

ANNUAL OPERATIONS REPORT
POLISH HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION
January - December 1997

Polish Humanitarian Organization
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GENERAL INFORMATION

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Polish Humanitarian Organization

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4. Bank Account:

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5. Authorities:

Council of Sponsors, Board of Management, and Auditory Commission

6. Registration Date and Registration Log No.:

December 20, 1994, District Court for the Capital City of Warsaw,

Commercial Court, XXI Registration – Business Part;

foundation registry transcript no. 4443

7. Regon (business registration no.):

010849302

8. Board of Management:

Chairperson: Janina Ochojska, residing in Toruń at ul. Teligi 3A/81

Members of the Board:

1. Włodzimierz Sarna, residing in Warsaw at ul. Bruzdowa 93A,

2. Grzegorz Gruca, residing in Warsaw at ul. Czereśniowa 49,

3. Agnieszka Marcinkowska, residing in Warsaw at ul. Krucza 51/81,

4. Aleksandra Rezunow, residing in Warsaw at ul. Sokołowska 24/26 m 47.

9. Mandate:

The mandate of the Polish Humanitarian Organization (PAH) is to help the victims of war and natural disasters abroad and domestically, as well as refugees who come to Poland. PAH wants to strive to build a responsible society, capable of helping itself and assisting others.

The Polish Humanitarian Organization Foundation:

brings humanitarian aid to former Yugoslavia, Chechnya, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, and Lithuania, popularizes the idea of humanitarianism and tolerance through its Humanitarian Education Program, runs the Refugee Counseling Center, organizes aid efforts in Poland.

10. Organizational Structure – Regional Offices:

90-423 Lodz, ul. Piotrkowska 85, tel. + 48 42 303-428; phone/fax 303-427

87-100 Torun, ul. Wielkie Garbary 2, phone/fax + 48 56 652-1374

31-010 Cracow, Rynek Glowny 29, II floor; phone/fax + 48 12 422-0819

11. Employment:

21 people and 26 full-time volunteers:

Manager

Secretarial Pool - 1 person

Humanitarian Aid Program - 3 people

Refugee Aid Center - 5 people

Humanitarian Education Program - 2 people

Warehouse - 1 person

Accounting - 2 people

3 Regional Offices - 6 people

A. Humanitarian Aid Convoys

We sent out less convoys with humanitarian aid in 1997 due to the flood that occurred in Poland in July 1997. PAH took part in the campaign to help flood victims. In August we called off a convoy for Kazakhstan and Bosnia (we suspended our collection efforts for the rebuilding of a school in Sarajevo). The convoy for Chechnya was suspended due to the kidnapping of five Poles in that country.

1. Date of departure: February 18, 1997, target: Bosnia

The convoy reached Teslić, Tuzla and Sarajevo. Medicine, food, hygiene products, and clothes were distributed to schools and hospitals by a Polish battalion stationed in the area to Muslims (Tesanij), Serbs (Teslić), and Croats (Žepce). School furniture and supplies, and the already traditional Peace Packages prepared by Polish children, were taken to the Vrhbosna and Osman Nuri Hadzić schools. The Polish Association in Tuzla received 80 packages for families of Polish origin. The packages were sent in reply to the request made by the Association concerning the very difficult financial situation of its member families.

2. Date of departure: April, 10 1997, target: Bosnia

Medicine, sweets, toys, and food reached the hospital in Kosovo and the Small Children Shelter in Bijelave. The convoy arrived at the target at the end of the Polish Days organized by the Polish Embassy in Lubiana on April 12, 1997.

B. Rebuilding a School in Sarajevo

The Foundation convoked the Committee for Rebuilding a School in Sarajevo in May 1997. Public Polish figures were invited to participate in the committee, which is chaired by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former spokesman for the UN Human Rights Commission in the former Yugoslavia. We are certain that Poland, which rose out of World War II ruins thanks in large part to international aid, and then took advantage of international solidarity in the 1980s, is indebted to other countries touched by tragedy. We should take part in repaying this debt. Almost all European nations have participated in rebuilding Sarajevo. Poland cannot be absent from the process.

Malik Kulenović, the Minister of Education with jurisdiction over Sarajevo, presented several proposals reviewed by Foundation representatives and Tadeusz Mazowiecki during their visit in Sarajevo on April 10 – 16, 1997. The Committee selected a school at a meeting in May 1997.

