

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Dear Members,

We will soon celebrate Christmas and ring in the New Year. I am sure that for most of you, as well as for our institution, it was a year of much success and many achievements. However, during the holiday season we cannot forget about people who have experienced many worries and problems in life, especially health problems.

For the fourth year now, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union and New York's Children's Smile Foundation are organizing a charity drive for children's hospices in Poland and to help underprivileged children in the United States. We are honored that one of the hospices has once again been designated by Poland's First Lady, Ms. Agata Kornhauser-Duda. Over the previous three years we were successful in raising and donating nearly \$400,000 thanks to your generosity. I believe this year's campaign will yield equally impressive results.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention the wonderful initiative of our Credit Union employees and volunteers, who every year for eleven years now have been collecting Christmas presents for children from selected orphanages in Poland. This year in the campaign we donated Christmas gifts purchased by our Credit Union employees and volunteers to 47 Polish children at a children's home in Lviv, Ukraine. Personally, I am very grateful to our employees and volunteers, who thus



demonstrate that they are professionals in their fields every day at work as well as being open-hearted people.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, I would like to wish you a joyful, healthy and peaceful Christmas

and may your dreams come true in the New Year of 2018.

Sincerely,

Krzysztof Matyszczyk
Chairman of the PSFCU Board of Directors

Christmas Charity Drive



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Young patients of the Silesian Hospice for Children Foundation in Tychy

We sincerely invite you to participate in the annual Children's Holiday Smile charity drive. The purpose of this event organized together with the Children's Smile Foundation is to raise funds to help underprivileged children in the United States and three selected hospices for children located in Poland.

The Children's Smile Foundation has opened four separate accounts at PSFCU for your donations:

- Children's Smile Foundation (PSFCU account no. 1337946): all funds will be allocated to the costs of treatment for children from Polish families in the United States;
- Silesian Hospice for Children Foundation in Tychy (PSFCU account no. 1337958): the first palliative care complex in Silesia exclusively for children. The facility is recommended by Poland's First Lady, Ms. Agata Kornhauser-Duda;

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PSFCU In Numbers

information as of October 31, 2017

Assets

\$1,851,120,427

Loans

\$1,048,929,392

Net Worth

\$178,823,390

Number of Members

92,633

Merry Christmas

WE WISH YOU A PEACEFUL AND JOYFUL

CHRISTMAS

AND FINANCIAL SUCCESS IN THE NEW YEAR!



...Christmas Charity Drive

- The Little Prince Hospice for Children in Lublin (PSFCU account no. 1337952): the only in-home and inpatient children's hospice in southeast Poland.

- The Warsaw Children's Hospice Foundation (PSFCU account no. 1337961): an in-home palliative care institution for incurably ill children in Warsaw and the environs.

To make a donation, please complete the coupon available at PSFCU branches or online at www.psfcu.com and leave it with a teller at any branch of our Credit Union. Donations may also be made via funds transfer between accounts using Online Banking or the PSFCU Mobile Banking application. The campaign began the Friday

after Thanksgiving and will last through the end of the year.

This is the fourth edition of the joint fundraiser of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union and New York's Children's Smile Foundation. "It has become a tradition for our Credit Union members and employees to raise money for sick children in the United States and Poland in the time before Christmas. In three years we have been successful in raising almost \$400,000," said PSFCU Chief Executive Officer Bogdan Chmielewski.

In that time, the following facilities have received support under the Child's Christmas Smile campaign: the Children's Hospice in

Rzeszow, the "Help Them" Hospice in Bialystok, the "Alma Spei" Children's Hospice in Krakow, The "Gaius" Hospice in Lodz, The Rev. Jozef Tischner Memorial Hospice in Krakow and the Blessed Rev. Michal Sopocko Hospice in Vilnius. And it is important to note that the PSFCU does not charge any fees for the fundraiser, so that 100% of the funds collected will go into the accounts indicated.



