholarships have been awarded, including nearly 15,000 scholarships for the first year of



studies. In the 2016/17 academic year, 1,128 students and doctoral students have received scholarships, including 700 for the first year of studies.

The program is currently a scholarship system whose offer goes 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 2011-2016, 85 students have worked as

Since the beginning of the program, a total of over 20,600 scholarships have been awarded, including nearly 15,000 scholarships for the first year of studies. In the 2016/17 academic year, 1,128 students and doctoral students have received scholarships, including 700 for the first year of studies.

interns in 11 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.

One segment of the program offered scholarships addressed to high-performing students of economics from small towns and rural areas, enrolled in non-state institutions and private business schools. Between 2001-2014, nearly 7,000 such scholarships were awarded.

As a survey conducted among the Bridge Scholarships holders shows, 94 percent of the program alumni believe that the scholarship significantly

improved their financial situation during their university studies. A survey conducted among scholarship holders studying at the first and second year shows that the Bridge Scholarships definitely improved financial situation of more than 80 per cent of them. 90 percent of graduates had grade averages of "good" or better, and 70 percent completed them without any delays. A mere 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 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

4.100.668 USD

including 287.150 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

- › The Association of the Creative Initiatives "e"

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 the 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 organizations and institutions. So far 297 intergenerational projects stimulating seniors to act for the benefit of their communities and promoting their voluntary work have been carried out. 31 projects are implemented within the 9th edition of the competition.

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Within the framework of support for Third Age Universities, the program offers training, workshops and an op-

portunity to share 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 provided with support - the annual Third Age University Forum, which is a part of the 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 establishment of voluntary sections at TAUs and initiate cooperation with local communities.

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

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SUPPORT FOR NGOS

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

8.273.002 USD

including 820.899 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGERS:

- › The Klon/Jawor Association ("MIS@NGO")
- › The Civil Society Development Foundation ("FIM@NGO")
- › The Academy of Civic Organizations Foundation ("PROMENGO")
- › The Institute of Public Affairs ("Citizen and Law")

PROGRAM MANAGERS:

- www.ngo.pl
- www.frso.pl
- www.kursodrom.pl
- www.obywateliprawo.pl

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 the improvement of the conditions in which third sector organizations operate and thus to more effective operations and successful implementation of civic projects.

At present, the program operates along four paths.

The first is the "Mutual Information Society" ("MIS@NGO") - the NGO information system whose main component is the Non-Governmental Organizations Portal www.ngo.pl, including a database of ca. 150,000 non-governmental organizations. In 2016, it scored a monthly average of more than 700,000 page views a month and more than 530,000 users. The system also comprises an Informatorium (information center)

with its 801-646-719 hotline, research and publications as well as "Third Sector" quarterly journal published by the Institute of Public Affairs.

The second path is "EURO-NGO+" - it is aimed at increasing the nonprofit 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 third sector organizations in building partnerships, advocacy activities and becoming involved in planning structural funds for the years 2007-2013 and currently - 2014-2020. Information activities are carried out via the www.eu.ngo.pl service, while advocacy activities by the National Federation of Polish NGOs. The offer includes experts' support.

The third path - "NGO Training" comprises two components. The first is the "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 2000-2016, more than 4,000 people representing 2,900 organizations from all over Poland took advantage of such training opportunities. The training courses are implemented by the Civil Society Development Foundation. The second component, launched in 2013, includes a comprehensive educational offer for NGO managers. It comprises the training



All told, during the period 2000-2016, more than 4,000 people representing 2,900 organizations from all over Poland took advantage of training opportunities under the "Financial Management for NGOs" initiative.

program “PROMENGO”, the “Kursodrom” e-learning platform that has already been used by over 3,200 people as well as workshops devoted to NGO management. It is implemented by the Academy of Civic Organizations Foundation, set up by PAFF.

The fourth path is a continuation of selected activities conducted by the Institute of Public Affairs as part of the “Citizen and Law” Program, completed in 2014. The purpose of the program was to make citizens’ access to civil

counseling broader and easier and to encourage them to avail themselves of their rights in the public sphere. The continuation is aimed at popularizing its effects, supporting information and publishing activity e.g. via the www.obywateliprawo.pl portal and the “Third Sector” quarterly, as well as monitoring the activities aimed at the regulation of access to free legal and civic counseling.

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 participated 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 condition research which is carried out cyclically.

ACT LOCALLY

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

13.325.660 USD

including 907.572 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

- › The Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.dzialajlokalnie.pl

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 and contribute to building social capital. Under the program support is offered to encourage the activity of local communities, the members of which define their own needs and undertake joint initiatives. People are different, as are their needs, traditions, experiences, and available resources. Therefore, the program supports a wide range of projects.

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 to several districts. The ALC network has successively expanded from 15 centers in 2004 to 67 organizations in 2016. 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 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 sub-

mitted 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. As part of the program’s 8th edition, in two competitions, in 2013 and 2014, 1578 grants were awarded.



In the 9th edition of the program a total of 1720 projects have been supported with grants.

All told, nearly 3.5 million participants including more than 200,000 volunteers joined forces to carry out more than 8,600 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 new 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 submitting 1% of the income tax to the public charity organization.

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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 the 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 model for other organizations. So far, 24 Centers have been presented with certificates.

The experience thus acquired 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 different participants of the Foundation’s programs jointly engaged in projects bene-

fitting the local community. In the “PAFF Leaders” Program, ALC representatives serve as leaders and tutors, and in the “ICT for Local Development” 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 resources of PAFF’s two programs - “Act Locally” and “Financial Management for NGOs” (FIMANGO). The school offers an intensive training program improving the competencies of ALC representatives in financial management counseling to smaller, local organizations cooperating with them. Additionally, last year 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.

„Act Locally” experiences are also transferred to Ukraine under the Global Challenges Local Solutions project, co-financed by PAFF as part of the “Region in Transition” (RITA) Program. The project is managed by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland in cooperation with Ukrainian Ednania Foundation and its objective is to establish a network of NGOs in Ukraine modelled on ALCs.

Within the program, PAFF supports the „Benefactor of the Year” competition and maintains patronage of the “Local Involvement” category, which promotes the civic engagement of companies, which in cooperation with ALCs contribute to long-term local changes. 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, standing behind 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.

ICT FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT - SECTOR 3.0

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

1.628.878 USD

including 344.770 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Information Society
Development Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.sektor3-0.pl

The program 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, in particular coming from small local communities, in an effective use of such technologies in their everyday work in order to facilitate their activities.

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 using 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 - 80 experts providing free educational and technological support services for local NGOs. So far, Mobile Advisors have provided counselling 3,000 times and 2,000 NGOs' representatives from all over Poland benefited from it.

The program also comprises the financial component in the form of the 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 sixteen Polish cities where representatives of NGOs, business, local governments and the academic community meet on a cyclical basis to share experiences on putting the potential of modern technologies to practical use. Since 2012, the TechClub meetings have been participated by more than 12,000 people.

An important part of the program is the annual international "Sector 3.0" conference, held in Warsaw. They gather representatives of non-governmental organizations, ICT professionals



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from business circles, politicians, academics as well as foreign experts (including representatives of the USA, Great Britain, South Korea and India). They constitute a platform for the exchange of information about current trends

in the wide ICT and Internet use in social/civic activities. In 2012-2016, over 2,600 people participated in the six editions of the annual "Sector 3.0" conference held in Warsaw.