The committee selected Osman Nuri Hadzić Elementary School in the Sarajevo borough of Dobrinija. The school is located on the Federation side of the border separating the Bosnian state, the Muslim – Croatian Federation, and the Serb Republic. Two-thousand six-hundred children studied here before the war. The school is thoroughly damaged, but the fundamental structure is untouched. The rubble has to be cleared, and then equipped in a new roof, inside walls, windows, installations, and finishing touches, after which the school needs to be refurbished. Currently the school is located in 14 places, including stores, apartments, and basements. Eight-hundred fifty children attend the school, including 20% Serb, 20% Croat, and 60% Bosnian. This school has a chance of becoming a multi-ethnic institution. The war has not

ended for these children. They have the same learning conditions that they had during the war. When we rebuild the school we will not only give back a building, we'll give back hope.

Approx. 2 million PLN (570,000 USD) is needed to rebuild and refurbish the school. Warsaw's mayor, Marcin Świącicki, made the first contribution of 84,000 PLN (24,000 USD). Cities, gminas, companies, and Poles living in Poland and abroad contributed to the cause.

A program in TVP 2, a public Polish TV station, broadcast since June 1997 illustrates the progress of the effort, as well as the sponsors involved. Other media also informed about the effort and requested help on our behalf. The media campaign had to be suspended due to the flood that began in July 1997.

After meetings with members of the Committee and the media involved as media sponsors, we decided to return to the rebuilding effort in October 1997. We prepared a folder, which was sent out to more than 800 companies. We are also negotiating with IDEAL of Sarajevo, the general contractor on the job.

On December 9, 1997 our representative was in Sarajevo to negotiate the agreement with IDEAL, on the grounds of which the Foundation will finance the first stage of the project. The agreement was signed on January 15, 1998 and includes removing rubble from inside the building, renovating and rebuilding part of the roof, securing entryways, and forging plaster. The Foundation will pay after the work is done and accepted by a Foundation representative. The remaining work will get underway in April 1998.

C. Feeding Children in Lithuanian Schools

PAH representatives went to Lithuania on 02/8-9/97 and 04/4-5/97 in order to assess the situation on-site. We visited a series of educational facilities. In Soleczniki we saw a self-governed children's shelter, a federal school with a boardinghouse for mentally retarded children, and the Soleczniki High School. In Podbrodzie it was a school with a boardinghouse, a shelter for mentally retarded children, and High School No. 1, while in Nowa Wilejca we looked at a school and boardinghouse. With the exception of the facility in Nowa Wilejca, all facilities have buildings that are in bad technical condition. There is a shortage of furniture (closets, nightstands, and bookcases) everywhere. There is a big problem with children who completed school and do not have a place to go, such as orphans, or who must return to abusive families.

Rural Lithuanian communities share similar problems Poland faces where there is no industry and the state-owned farm has been shut-down: unemployment, a backwards agriculture culture, a lower standard of living, and the inability to write in Lithuanian. All of this results in the inability of many families to cope with the changes at hand, which often leads to a dysfunctional life. Due to the complexity of the problem, it was our opinion that directly subsidizing the families is not the solution to the problem. Therefore since March 1997 Polish Humanitarian Organization feeds children in Lithuanian schools.

We help the poorest families that have children who are not entitled to any social benefits. Some of them attend school that is very far away from their homes. A school dinner is often their only meal of the day.

We feed 489 children in 8 schools in the Święciański and Soleczniki regions. These areas have the largest Polish communities (Podbrodzie, Soleczniki, Biała Waka, Dziewieniszki,

Butrymańce, Ejszyszki, Koleśniki, and Dajnawa). We received a list of the children, along with a description of their family situation from school teachers and principals. The complete list includes 812 names in 38 schools (17 of the schools are small rural initial-education schools, from which 10-14 children have been selected; this effort does not require great resources). One dinner costs 1.75 PLN = 0.5 USD. We are looking for companies, organizations, and people who would take long-term care of a given school. We have already found sponsors for 5 schools.

In our opinion feeding children in schools is the best way we could help both the school, and the family. It allows them to survive a difficult time and gives the children a head start. Our concept to involve long-term sponsors from Poland would ensure long-term relations between both parties.