Our Credit Union on Polish Independence Day



Ceremony of the Independence Day of Poland at the residence of the Republic of Poland Ambassador in Washington, DC

November 11th is traditionally celebrated as Poland's Independence Day. Representatives of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union were present at every important observance of the 99th anniversary of Poland's reemergence on the world map.

As always, the Polish community commemorated the event on this year's 99th anniversary of Poland's regaining of independence on November 11, 1918. Events held by local governments and Polish diplomatic posts were attended by great numbers of Polish people. And of course the representatives of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union were among them.

Our Credit Union was a sponsor of the reception hosted by Poland's Ambassador Prof. Piotr Wilczek in Washington, DC. It was attended by several hundred guests from the US Capital's political and diploma-

tic elite. In his letter of thanks to the PSFCU Board of Directors, Ambassador Wilczek wrote that thanks to the support of the PSFCU "the observance, whose guest of honor was Polish Senator Anna Maria Anders, was very impressive and contributed to the strengthening of transatlantic ties and the promotion of Poland in the United States".

The gala banquet held on Independence Day by Polish Consul General Piotr Janicki in Chicago was attended by the PSFCU Midwest Branch Managers: Norridge - Katarzyna Kwaterkiewicz, Mt. Prospect - Anna Mscisz, and Bridgeview - Jolanta Wisnicki.

On November 18th, Poland's Independence Day was celebrated by the government of Bergen County, New Jersey. As every year, a special ceremony was held in

Hackensack, New Jersey, including the raising of white and red flag of Poland. During the observance, leading representatives of the Polish community received special awards from the county government. "Over 60,000 Americans of Polish descent live in Bergen County. Poles are true leaders in the fields of education, business and law enforcement", said Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III.

A similar ceremony celebrating the Polish Heritage Month was held in October at the Queens Borough Hall in New York. It was attended by the Borough of Queens President Melinda Katz and Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, Maciej Golubiewski.



PSFCU representatives with Consul General in Chicago Piotr Janicki

Scholarship Programs for the Young and Gifted



This year marks the 18th time that the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union Scholarship Program is being launched. It is an opportunity for financial support for young and ambitious members of our Credit Union who are pursuing a higher education in the United States.

As in previous years, the PSFCU Scholarship Program consists of several components. High school seniors can apply for financial support until January 5, 2018. This part of the PSFCU program is implemented under the auspices of the New York Credit Union Association (NYCUA), an organization made up of 600 credit unions. To receive financial support, applicants must be members of our Credit Union (primary account holders) and must be starting a two- or four-year study program at an accredited institution of higher education in the autumn of 2018. They must fill out an application form (available at all PSFCU branches or at www.psfcu.com), write the required essay and obtain the required transcripts (an

official transcript listing their grade point average (GPA) for grades 9 through 11 and a transcript of their SAT/PSAT/ACT test from their high school), and get the signatures of their parents or legal guardians.

Applications must be submitted at a PSFCU branch in order to verify membership, no later than January 5, 2018. After verification, all eligible applications will be sent to the NYCUA. Winners will be announced in May 2018. For more information, please send an e-mail to: scholarships@psfcu.net or contact Ms. Ewa Kotulska, Marketing Specialist at 973-808-3240, ext. 6133.

Later in the year we will notify members of recruitment for the Scholarship Program for College Students. As in 2017, the PSFCU and the Chancellery of the President of Poland, Mr. Andrzej Duda, will organize a Presidential scholarship comprizins a study tour of Poland for eligible students who are members of our Credit Union.

As every year, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union will feature a scholarship for the "PSFCU Rising Star". This scholarship is offered to students who will continue their full-time or evening studies in 2017/2018 and is awarded for "the candidate's exceptional achievements in science, sports, music, art, leadership or a special talent", documented at the national or international level. To date, the "PSFCU Rising Star" scholarship has been awarded to swimmer Michal Domagala, and Monica Aksamit, winner of the bronze medal in women's fencing at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio

de Janeiro.