PAFF LEADERS

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

3.990.241 USD

including 301.577 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The School for Leaders Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.liderzy.pl

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.



As a result of the program's eleven editions the qualifications of 541 local leaders from all over Poland have been improved, and an active nationwide network has emerged.

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' 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 activities benefiting their local communities.

An essential component of the program is the offer for program graduates - the "Alumni Initiative", which serves 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 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 social network.

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 American Embassy in Poland. In 2016, another group of leaders and tutors participated in such a visit.

As a result of the program's eleven editions the qualifications of 541 local

leaders from all over Poland have been improved, and an active nationwide network has emerged. In addition, more than 60 tutoring experts have been trained. In the 12th (current) edition, which began in 2016, 41 leaders and 11 tutors are participating.

THE "PRO PUBLICO BONO" COMPETITION

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

2.441.979 USD

including 21.304 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

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

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 had funded the prizes awarded in the Competition.

The objective of the Competition the Freedom Foundation got involved in was supporting the development of civil society by annual 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 it is awarded by the Local Newspapers Association. The winner of the 2016 Bolesław Wierzbiański Award was the editorial staff of the “Gazeta Jarocińska”, and in 2017 the award went to “Tygodnik Podhalański” weekly.

As part of 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 into a dialogue about the directions of state development, the condition of society and common good. This way it helps enhance and activate civic society. The Congress is an open event and each year it is attended by over one thousand participants, including representatives of central and local administration, NGOs, academics, student organizations, business, and local communities. The 11th Civic Congress, held in November 2016 under the motto “Poland of the Future. Towards Maturity”, was attended by over 1200 participants. The substantive partner of the thematic session titled “How to Build Local Communities Based on Identity, Interest or Joint Projects?” was the „PAFF Local Partnerships” Program.

THE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

3.877.231 USD

including 506.103 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Information Society Development Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.biblioteki.org

www.frsl.pl

www.labib.pl

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 is 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 rural areas and small towns gained an opportunity to improve their quality of life. Raising librarians' competencies and building the prestige of their profession constitute an important component of the program.

Until April 2015, the program was carried out in partnership of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It was part of "Global 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 and in cooperation with it prepared the detailed plan of assistance to Po-

lish libraries by way of providing them with computer hardware and software as well as training opportunities for the librarians. PAFF also signed a co-operation 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.

In 2009 the proper implementation of the Library Development Program got under way. The recruitment process was carried out by competition in three editions. 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 the third edition was carried out, whose organization was possible thanks to the effective management of funds granted by the Gates Foundation and PAFF's additional financial contribution. All told, the program covered 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 profile 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, multi-functional devices, printers, projectors and digital cameras) together with software provided 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 and sharing experiences. As a result, at present the libraries serve as "third places" in their local communities that is meeting places open to all.

Within the program the Partnership for Library Development was supported. It brought together more than 100 representatives from the world of science, art, economy, the media, politics and the non-governmental sector. In addition, 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' conven-

tion held every year since 2010 with each single time participation of over 400 people, 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' se-

Until April 2015, the undertaking was carried out in partnership of the PAFF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. All told, the program covered 3,808 libraries in 1,250 communes, which comprises almost 60 percent of all Polish libraries in villages and small towns.

rvices. 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 important 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. The 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 counteracting digital exclusion.

After three years of the program's implementation, the Unit for Social Innovation and Research "Shipyard" Foundation conducted quantity and quality 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 impact 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. The results of it showed, among other things, that more and more libraries play the role of a Third Place that is friendly and open to everybody. They also are the place where residents can access new technologies - as much as 37% of the library computer users have used the Internet for the first time in a library.

The Library Development Program was financed by \$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, considered as its target group) 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 will be continued as part of the strategy aimed at building the sustainability of the Library Development Program.

Support for libraries is continued as part of the strategy aimed at building the Library Development Program sustainability. It serves reinforcing the

changes in functioning of Polish public libraries, especially in rural areas and small towns, so that the libraries could contribute even more to local communities development. It also helps strengthen long term effects such as popularization of modern information and communication technologies, faci-

litate access of village and small town residents to information, knowledge, culture and education and also stimulate civil activity. At present, activities under the program include training sessions and e-learning courses for librarians and their local partners; grants for improvement of technolo-

gical capabilities of selected libraries; support for networking and cooperation aimed at local community development as well as establishing and development of innovation incubators based on the library infrastructure.

PAFF LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

1.917.457 USD

including 161.379 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.lokalnepartnerstwa.org.pl

The purpose of the “PAFF Local Partnerships” Program is to initiate and develop cooperation among the beneficiaries of various PAFF programs promoting the creation of partnerships around the 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 previously conducted 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 to better consolidate local social capital through building 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 comprising beneficiaries of PAFF programs - who form the Initiative Group as 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. Starting from the program’s fourth edition, the partnerships may also be led by organizations taking part in one of the following programs: “English Teaching,” “Equal Opportunities,” “The Learning Schools,” “PAFF Leaders”, Library Development Program, and “Region in Transition” (RITA). Numerous local residents and volunteers are engaged in the implementation of the program.



Within the program's first three editions (in the years 2009-2013) grants were awarded for initiatives submitted by 22 partnerships. They were implemented in 49 communes in various regions of Poland with the participation of more than 330 partners. The results of the projects include a change of legal regulations in order to reduce air pollution in Żywiec, setting up the first Internet youth radio in Nidzica and local internet civic TV in Grodzisk Mazowiecki, as well as upgrading a public park in Biłgoraj and building a common space open to all.

Under the fourth edition of the program, completed in December 2015, projects implemented by eight partnerships operating in 24 communes were supported. Partner cooperation made it possible to create a district voluntary center in Dębica,

reconstruction group in Stoczek Łukowski, cultural-civic stops in Elk and youth village councils in Staszów. In Strachówka the Cyprian Norwid family history was restored, in Supraśl a series of civil café meetings was held, during which the residents designed the common space development plan, in Barycza Valley the local community managed to promote carp as the local product, while in Trzciel a tradition to hold the village fair was revived.

Thanks to additional support from PAFF, the partnerships continue their activities and work on the strategy to embed their project results and make them self-sufficient.

In the 5th edition of the program, that started in 2016, 8 partnerships operating in the area of 12 communes have been established. The projects carried out include the creation of an apple trail in Warka, a network of youth-friendly places in Podkarpacie Region, Volcano Activity Center in Złotoryja and the Youth Forrest Guard in Niemce.

In the 5th edition of the program, that started in 2016, 8 partnerships operating in the area of 12 communes have been established. So far in all editions of the program a total of 38 partnerships have been established which cover 85 communes, with nearly 500 partners involved.

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The program also popularizes a method of animating local communities, developed in cooperation with experts of 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 titled "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 exemplified 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 initiative offers access to resources such as publications, films, workshop scenarios, civic games, experts' support, participation in study tours and meetings enabling the sharing of best practices as well as the possibility to receive a mini-grant for the implementation of educational and training projects. 27 grants have been distributed so far to help develop tools required for local community animation, such as outdoor games, Internet quizzes, public campaigns, training scenarios, and workshops. Additionally, in the years 2013-2015, three alumni meetings were held.