D. Assistance for Flood Victims

In July 1997 the south-western and southern parts of Poland were flooded. Two consecutive waves covered 5900 km² of land in water. Twenty-one voivodships declared a flood alert. Eighty-six towns were flooded, 137 thousand inhabitants were evacuated, and 55 people died.

The Flood Victims Assistance Program was implemented in two stages. The first stage, focused on bringing immediate aid to flood victims, commenced on July 7, 1997 by way of the first convoy with food and blankets to Kłodzko and lasted until August 1997. The second stage encompassed assistance in renovating, rebuilding, cleaning up, and refurbishing institutions and families.

By December 31, 1997 we collected 2,904,708.67 PLN (829,916.76 USD). We received contributions worth 5,946,774 PLN (1,699,078.28 USD).

Stage I – immediate assistance:

By August 24, 1997 we donated 944.8 tons of gifts to 23 cities and gminas that reached a dozen or so hospitals, children's shelters, and other institutions. We provided them with mattresses, sleeping bags, medicine, disposable medical supplies, food, mineral water, hygiene products, disposable plates, and flash lights. A detailed list of the gifts transported by PAH is posted on the Foundation's WWW site.

We helped 673 children from the flooded region attend summer camp.

Our flood victims relief fund has accumulated 2,904,708.67 PLN (829,916.76 USD) by December 31, 1997, of which 380,000 USD was sent by the Polish Daily News from New York, 100,000 PLN (28,571.42 USD) each by the Batory Foundation and Deutsche Bank, as well as many other companies and people. Companies made in-kind contributions worth 5,946,774 PLN (1,699,078.28 USD). IKEA was the largest contributor with a donation of household furnishings valued at 1 million USD.

Stage II – remodeling and refurbishing:

1. Assistance in renovating and refurbishing NGOs that incurred losses to their buildings and equipment during the flood and were not able to fulfill their mandates. The program was addressed to organizations that work on behalf of, among others, disabled children and adults,

the elderly, the homeless, single mothers, and abused families, as well as community schools, community centers run by NGOs, etc.

We decided that these institutions had the least chance of receiving aid from the government Reconstruction and Modernization Program and from gminas. Often these are institutions that are very important to the local community or those in need and their loss would cause the suspension or discontinuance of many initiatives.

The Polish Humanitarian Organization Foundation financed renovation projects in the following institutions:

- The Family Children with Brain Damage Rehabilitation House Foundation in Opole - donation 252,000 PLN (72,000 USD)
- Family Children House in Wrocław - donation 46,686 PLN (13,338.86 USD)
- School of the Alternative Education Society in Opole - donation 374,734 PLN (107,066.86 USD)
- Community Elementary School in Kłodzko - donation 20,000 PLN (7,714.28 USD)
- Handicap – Association for Handicapped Children in Wrocław - donation 10,496 PLN (2,998.86 USD)
- Democratic Union of Wrocław Women - donation 7,500 PLN (2,142.86 USD)
- Superintendent Labor Office for Youth, affiliated with the Boardinghouse of the Complex of Mechanical Schools in Wadowice - donation 4,288 PLN (1,225.14 USD)
- Lower Silesia Children Assistance Association in Wrocław - donation 30,000 PLN (8,571.43 USD)
- Wrocław Disabled Parliament - donation 34,400 PLN (9,828.57 USD)
- Rehabilitation ward for children with cerebral palsy in Podłopień - donation 15,000 PLN (4,285.71 USD)
- Wrocław Friends of Children and Youth with Motor Impairments Association in Wrocław - donation 30,650 PLN (8,757.14 USD)
- “Copernicus” Vocational College in Wrocław- donation 45,000 PLN (12,857.14 USD)
- Self-Development Taskforce in Wrocław - donation 100,000 PLN (28,571.43 USD)
- Children Assistance Center in Bytom Odrzański - donation 15,197 PLN (4,342 USD)

Polish Humanitarian Organization provided the following institutions with additional financing:

- Jacek Kuroń’s SOS Social Assistance Foundation - donation 44,344 PLN (12,669.71 USD)
- Wrocław Disabled Parliament - donation 17,002 PLN (4,857.71 USD)
- Pedagogical Psychological Counseling Center in Raciborze - donation 5,390 PLN (1,540 USD)
- Social Assistance Foundation in Brzeszcze - donation 5,390 PLN (1,540 USD)
- 47 families from Maśnik, gmina of Połaniec - donation for the purchase of home furnishings and appliances: 45,260.15 PLN (12,931.47 USD)
- Elementary School in Zborówek, gmina of Pacanów - donation 15,538.53 PLN (4,439.58 USD)

2. Providing home furnishings to those flood victims that lost their apartments or houses with everything inside. This aid covered furniture, bed covers, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, and household appliances. We were able to provide this assistance primarily due to a 1 million USD

contribution from IKEA and the aid of other companies that donated refrigerators, washing machines, and gas ranges.