Since its inception in 2001, we have allocated more than \$4,000,000 to the Scholarship Program, rewarding nearly 3,500 young and talented members of our Credit Union. With this support, our young members can study at prestigious schools such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Stanford, Princeton, New York University or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Credit Union's Scholarship Program is just one example of how we help Polish immigrants achieve their "American dreams".

Former winners of the PSFCU Scholarship Program on the benefits of participation in the program:

"I highly recommend the PSCFU's Presidential scholarship program because it is an invaluable opportunity to discover Poland and obtain contacts in business, politics and culture. The program allows you to see the success of Poland and the Poles following 1989 and shows you that the determination thst existed during the struggle for independence is still there." Bart Bagniewski of Jersey City, NJ (2017 scholarship winner)

"The PSFCU scholarship helped me focus on my education and graduate with honors. Thanks to that, I am now enjoying a career in market research and my own company, Apolonia. I urge everyone to apply for this great program." Anna Lakomy of New York (2010 scholarship winner)

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SMILE



Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, together with the Children's Smile Foundation, invite you to take part in our joint Holiday charity drive. Its goal is to raise funds to assist nderprivileged children in the US and at three selected hospices for children in Poland. The Children's Smile Foundation opened 4 separate deposit accounts at our Credit Union where funds may be deposited. **We will greatly appreciate any donated amount.**

- Children's Smile Foundation - account No. 1337946
- The Little Prince Hospice for Children in Lublin - account No. 1337952
- Silesian Hospice for Children Foundation in Tychy - account No. 1337958
- The Warsaw Hospice for Children Foundation - account No. 1337961



Donations may be deposited by way of account-to-account transfers using PSFCU Online Banking or Mobile Banking app (when making the transfer, enter Children's Smile Foundation in the 'Last name' field.).

Donations may be deposited between November 24 and December 31, 2017. Children's Smile Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and is not affiliated with PSFCU. Deposited donations may be tax deductibe - please consult your tax advisor.

What's Happening at our Credit Union



Become a Santa Claus

The presents are all packed and ready to be shipped. Our annual "Become a Santa Claus" campaign is over. This year, PSFCU employees and volunteers collected presents for 47 Polish children from an orphanage in Lviv, Ukraine. Since 2006, when we started the campaign, our Credit Union employees have collected gifts for 627 children at orphanages in Chociule, Cieszyn, Debica, Golanka Dolna, Jawor, Kąty Wrocławskie, Krasne, Stalowa Wola, Tuchola, Walbrzych, Bielsk Podlaski, Zambrow and Lomza.

PSFCU at a Dictation Competition

On October 29, residents of Chicago took part in the traditional "2017 Chicago Dictation Competition" organized by the Polish Teachers' Association of America. The winner of first place was presented with a cash prize of \$500, sponsored by the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, by Bozena Bielecka, Manager of the PSFCU

branch in Schaumburg, IL.

Apples at PSFCU Branches

On two Saturdays in October, we gave out apples at all 17 PSFCU branches. Our Credit Union members were able to enjoy fresh fruit from local orchards. Altogether, we distributed 120 crates of apples weigh-

ing a total of 4,800 pounds.

PSFCU at Schools

November at Polish Supplementary Schools in the United States is a time of first-grader welcomes and pledges. PSFCU branch employees in New York, New Jersey and the Chicago area attended many such events. Visits to Polish Supplementary Schools during lessons are a regular part of our personnel work. Our Credit Union supports the education of Polish children by funding theater performances and school ceremonies (such as Teacher's Day, St. Nicholas Day or Nativity Plays), school trips and equipment purchases. Outstanding students receive cash awards sponsored by the PSFCU. On the photo below: PSFCU Norridge Branch Manager Katarzyna Kwaterkiewicz at the Jan Kochanowski Polish School in Norridge, IL.



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