Sharing the Polish Experiences in Transformation

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THE LANE KIRKLAND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

12.007.319 USD

including 650.410 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Leaders of Change Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.kirkland.edu.pl

www.leadersofchange.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 Ukraine, Russia and Belarus as well as Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kirgizstan.

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 and systematize their knowledge of the history and current political and social situation of Poland. Kirkland scholarship holders then proceed with their individually-programmed studies at universities in Warsaw, Kraków, Poznań, Wrocław and 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 traineeship at state institutions (including the Supreme Court, National Bank of Poland and marshal offices) as well as non-governmental organizations and private sector firms. Courses on civic project implementation and teamwork supplement the curriculum.

In September 2016, the Kirkland Research Program, a pilot project implemented as part of the program, was launched. It offers one-semester research internship for people with established position of a scholar coming from the countries covered by the program. Individual work under the eye of an academic tutor shall result in a scientific article written by the intern.

Each year, the program is participated by approx. 45 scholarship holders. Between 2000 and 2016, 699 scholarship holders coming from 11 countries completed the program. Of that number 373 were from Ukraine, 137 from Belarus, 47 from Georgia, 43 from Russia, 25 from Armenia, 19 from Moldova, 18 from Kazakhstan, 12 from Lithuania, 10 from Slovakia, 8 from Kyrgyzstan and 7 from Azerbaijan.



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18 from Kazakhstan, 12 from Lithuania, 10 from Slovakia, 8 from Kyrgyzstan and 7 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 professional group followed by public officials and experts.

The current edition (2016/17) is participated by 46 representatives of 8 countries. The majority of them come from Ukraine (25 people), while the remaining ones from Belarus, Russia,

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Kyrgyzstan. They are mostly lawyers, economists, journalists, and local government workers as well as non-governmental organizations' activists.

Following the program's completion, contact with graduates is regularly maintained thanks to the bulletin, reunions of graduates and the website www.kirkand.edu.pl. The alumni conferences, held every 3-4 years, help to maintain graduates' contacts with Poland and establish new contacts. They also make the opportunity to broaden the Kirklanders' knowledge of Poland and

the European Union and discuss possible directions of transformation that shall 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.

REGION IN TRANSITION (RITA)

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

13.334.204 USD

including 685.773 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

► The Education for Democracy Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.programrita.org

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 USD 12,500. About 40 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 objectives 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 cooperation with foreign partners. Every two years, the meetings of the "RITA" Program grant recipients, named "Ambassadors of Transition in the Regions", are held. They serve integration of the Polish non-governmental organizations

In the years 2000-2016 a total of 950 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, were subsidized.

operating abroad and experience sharing 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.

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 2000-2016 a total of 950 projects were subsidized.

STUDY TOURS TO POLAND (STP)

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

5.255.166 USD

including 408.168 USD in 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGER:

› The Leaders of Change Foundation

MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.studytours.pl

www.leadersofchange.pl

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 show 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 a dozen-day long study tours to Poland; the eligible

candidates have to be persons between the age of 18 and 21, coming from Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Russian Federation (currently from Briansk, Kaliningrad, Novgorod, Leningrad and St. Petersburg oblasts). Students participating in the "STP" have an opportunity to meet 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 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, 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 administration.

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

In total, in the years 2004-2016, 8,475 participants, including 2,908 students and 5,567 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.

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Within the "Study Tours to Poland" Program, the Foundation supports the Warsaw Euro-Atlantic Summer Academy - WEASA - a common undertaking of the PAFF,

the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the European Center Natolin Foundation. WEASA offers two weeks of classes, based on 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. A total of more than 174 people from Eastern Partnership countries took part in four editions of WEASA, including: 18 from Armenia, 13 from Azerbaijan, 17 from Belarus, 35 from Georgia, 25 from Moldova, and 66 from Ukraine.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ANALYSES (MEVA)

THE FOUNDATION HAS DISBURSED

1.862.013 USD

including 150.289 USD in 2016.

The program, launched in 2005, is of an expert and research nature. Its objective is to carry out the analytical work that serves optimization of the Foundation programs' effectiveness.

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

The results of the PAFF programs evaluation serve both setting down the future program activities and modifying the existing ones. One of the "MEVA" purposes is to monitor the initiatives completed by the Foundation in terms of the sustainability of achieved results.

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 setting down the future program activities and modifying the existing ones. One of the "MEVA" purposes 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 anti-

ipated social needs. To that end, the selected social groups are examined (e.g. village youth, librarians or NGO employees) and new initiatives tested. One of them is the study of trends in ICT

use in Poland and abroad, which allowed to prepare the report that recommended launching the "ICT for Local Development" Program; or the analysis of 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 acti-

vities. Among the projects serving that aim, there 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.

Another project of that kind is „Influence on the Social Capital in PAFF Communities" (the so called „BOX") project whose aim was to work out the set of methods and research techniques (the toolbox) allowing 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 (whose one of co-founders was PAFF). At the same time, a significant part of the program is managed by The Unit for Social Innovation and Research "Shipyard" Foundation.

People, Projects, Initiatives

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- › Paweł Walecki: "I Trusted the Young - It Was the Best Thing I've Ever Done."

ENGLISH TEACHING

- › The „International Language Tabletory” Won the European Language Label Award

LEARNING SCHOOLS (LES)/ SCHOOL WITH CLASS 2.0

- › Smart Guys From Wejherowo Learn About Professions

PROJECTOR - STUDENT VOLUNTARIES

- › Joanna Niemiec - "A Podkarpacie Volunteer" 2016

THE PAFF AND UW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

- › Iwona Kołodziejek - a Tutor at the PAFF and UW School of Education

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- › „Stories From Hell (Piekło)”

ACT LOCALLY

- › The FIMANGO Local Advisors School

PAFF LEADERS

- › Karolina Suska - a Public Activist and a Passionate Leader

PAFF LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

- › "Wielka Wieś Mission - Low Emission!"

ICT FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT - SECTOR 3.0

- › Niepełnosprawnik.pl Wins the "PAFF ICT for Local Development - Sector 3.0" Award

THE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- › Tablets in the Gorlice Library

THE WARSAW EURO-ATLANTIC SUMMER ACADEMY (WEASA)

- › Madeleine Albright Attends the 4th Round of WEASA

STUDY TOURS TO POLAND (STP)

- › Ukrainian Local-Government Officials Visit Radom

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Paweł Walecki: „I Trusted the Young - It Was the Best Thing I've Ever Done.”

Paweł Walecki understands the participants in the “Equal Opportunities” Program because only 10 years ago he was one of them - a teenager from a small town. And now he is one of the national coordinators of this program.

His first encounter with “Equal Opportunities” was when he was a grammar school student at Stoczek Łukowski taking part in a project “From Stoczek to Broadway.” He was invited to that project by a class mate. A group of teenagers were making a musical about their town. Their show was a great success and a catalyst for more projects carried out under a few more rounds of “Equal Opportunities.” The young people shot a film promoting Stoczek Łukowski and organized an open-air street game. Paweł Walecki, who became a project coordinator after just one year, cherishes his memories of that musical; perhaps because it was then that he met a girl who is his wife now.

He graduated from the political science department at the Podlaska Academy in Siedlce and administration department at the Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw. He was the youngest member of the Stoczek Łukowski town council and then worked for the Ministry of Administration and Digitization.