In order to learn about those worst off, the Foundation worked with Welfare Centers and NGOs in those areas. We did not accept individual requests. Our assistance was focused on a few select gminas, which allowed us to avoid spreading the aid too thin and conflicts should only select families receive aid. The assistance was conditioned upon receiving a temporary or target apartment, completing renovation of the damaged apartment or house, and filling out an application provided by the Foundation, which was then verified by a community assistance center or a NGO.

By the end of December PAH provided 330 families with home furnishings and appliances and the following institutions with furnishings:

- Community Assistance Center in Wrocław - worth 12,575 PLN (3,592.86 USD)
- Family Development Club in Wrocław - worth 9,029.50 PLN (2,579.86 USD)
- “Arka” Catholic Preventive/Educational Club in Opole - worth 2,868 PLN (819.43 USD)
- Youth Club at the Complex of Mechanical Schools in Wadowice - worth 780 PLN (222.86 USD)
- Specialized Psychiatric Center in Wrocław - worth 21,387 PLN (6,110.57 USD)
- Wrocław Care Center for the Incarcerated - worth 2,572 PLN (734.86 USD)
- Public Elementary School in Kościerzycze - worth 2,572 PLN (734.86 USD)
- Elementary School in Świdnik - worth 2,572 PLN (734.86 USD)

**Balance for the Flood Victims Assistance Campaign
Polish Humanitarian Organization**

Collected by December 31, 1997:	2,904,708.67 PLN 829,916.76 USD
Value of gifts received by December 31, 1997:	5,946,774 PLN 1,699,078.28 USD

We have already supported the following projects:

renovate damaged building and facilities	985,951 PLN 281,700.28 USD
sponsor institutions and purchase equipment	132,924.68 PLN 37,978.48 USD
purchase food, mattresses, disposable products, and hygiene products sent during the first stage of assisting flood victims	113,742.44 PLN 32,497.84 USD
vacations for the children of flood victims	169,724.03 PLN 48,492.58 USD
Rajcza Gmina Office (target donation)	10,000 PLN 2,857.14 USD
Św. Katarzyna Gmina Office (target donation)	24,595.60 PLN 7,027.31 USD

Welfare Center in Strzegom (target donation)	10,000 PLN 2,857.14 USD
sterilizer for a hospital in Kędzierzyn Koźle	77,494 PLN 22,141.14 USD
TOTAL	1,524,431.75 PLN 435,551.93 USD

E. Refugee Counseling Center

In 1997, as in the previous years, we engaged in the following Refugee Counseling Center activities: counseling and social work, assistance in transacting official business in government offices, as well as legal advice and medical help for refugees and foreigners seeking asylum in Poland. Five-hundred applicants came to the Center in 1997, which together with people who had contacted us in previous years and who continue to obtain help gives a figure of over 600 relief recipients.

integration program for recognized refugees:

- financial and practical help in renting apartments,
- organizing Polish language courses,
- help in improving professional skills or acquiring new ones,
- help in finding employment,
- including refugee children in the Polish educational system.

The integration program now has over 80 participants.

The Refugee Shelter

Since 1996 we have been operating a home for homeless foreigners who have applied for refugee status. More than 120 persons have taken advantage of the facility in 1997. Only a small group of those in need of refuge found shelter in our house; we have attempted to place the others in overnight shelters for the homeless.

The refugees turn to us for help, information, and advice. They do not know their rights and obligations. Some show up only once, others treat us as their family, share good and bad news with us, invite us for family events. In our everyday work we are helped by volunteers, who assist refugee families in adapting to Polish living conditions, talk to them and interpret for them, and help children with their lessons. The volunteers help us in preparing events for refugees or for their benefit. In 1997 the Center was supported by over 40 volunteers.