He has served as the “Equal Opportunities” Program coordinator for the Polish Children and Youth Foundation since 2014. He is responsible for the Web site, social media, training, and monitoring. He visits almost 90 towns and villages every year to talk to project participants. “Young people are not very quick to take things into their own hands. My role is to help them realize they should believe in themselves,” Paweł Walecki stressed. But they grow more self-confident when they get more into the project implementation. When Paweł Walecki visits a place again after a time, sometimes he seems to meet totally different people. “They are happy about themselves. They say they found someone who conducted graphic workshops for them, helped them design a leaflet, then they asked three companies for a cost estimate and they successfully negotiated a considerable discount. They can give a full account on what they did because they realize it was their great success and they are proud of it. They are happy with their success and I am happy to have trusted them,” Paweł concluded.



Young people are not very quick to take things into their own hands. My role is to help them realize they should believe in themselves.

Paweł Walecki



ENGLISH TEACHING

The „International Language Tabletory” Won the European Language Label Award



We wanted to establish co-operation with the “street children” and work with them on-line to learn English together and learn about our different worlds.

Łukasz Rumiński,
the project coordinator

“International Language Tabletory,” a project of English teacher Łukasz Rumiński implemented as part of the “English Teaching” program, was distinguished by receiving the European Language Label Award 2016 - the European certificate of language teaching quality. The award is granted for innovative teaching techniques and promotion of methodological and didactic achievements.

Participants in the project were students of the John Paul II School Complex in Jamielnik and the Home of Hope center for street children in Zambia. The students are working on-line with tablets purchased for 10 of them: five from Poland and five from Zambia. An Internet access point was also installed in the Zambian establishment. “The idea of this project was proposed by my students when they learned about the phenomenon of African „street children” and the problems they have to grapple with. My junior high school students and I were given a lot of freedom to work without any rigid framework. We wanted to establish co-operation with the „street children” and work with them on-line to learn English together and learn about our different worlds” said project coordinator Łukasz Rumiński. The children use their tablets to make video clips, e-books, comic books, avatars, cross-word puzzles, educational games, presentations, vocabulary slips, mind maps, all those on-line thanks to an access to free tools.

The English Teaching Ambassador project was recognized by the competition committee for its innovative way of finding instruments previously unavailable to foreign language teaching and helping to better develop language communication skills of the students.

The Polish round of the European Language Label competition is organized by the Foundation for the Development of the Education System - the Polish National Agency of the Erasmus+ Program and the Ministry of National Education. The winners receive certificates signed by the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth and the Minister of National Education.



LEARNING SCHOOLS (LES)/SCHOOL WITH CLASS 2.0

Smart Guys From Wejherowo Learn About Professions

“Do you often think about the job you will have when you grow up?” - this is the question many teenagers are often asked. Fifth-graders from No. 11 Primary School in Wejherowo wanted to provide the best possible answer to this question so they took a closer look at the jobs of a fireman, police officer, computer programmer, vet, and physical recreation instructor, after which they made a guide book of occupations. Their teacher Weronika Adamska supported them in this work.

The project “Smart Guys From Wejherowo Learn About Professions” was carried out as part of the nation-wide “School with Class 2.0” campaign which celebrated its 15th anniversary last year. This initiative promotes the application of ITC technologies in the learning and teaching process.

“I’m proud of my pupils. They are self-reliant and enterprising. They managed to contact and organize meetings with representatives of various professions. All I had to do was just to give them support and advice”, Weronika Adamska stressed. The smart guys - as they call themselves - worked with great devotion and kept publishing the results of their meetings on their blog. They were strongly impressed by the work of police officers and firemen who are always on duty, even when on holiday. The students also found out that even a veterinarian’s work carries certain hazards. “You can be bitten by an animal during examination or vaccination”, the smart guys of Wejherowo explained. They also had good insight into the practical work of a sports instructor which can be seen in their enthusiastic comment on the blog. “Lots of sweating! But sweat comes together with power! It was worth it! We want more!”

The results of the project implemented by the teenagers from Wejherowo were presented at the National Festival of Open Education in Warsaw last June. They were among the most interesting projects from all over Poland. The “School with Class 2.0” campaign is a roll-out of the “School with Class” inspired and launched in 2002 by the “LES” program which was managed by the Center for Citizenship Education Foundation in collaboration with “Gazeta Wyborcza” daily. PAFF is the partner of this campaign.



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Weronika Adamska,
the teacher



PROJECTOR - STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Joanna Niemiec - „A Podkarpacie Volunteer” 2016



This award is a great distinction for me. But I do not feel I have achieved all I can. I want to keep marching on to face new challenges.

Joanna Niemiec
“A Podkarpacie Volunteer” 2016

A student of the Rzeszów University of Technology, Department of Chemical Technology, was the winner of the Podkarpacie Voluntary Service Gala 2016. The event has been regularly held since 2008 by the Inspiration Generator Foundation in collaboration with the Community Center in Rzeszów to present and sum up the “PROJECTOR - Student Volunteers” program in the Podkarpackie Province.

Joanna comes from a village, Maćkówka, and became a student volunteer in 2014. “It was a rare opportunity to stretch my wings, gain experience and skills which would be difficult to gain elsewhere. Carrying out educational projects in schools gives you enormous self-confidence. A volunteer is often a role model for children; an older friend and a teacher at the same time,” said Joanna.

Children and teenagers are fascinated with the chemical experiments she carries out for them. “The atmosphere of science picnics and energy emanating from the program participants persuaded me to go for it even more and start voluntary work.” Now, after a time, she said: “It was a good start. I could all the time rely on support and assistance from my more experienced colleagues.” As time passed, voluntary work became her way of life and workshops at schools became regular events recurring every week. In the past year, she also took part in the development path - “PROJECTOR Ambassadors” and ventured to organize events for university students.

Voluntary service gives her a development space and allows realization of her ideas. Her participation in the program was also an opportunity to implement her own three-month education project “Mathematics You’ve Never Seen Before”. “It cost me an enormous work, using all my team management skills, sticking to the time table and a lot of courage, too, of course. I could never manage to do it all without having practiced those skills earlier on with the children”, admitted.

“This award is a great distinction for me. But I do not feel I have achieved all I can. I want to keep marching on to face new challenges,” she said.



THE PAFF AND UW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Iwona Kołodziejek - Tutor at the PAFF and UW School of Education

She comes from Elbląg but chose to take philological studies in the most poetic city of Poland - Kraków. As a student, she took a job of a teacher at one of the Sociotherapeutic Day Care Centers of the Siemacha Association. "There I met children and teenagers whose difficult life experiences taught them to be skeptical about all the adults. I had to replace a wide range of theoretical knowledge from books with a simple code of rules - respect for respect, sincerity for sincerity. That was an important lesson which crystalized my understanding of the teacher's role," said Iwona Kołodziejczyk, explaining her experience. At that time she took an interest in psychological education and its possible applications in teaching the Polish language. After some serious research, she wrote a few publications, among them a book entitled „School Class - the Space of a Polish Teacher's Work“ (co-authored with Agnieszka Guzik, PhD.).

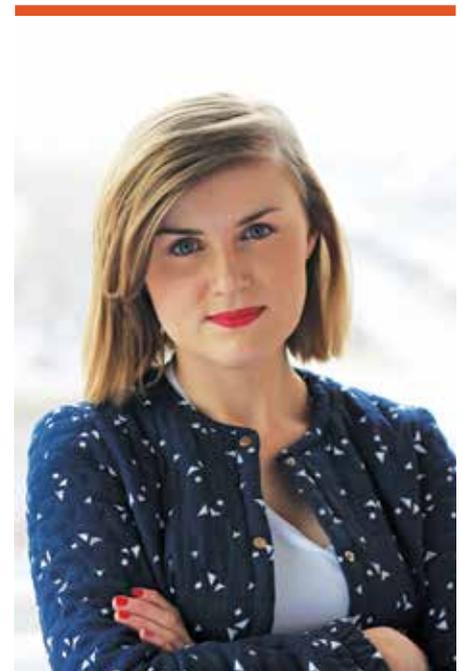
Having finished her MA studies at Jagiellonian University, she started doctoral studies and, at the same time, went to work as a school teacher. She developed her methods of a Polish teacher when working for a junior and senior high schools. "Most pupils I worked with had various types of behavioral disorders and were at risk of social maladjustment. Every lesson in the class was a challenge. I had to be very creative, open, and quite frequently clever. There were excellent and tragic moments, but it was never boring. This is why I loved that job," she said. She is now close to finishing her PhD thesis on teaching Polish to students threatened by social maladjustment.

While with the PAFF and UW School of Education, she uses her previous experience and develops her scientific interests - she is a tutor and lecturer of subjects associated with the upbringing role of school teachers. She continues her own development with a group of specialists in education under the supervision of experts from the Columbia University Teachers College. What she values most in the School of Education is the combination of academic reflection on teaching with school practice which is possible in collaboration with the Schools of Practices. "We do not divide the world into high schools and universities here. We focus on school students, their benefit determines all we are doing," she said. She dreams of improving the teaching methods and, at the same time, tries to find small but concrete solutions that can immediately improve things. The School of Education helps her to materialize these dreams.



We do not divide the world into high schools and universities here. We focus on school students; their benefit determines all we are doing.

Iwona Kołodziejek



THE “SENIORS IN ACTION” GRANT COMPETITION

„Stories From Hell (Piekło)”



We must remember all that is important and important things happen to all of us. It is also good to remember the unimportant, but to remember it, you must write it down first. And you can leave it to your grandchildren. Isn't that much?

—
Hanna Krall

A well-known Polish writer and journalist, Hanna Krall, said: “We must remember all that is important and important things happen to all of us. It is also good to remember the unimportant, but to remember it, you must write it down first. And you can leave it to your grandchildren. Isn't that much?” This idea guided Ewa Andrzejewska of the association “Maryan”, the author of “Map of Hell (Piekło)” project carried out in 2016 as part of the “Seniors in Action” competition.

She and a group of elderly residents of Nowy Sącz's once Jewish quarter called Piekło (Hell in Polish) she collects memorabilia and writes the story of this part of the town. “In early 20th century, it was a suburb populated by Poles, Jews, people of other creeds, tramps, and petty criminals. Also artisans, bakers, tailors,” said Ewa Andrzejewska who tries to reach the oldest people who can remember those times. “I wasn't sure if anyone would show up at our meeting. All those who turned up were strangers to me. Seniors do not use the Internet very often, so we put up posters on local shops, in medical centers, and we were also helped by voluntary workers.”

But the initiative was welcomed and became very popular among the oldest residents of the Piekło district. More than 60 seniors took part in the meetings organized by the author of this project. Their memories were brought to light when they looked at old photographs. They drew a map showing the old boundaries of their district. In that map, they marked many sites where buildings, shops, factories, artisan workshops and restaurants used to be a long time ago but did not survive. Then, they added a map of memories. All those bits of history made up a larger picture of the local daily life as it was in the 1930s and 1940s. One of the results of this project was a photo exhibition staged at Lwowska Street in Nowy Sącz. The participants of the project, the oldest residents of the Piekło district, are now proud of their own history and the fact that they have been noticed and appreciated.

The author of the project is now planning to write a book with memories of those people and she is going to encourage school teachers to use this “spoken history” of the Piekło district in their daily history classes at school. And she wants to organize a local public museum devoted to that district. “It would also be a place where people could have occasional meetings as a form of giving thanks to the seniors for their fascinating stories from the past,” Ewa Andrzejewska said.



ACT LOCALLY

The FIMANGO Local Advisors School

This initiative, which takes advantage of the experience of two PAFF programs: “Act Locally” and “Financial Management for NGOs” (FIMANGO), was launched in 2016.

Its aim is to improve the finance management competence of members of the Act Locally Centers (ALC) and - with their help - build a network of Local FIMANGO Consultants who will provide advisory and training services to non-governmental organizations in their regions.

On a daily basis, the Act Locally Centers collaborate with the program beneficiaries who often ask for assistance in solving difficult finance and accounting questions. “Their activity boosted by participation in the training, helped a dozen local organizations cope with their problems,” said Lucyna Pawlus who represents the Śnieżnik Massif Local Fund - Act Locally Centre in the Dolnośląskie Province.

Participants of the FIMANGO Local Advisors School attended an intensive round of workshops and training sessions, did practical classes with experienced consultants, and obtained access to legal software, tools, and publications. They can also get individual support from experts of the Civil Society Development Foundation which implements the project “Financial Management in Non-governmental Organizations.” Representatives of the ALC point out to the benefits of attending that type of training: “We have gained new competencies which translate into new offers for organizations we collaborate with,” commented Ewa Misiaczyk of the Act Locally Center in Gostyń (Wielkopolskie Province).

The first, pilot-scale round of the FIMANGO Local Advisors School offered two paths: accounting and financial/legal which were attended by 24 representatives of the Act Locally Centers.



We have gained new competences which translate into new offers for organizations we collaborate with.

Ewa Misiaczyk,
the Act Locally Center in Gostyń



PAFF LEADERS

Karolina Suska - a Public Activist and a Passionate Leader



I'd been interested in that program for several years, I watched the further fates of those who'd been in it. Eventually, I took the challenge and I am now part of that initiative.

Karolina Suska

"I am an activist in rural areas, fascinated with working for local communities," this is how a woman who took part in the 10th round of the "PAFF Leaders" program describes herself.

Karolina Suska graduated from the Sociology Department at Jagiellonian University. She is the manager of the Municipal Library and Culture Center in Łaziska (Lubelskie Province) as well as a trainer in soft competencies and an educator.

In 2016, she took part in a study tour of PAFF Leaders to the United States which was devoted to social integration of a diversified community. During the visit, organized jointly by the International Visitor Leadership Program and the U.S. Embassy in Poland, she took part in a number of meetings with members of various American organizations and institutions in Washington, Detroit, New York, and Philadelphia. "I came back with loads of inspiration and a message: 'Fear not! More diversity!'," said the PAFF Leader. She has turned words into facts by taking an active part in the work for multiculturalism, tolerance, and prevention of refugees' marginalization. She has organized many local meetings with female immigrants and refugees. "I want the fact that someone is 'different' to stop causing fear among our community. I encourage participants of my meetings to get familiar with 'the unknown'," Karolina explains.