Events and activities organized by the Polish Humanitarian Organization's Refugee Counseling Center in 1997:

- An integrative summer camp for 15 refugee children and 15 pupils of the integrative TAK school from Opole. The camp was organized in Poznań in August 1997, together with the "One World" Association from Poznań, with the participation of volunteers from Poland, Spain and Finland.
- Together with UNHCR and Amnesty International we had prepared for Refugee Day in October 1997 a major concert of folk music in Warsaw, with the participation of refugee bands.

- A Christmas party in December 1997. The event was prepared with major participation of over 20 volunteers, students of Warsaw high schools, and the Warsaw University. Over 50 refugee children and pupils of the Jewish elementary school in Warsaw took part.
- We implemented the "Neighbors" program on a grant from the King Baudoin and Stefan Batory Foundations. As part of that program we prepared the educational video "Refugees," which is already being shown in schools. In the near future we expect to implement special educational programs on refugees, both for children and for adults, in regions where the refugee centers are located.

We are cooperating with all organizations and institutions which deal with refugee problems in Poland. We are constantly in touch with NGOs which help refugees in other European countries.

In 1997 we were funded by the following programs:

UNHCR:	354,779 PLN 101,365.43 USD
Voivodship Social Relief Office:	20,000 PLN 5,714.28 USD
King Baudoin Foundation:	25,269 PLN 7,219.71 USD
Phare Social Dialogue:	17,256 PLN 4,930.28 USD
Total:	434,304 PLN 124,086.86 USD

F. Humanitarian Education Program

Goals and Philosophy of the Humanitarian Education Program

The Humanitarian Education Program was implemented in November 1993. The goal of the program is to create an open society that brings aid to others. We are specifically focused on popularizing the idea of tolerance by attempting to reach youth and instill in them the necessity to help others, while at the same time encouraging them to do so. The Program is carried out only in Poland and we are focused on getting our message across to elementary and high school students.

Meetings with Young People

Our efforts have been met with interest on the part of young people almost from the very beginning. We often receive numerous declarations from youth throughout Poland who are willing to work with us on a long-term basis. This always happens when we organize a large campaign or convoy, but also after we receive coverage in the press and television media. We currently have an impressive list of interested volunteers that is systematically expanding. Each new group is entered onto our mailing list, which then receives up-to-date information on what the foundation is doing and how it can become involved. After receiving our information, the students often ask to meet with representatives of Polish Humanitarian Organization at their schools and request additional things, such as that we show one of our exhibits at their school

to encourage their peers to participate in the cause. We always respond to these requests by going to even the remotest parts of the country. In 1997 we continued meetings with young people, both in large cities such as Cracow and Wrocław, but also in small towns, like Bystrzyca, Kłodzko, and Sławno.

PAH Clubs

For a long time now we have been asked by elementary and high school children how they can become more involved in helping others. As of the fall of 1996, young people that want to actively and systematically work with Polish Humanitarian Organization may open their own PAH Club. These clubs participate in campaigns organized by PAH offices and, what we consider to be very important, undertake their own campaigns in their communities by organizing assistance and popularizing tolerance and a humanitarian approach in a familiar environment. We encourage young people to recognize all of those in need, including those in their own communities. We try to show that you do not need to have a lot of money or search far and wide in order to help somebody. However, it is also important not to limit oneself to the nearest vicinity. The ideal club groups members that are sensitive to those in need and undertake appropriate actions in order to assist these people.

Examples of PAH's campaigns:

- On January 25, 1997 a carnival party was organized by a PAH Club in Mragowo, financed from funds raised for this purpose.
- January 27 - February 7, 1997 - the PAH Club in Sławno organized a winter day-camp for elementary school children dubbed "PAH Stop '97."
- March 15 - 23 – PAH clubs participated in observing the European Action Week Against Racism. The clubs designed posters that were later posted and organized events and meetings, including 9 scout troop meetings dedicated to racism and its forms in everyday life, the showing of a film depicting the situation of non-Caucasian people in the United States, meetings with the Ukrainian minority in Poland, an informational campaign regarding PAH, the UN, and UNHCR, and the sending of a letter to the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania requesting that the violence in Albania stop.
- Club participation in the second year of the Hope Campaign.
- July - August 1997 – Club members helped in organizing aid for flood victims.
- October 11, 1997 – club participation in observing Refugee Day - lessons, poster campaigns, and meetings with refugees and a representative of the Refugee Assistance Center in Gorzów Wielkopolski and Łódź.