Her contact with the "PAFF Leaders" Program dates back to 2014. "I'd been interested in that program for several years; I watched the fates of those who'd been in it. Eventually, I took the challenge and I am now part of that initiative," she said. Owing to the program, she expanded her knowledge and competence as a leader and established lots of fascinating contacts. "I got inspiration which enabled me to come back to my local world and employ that competence there," she says.

In 2016, she won the all-Poland Olga Rok Scholarship which is granted to women who consider library their special place. The list of her successes includes the title of "Active Woman of Lubelszczyzna" and the "Person of the Year of the Opole County." Each of these distinctions is closely related to her daily work. In the future, she wants to build informed local community, mobilize people to take up initiative, and do more for women living in rural areas.



PAFF LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

“Wielka Wieś Mission - Low Emission!”

The problem of air pollution troubles many Polish towns and villages, among them the Wielka Wieś (Big Village) outside Kraków. Concerned with the impact of burning litter in home stoves, the villagers joined forces under the “PAFF Local Partnerships” Program and implemented an educational project to improve smog awareness. They formed an initiative group of six institutions (involved in different PAFF programs) led by the “Sokolica” Association of the Będkowice Land Lovers.

“Clean air is our most precious common good. We must take care of it. The quality of our lives depends on it,” said one of the project participants. Because negligence and ignorance, but also indifference are the main source of smog, the partnership carried out an educational campaign inaugurated with an Ecological Family Picnic “Go Green” which included a demonstration of stove firing techniques. The picnic participants were also familiarized with the selected aspects of ecological and economical burning of solid fuels. A number of open meetings with experts in different fields were held at the beginning of the heating season last autumn. Power experts advised how to heat the house in an economical and environment friendly way and medical doctors explained the damage to human health done by smog. Smog workshops are held at all schools in the municipality. Their result, called “clean dailies,” carry pupils’ works and reports on the problems of atmospheric air pollution. Seven Local Clean Volunteer Circles were established at the schools to work for the cause of clean air and environment. This initiative is implemented by 120 volunteers.

Support provided by lecturers from the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków helped set up a local air monitoring network. Using pre-fabricated sub-assemblies, the young people built smog sensors and deployed them on public buildings as a source of on-going information on air quality.

The commitment of various circles and co-operation of many local organizations, institutions, and local authorities was an unquestionable success of the project - such a synergy of efforts can change the attitudes of local communities very efficiently and turn them into active participants of municipal life.



Clean air is our most precious common good. We must take care of it. The quality of our lives depends on it.

A participant in the “Wielka Wieś Mission - Low Emission!” project



ICT FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT - SECTOR 3.0

Niepełnosprawnik.pl Wins the “PAFF ICT for Local Development - Sector 3.0” Award



The disabled want to be independent and independently plan all their activities. To meet their needs, we have designed Niepełnosprawnik.pl - a search engine which finds places accessible to people with various types of disability.

Małgorzata Peretiakowicz,
member of the TUS Foundation
Management Board

The “PAFF ICT for Local Development - Sector 3.0” Program award was invented to distinguish Polish non-governmental organizations with significant attainments in using ICT for promotion, research, or educational projects designed to serve the people.

The winner of the 2016 award is the TUS Foundation which proposed an exceptional tool: Niepełnosprawnik.pl. “The disabled want to be independent and independently plan all their activities. To meet their needs, we have designed Niepełnosprawnik.pl - a search engine which finds places accessible to people with various types of disability: deaf or with impaired hearing, blind or with impaired vision, physically disabled, or mentally retarded,” said member of the TUS Foundation Management Board Małgorzata Peretiakowicz.

Niepełnosprawnik.pl is the only search engine of that type in Poland. Its users will find here more than 12,000 places accessible to the disabled living in more than 50 towns. Audits (building measurements) are done by a number of two-person teams who evaluate the buildings according to the detailed standards of the law and the general construction rules. The auditors visit car parks, shops, cinemas, restaurants, libraries, beauty parlors, banks, schools, hotels, tailors, and other places frequented by people in their daily life. Pages in the Niepełnosprawnik.pl are clear and intuitive, reading its contents does not require multiple and precise clicking. And they offer convenient shortcuts which help to check out any of those places.

The winners are selected by the Chapter made of representatives of various circles, among them the third sector, business, science, and mass media. The award was given at the nation-wide “Sector 3.0” Conference in Warsaw last May. The winner received a grant of PLN 40,000 from the Polish-American Freedom Foundation.



THE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Tablets in the Gorlice Library

Towards the end of 2015, the Stanisław Gabryel Municipal Public Library in Gorlice (Małopolskie Province) was invited to participate in a pilot-scale project conducted under the Library Development Program which distributed advanced tablets to more than 300 libraries. The library in Gorlice spent three months testing the new devices in class work with children and teenagers and documenting events taking place in the library.

The librarians were interested in tablets as potential instruments of designing their cultural and educational proposals and making them more attractive. "Our educational offer has been enriched. Tablets allow us to make full use of the creative potential of small children and youth. Their interfaces are intuitive and applications, such as Garage Band, Gniezno 3D, and iMovie are the unchallenged favorites of the youngest readers visiting our library," says Bartłomiej Kiełtyka who works for the Gorlice library. Whenever the tablets are not used for educational classes, they are freely accessible to any other visitor of the Gorlice library who wants to do some Web surfing, listen to music, watch some films, or read an e-book.

The use of tablets brought about a new innovation in the library. Owing to its participation in the grant competition, which is a continuation of the "Tablets in Your Library" project organized by PAFF and the Information Society Development Foundation, the library is the first public institution equipped with a 3D printer which fascinates young people with passion for programming and robotics who meet in their MBP Coding Club established last year in Gorlice. "The 3D printer, tablets, robots, programming, and all other things they offer have attracted to that library new young readers familiar with advanced technologies and expecting public institutions to keep pace with the spirit of time," Director of the Gorlice library Joanna Kalisz-Dziki concludes.



Our educational offer has been enriched. Tablets allow us to make full use of the creative potential of small children and youth. Their interfaces are intuitive.

—
Bartłomiej Kiełtyka,
the librarian



THE WARSAW EURO-ATLANTIC SUMMER ACADEMY (WEASA)

Madeleine Albright Attends the 4th Edition of WEASA



WEASA is an important and necessary initiative for the Eastern Partnership and for the trans-Atlantic relations and European integration.”

—
Madeleine Albright

The 4th edition of the Warsaw Euro-Atlantic Summer Academy (WEASA) was held in July 2016 as a joint event of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, the College of Europe - Natolin Campus, and the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Madeleine Albright, U.S. Secretary of State in 1997-2001, who was the special guest of the Warsaw Euro-Atlantic Summer Academy, shared her unparalleled knowledge and experience with those present at the meeting. “WEASA is an important and necessary initiative for the Eastern Partnership and for the trans-Atlantic relations and European integration,” the former U.S. Secretary of State said.

In 2016, the workshops and lectures held at the Warsaw Euro-Atlantic Summer Academy as a continuation of previous rounds, focused on four main topics related to politics and regional development, but above all on security of the region and crisis management, as well as economic development, trans-border co-operation, and regional relations with special emphasis on the role of local leaders.

Forty-five participants from six countries of the Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine took part in the Academy last year. They spent two weeks at workshops and lectures delivered by leading experts in particular fields, among them: Professor Leszek Balcerowicz, former President of the National Bank of Poland, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; Paweł Choraży, Under-secretary of State at the Ministry of Development; David J. Kramer, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Paweł Kowal, PhD, former Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Karen Donfried, PhD, President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The WEASA participants also took part in a study tour to Lublin where they met with Mayor Krzysztof Żuk and visited the Science and Technology Park.



STUDY TOURS TO POLAND (STP)

Ukrainian Local-Government Officials Visit Radom

The methodology of managing a town, social dialogue, ways of supporting economic development, the functioning of economic zones, and participatory budgeting - these were the topics discussed at the study visit paid to Radom by representatives of 13 Ukrainian towns in December 2016 as part of the "Study Tours to Poland" Program.

Study tours to Poland provide an opportunity to familiarize visitors with the Polish experience in democratic and market transition, the strengthening of local communities, and public initiative. "Ukraine is now implementing its local-government reform and it is our priority. This is why we are trying to understand the Polish experience. The local government bodies in this country are independent; they operate on their own account and responsibility, they have money for it, and their budgeting is done on a bottom-up basis. It is also important that Polish municipalities can influence economic development," said Director of the International Co-operation Department of the Ivano-Frankovsk District Dmytro Romaniuk. "We are highly interested in issues related to the safety and security of local communities, for instance, city monitoring and functioning of health care system. We have come to Radom for only one day but we are now sure we must come back in a larger group to discuss many different solutions," Deputy Mayor of Vinnitsa Vladyslaw Skalsky added.

The Ukrainian visitors met with representatives of Radom local government and went on a round of the Special Economic Zone and they were informed about investment projects carried out as part of the Radom Participatory Budgeting. „We advise our guests to mobilize their residents to get involved in local government and develop co-operation with NGOs. We are keen on sharing our experience with others and at the same time learn more about each other. In the future this may lead to collaboration in many different areas," Director of Radom Mayor's Chancellery Mateusz Tyczyński concluded.



Ukraine is now implementing its local-government reform and it is our priority. This is why we are trying to understand the Polish experience.

Dmytro Romaniuk,
Director of the International Co-operation
Department of the Ivano-Frankovsk District



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, 2016, 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, 2016, 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 28, 2017



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2016

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

ASSETS

ASSETS:

Investments, at fair value (Notes 3 and 5):

Common and Preferred Stocks	\$ 50,812,588
Public Mutual Funds - Equity	50,161,124
Fixed Income Securities	14,793,262
Public Mutual Fund - Fixed Income	721,230
Alternative Investments	98,981,448
Private Mutual Fund - Equity	23,410,716
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 3 and 5)	13,816,340
Investment redemptions receivable	64,277
Land and fixed assets, net (Note 6)	4,536,801
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses of \$374,980 (Note 7)	3,657,149
Prepaid expenses and other assets	<u>57,882</u>

Total assets	<u>\$ 261,012,817</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:

Grants payable (Note 3)	\$ 3,919,178
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>231,022</u>
Total liabilities	4,150,200

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 2)	<u>256,862,617</u>
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Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 261,012,817</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	<u>Unrestricted</u>
Changes in net assets:	
Income:	
Interest and dividend income	\$ 1,845,939
Donation-In-Kind	23,491
Total Income and Donation	<u>1,869,430</u>
Expenses:	
Employee compensation and benefits	1,226,807
Operating expenses	932,665
Occupancy	96,559
Depreciation and amortization	176,708
Total operating expenses	<u>2,432,739</u>
Grants (Note 3)	<u>(8,014,928)</u>
Grants and expenses in excess of income	(8,578,237)
Net realized gain on investments (Note 5)	6,480,027
Net unrealized appreciation on investments (Note 5)	6,265,370
Net currency remeasurement loss (Note 3)	<u>(1,510,722)</u>
Total increase in net assets	2,656,438
Net assets, beginning of the year	<u>254,206,179</u>
Net assets, end of the year	<u>\$ 256,862,617</u>

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

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Increase in net assets	\$ 2,656,438
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Net realized gain on investments	(6,480,027)
Net unrealized appreciation on investments	(6,265,370)
Net currency remeasurement loss	1,510,722
Provision for loan losses	238,800
Depreciation and amortization	176,708
Donation-In-Kind	(23,491)
Increase in accrued interest on loans	(45,257)
Decrease in accrued interest on investments	25,785
Decrease in prepaid expenses	25,007
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(36,822)
Decrease in grants payable	(1,677,931)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(9,895,438)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Proceeds from sales/redemption of investments	47,124,210
Cost of investments purchased	(72,631,111)
Loans disbursed	(4,282,348)
Proceeds from loan repayments	3,389,252
Purchase of fixed assets	(32,613)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(26,432,610)</u>
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	<u>(1,023,868)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(37,351,916)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>51,168,256</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 13,816,340</u>

The Foundation sold \$64,277 of investments in 2016 that increased investment redemptions receivable by the same amount, resulting from a corresponding decrease to investments, at fair value, in the alternative investment category.

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

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements as of December 31, 2016

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-Amerykanski Fundusz Pozyczkowy 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 (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, 2016, the entire balance of net assets was classified as unrestricted. Unrestricted net assets are those net assets that are not restricted by donor imposed stipulations.

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 5 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 price in an active market 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.

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, 2016, the total fees paid to all Polish directors and the Chairman amounted to \$72,143.

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, expenses for travel, lodging and meals incurred in connection with the Corporation's operations, administrative expenses 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, 2016, 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 May 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-7, Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or its equivalent). ASU 2015-7 amends the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements, for investments whose value is measured using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient. The amendments remove the requirement to categorize within the fair value hierarchy all investments for which fair value is measured using the NAV per share practical expedient, and also remove the requirements to make certain disclosures for all investments that are eligible to be measured at fair value using the NAV per share practical expedient. The impact of ASU 2015-7 to the Corporation is to re-categorize alternative investments and private mutual fund - equity from level 3 and level 2 in the fair value hierarchy, respectively, to investments measured at net asset value in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position. ASU 2015-7 is required to be implemented by the Corporation for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016. Early adoption is permitted and the Corporation has adopted ASU 2015-7 effective January 1, 2016.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-14, Presentation of Financial Statements of 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, and, (e) report investment return net of external and direct internal investment expenses and no longer require disclosure of those netted expenses. ASU 2016-14 is required to be implemented by the Corporation for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. Early adoption is permitted 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. 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, 2016 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	\$ 27,851,414	\$ 50,812,588	\$ 22,961,174
Public Mutual Funds - Equity	48,394,249	50,161,124	1,766,875
Fixed Income Securities	16,044,995	14,793,262	(1,251,733)
Public Mutual Fund - Fixed Income	731,890	721,230	(10,660)
Investments Measured at NAV:			
Alternative Investments	84,594,998	98,981,448	14,386,450
Private Mutual Fund - Equity	15,000,606	23,410,716	8,410,110
	<u>\$ 192,618,152</u>	<u>\$ 238,880,368</u>	<u>\$ 46,262,216</u>

The net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) and net realized gain on investments for the year-ended December 31, 2016 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	\$ (1,824,970)	\$ 4,430,942
Public Mutual Funds - Equity	1,962,752	1,579,516
Fixed Income Securities	(123,017)	(142,288)
Public Mutual Fund - Fixed Income	4,548	717
Investments Measured at NAV:		
Alternative Investments	4,710,559	611,140
Private Mutual Fund - Equity	1,535,498	-
	<u>\$ 6,265,370</u>	<u>\$ 6,480,027</u>

Set forth in the table below are the Corporation's investments as of December 31, 2016, 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	\$ 50,812,588	\$ -	\$ 50,812,588
Public Mutual Funds - Equity	50,161,124	-	50,161,124
Fixed Income Securities	14,793,262	-	14,793,262
Public Mutual Fund - Fixed Income	721,230	-	721,230
Investments Measured at NAV:			
Alternative Investments	-	98,981,448	98,981,448
Private Mutual Fund - Equity	-	23,410,716	23,410,716
	<u>\$ 116,488,204</u>	<u>\$ 122,392,164</u>	<u>\$ 238,880,368</u>
% of total	48,8%	51,2%	100,0%

Included in the amount reported as interest and dividend income in the consolidated statement of activities is approximately \$0.4 million that represents amounts distributed from the Corporation's various mutual fund investments as dividend income.