Exhibits

Exhibits are one of the key ways in which we reach young people and therefore make the greatest impact on our target group. In 1997 we had two exhibits, "Refugees" and "Polish Humanitarian Organization." Each school or cultural institution may display one of these exhibits. The "Refugee" exhibit, organized together with UNHCR, depicts the lives and losses of people that had to flee their home countries in fear of persecution, while the second presents the Foundation and the countries we reach.

In 1997, the "Refugee" exhibit was on show in seven cities, while "Polish Humanitarian Organization" was shown in two.

Other Key Educational Efforts

In February 1997 the PAH Club Newsletter was published, dedicated to the observance of European Action Week Against Racism. The newsletter was addressed to youth and was distributed in about 600 copies.

A training course was organized in Bachotek (Toruń voivodship) on June 21 – 27, 1997 for members of youth PAH Clubs regarding forms of social work, recruiting new members, fund-raising methods, teamwork and team leadership, and creating a positive image for their organization. The training was fruitful not only in respect to the new skills participants acquired, but also because clubs from different cities got to know each other. Twenty-seven people from ten clubs participated in the session. It was organized in cooperation with the School of Leaders association, and thanks to a donation from the Phare Social Dialog Program.

On November 9, 1997 Polish Humanitarian Organization announced a contest for the design of a pin that best depicted the slogan: “Polish Humanitarian Organization Against Racism and Intolerance”. The pin is handed out to young people who participate in the Foundation’s efforts against racism, xenophobia, and all other manifestations of intolerance. The contest was announced in a letter addressed to approx. 150 schools and 30 media institutions, and lasted until December 9. The winning design adorned 2000 pins.

Other Humanitarian Education Program Projects

July - August 1997 – organizing participation at summer camp for children from flooded areas.
October 11, 1997 - observance of Refugee Day by participating in a concert organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
October - December 1997 – work on organizing the fifth-year anniversary of PAH.
December 6, 1997 – cooperation on organizing and publicizing a Christmas party for refugee and Polish children.

The Humanitarian Education Program was forced to suspend its activity for the summer due to the Foundation’s needs stemming from the flood in Poland.

G. Third Polish Pilgrimage from Kazakhstan and Christmas Gifts for Poles in Kazakhstan in 1997

The concept behind the campaign, just like in previous years, was to allow the oldest living deportees, who never came to Poland and who cannot afford to do so by themselves, to visit the country during Christmas.

Fifty-eight people visited Poland this time around. There were 26 people from the Kokczetaw District, 12 from Akmola, 2 from Pavlodar, 9 from Karaganda, 3 from Almaty, 2 from Taraz, 1 from Petropavlovsk, 1 from Czymkient, and 2 from Kustanaj. A total of 35 women and 23 men visited Poland. The oldest person was 89, while the youngest 62. They spent Christmas and

New Year's Eve with 26 families in, among others, Pułtusk, Ostrów Mazowiecki, Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Lublin, Janów Lubelski, Kazimierz Dolny, Łódź, Łask, Pabianice, Katowice, and Gliwice.

They followed a similar program to that from previous years. On January 2, 1998 the pilgrims were hosted by Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek in Warsaw. In the afternoon they participated (along with their host families) in a Christmas gathering with the Archbishop of Poland, Cardinal Józef Glemp.

Just as it is each year, the pilgrimage was financed thanks to the contributions of individuals, companies, and various institutions.

H. Regional Offices

Our regional offices took part in helping flood victims. We set up base in Cracow, from which army transport planes flew supplies to Wrocław. We brought aid to victims with the aid of helicopters. Regional offices also participated in other campaigns organized by the Warsaw office by finding sponsors, contributions, informing the press, and organizing collections. In addition, these offices work on behalf of those in need in their area.

We opened a community center in Łódź for 30 children from dysfunctional families. A teacher helps them do their homework and organizes interesting activities. Plans are underway to open a similar center in the near future.

We established an Assistance Center for abused mothers and children in Toruń. We have been running a program for many years in Toruń to help the poorest families in regaining their independence and dignity.

We have a homeless assistance program in Cracow, and recently we have been helping children who leave children's shelters to start life over in their new worlds. These children are not capable of living independent lives and after several years often end up in jail or in homeless shelters, while their children go to children's shelters.

1 USD = 3.50 PLN