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, 2016:

	Fair Value	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Alternative Investments:			
Multi-strategy	\$ 39,645,849	See note.	45-65 days (a)
Emerging markets	14,200,418	Monthly	20-60 days (b)
Long/short equity	23,510,039	See note.	30-90 days (c)
Long Only	15,417,917	See note.	30-45 days (d)
Private equity	6,207,225	Not able to redeem	Not applicable (e)
	<u>98,981,448</u>		
Private Mutual Fund - Equity:			
International	23,410,716	Monthly	10 business days (f)
	<u>\$ 122,392,164</u>		

Note: 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, 2016.

- (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 North America, Europe and Asia (99% of this category). 57% of the investments in this category is redeemable monthly and the remainder cannot be redeemed currently because the investments funds require full redemptions over periods of up to one year. The percentages of investments in this category that cannot be redeemed currently are as follows: (a) 22%, which can be redeemed over four consecutive quarters, (b) 19%, which cannot be redeemed until after 12/31/17, and (c) 2%, which do not provide for redemptions as distributions are expected to be made as the underlying assets are sold by the fund. Due to the redemption restrictions, 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 two alternative investment funds that pursue a long-only strategy for investment in emerging markets. One of the funds representing 54% of this category invests solely in the Asia Pacific region excluding Japan, primarily in emerging markets, but may invest in Australia or New Zealand. The other fund representing 46% of this category invests in small/mid cap emerging markets equities.
- (c) *Long/short equity*: This category includes alternative investment funds that pursue long/short equity strategies, with a focus on investment in global companies, value equities and equities focused on technology, media and communications, with exposure to opportunistic credit and distressed debt. The percentages of investments in this category that cannot be redeemed currently are as follows: (a) 32%, which can be redeemed every three years beginning December 31, 2019, (b) 35%, which can be redeemed quarterly beginning March 31, 2018, and (c) 32%, 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. 64% of the investments in this category are redeemable monthly and the balance can be redeemed quarterly beginning September 30, 2017.
- (e) *Private equity*: This category is comprised of (a) 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, 2016, the Foundation's remaining commitment to both funds was a total of \$4.1 million, and (b) an investment in a private equity fund that invests in expansion and growth-stage healthcare investments primarily in the specialty pharmaceuticals, medical technologies and healthcare services sectors; the Corporation has committed to invest \$4.0 million to this fund and, at December 31, 2016, the Foundation's remaining commitment to this fund was a total of \$3.2 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 two years), which is in 2022 for the first energy fund, 2025 for the second energy fund and 2025 for the healthcare 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 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 markets. Redemptions may be made monthly.

6. LAND AND FIXED ASSETS

As of December 31, 2016, land and fixed assets consisted of:

Land	1,913,359
Land improvements	174,158
Building	2,769,692
Computer equipment and software	137,772
Furniture and equipment	274,146
Automobiles	70,391
	<u>5,339,518</u>
Less - Accumulated depreciation and amortization	802,717
Net book value	<u>\$ 4,536,801</u>

7. 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, 2016 were as follows:

Beginning balance	\$ 332,993
Additional provision charged to operations	238,800
Recoveries of loans previously provided for in allowance for loan losses	(13,951)
Loans written-off	(170,014)
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(12,848)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 374,980</u>

8. COMMITMENTS

As of December 31, 2016, the Corporation had approved 16 programs totaling \$14.4 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, 2016 the Corporation signed grant agreements for these approved programs in the total amount of \$8.8 million.

9. 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, 2016, PAFPIO incurred \$29,512 of income tax expense, which is included in operating expenses in the consolidated statement of activities.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Corporation has evaluated subsequent events through April 28, 2016, 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, 2016.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* as of June 2017

ANDREW NAGORSKI - CHAIRMAN

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

JOHN P. BIRKELUND - *Chairman until May 2012, currently: Chairman Emeritus*

Senior Advisor Saratoga Partners, former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund

MAREK BELKA (*until June 2010*)

Former Prime Minister of Poland, former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Commission for Europe, former Director of the European Department of the International Monetary Fund, President of the National Bank of Poland

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

FREDERICK M. BOHEN

Former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, The Rockefeller University

MICHAŁ BONI (*until January 2008*)

Member of the European Parliament, former Minister of Administration and Digitization, former Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Labor Market and Social Policy Expert

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZIŃSKI

Former National Security Advisor to the U.S. President, Counselor and Trustee at the Washington Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), former Director of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund

ROBERT G. FARIS - *until November 2015, currently: Director Emeritus*

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Enterprise Investors Corporation, Director, former President & Chief Executive Officer of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund

ANNA FORNALCZYK

Former President of the Polish Office for Competition and Consumer Protection

CHRISTOPHER HILL

Dean, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, 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, head of the US delegation to the 6 party talks on North Korean denuclearization

GEOFFREY HOGUET

Managing Member, GRH Holdings, LLC

ALEKSANDER KOJ

Professor at the Molecular Biology Institute at the Jagiellonian University, former Rector of the Jagiellonian University

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

NICHOLAS A. REY

Former U.S. Ambassador to Poland, Director of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund

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

PAUL W. JONES

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

* as of June 2017

President and Chief Executive Officer
JERZY KOŹMIŃSKI

Head of the Representative Office
GRZEGORZ JĘDRYS

Program Directors:
RADOSŁAW JASIŃSKI
RENATA KOŹLICKA-GLIŃSKA
KATARZYNA MANISZEWSKA
JOANNA LEMPART-WINNICKA

Program Officers:
MIROSŁAW CZYŻEWSKI
AGNIESZKA MAZUR
KATARZYNA ŚWIĄTKIEWICZ

Chief Accountant
AGNIESZKA KWIATKOWSKA

Programs' Financial Controller
MIRA OSIECKA

Public Relations Specialist
PRZEMYSŁAW ZAROŃ

Program Coordinator
KALINA GRZESZUK-ZAJĄCZKOWSKA

Accounting
GRAŻYNA SKRZYPIEC

Assistants / Administration:
JOANNA RECHNIO
JUSTYNA FLORCZAK
KAROLINA JOCZ
TOMASZ WOJCIECHOWSKI

Treasurer and Chief
Financial Officer
Secretary to the Board
of Directors
NORMAN E. HASLUN III

Senior Consultant
C. DOUGLAS ADES

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