

Polish American Social Services "PASS"

PolishAmericanSocialServices.com



From the Desk of
Richard Klimek
Program Supervisor
Polish American Social Services
"PASS"

Dear Readers, Friends, Supporters and Constituents:

Another year is coming to a close and for many people this has been one of the most difficult years in recent memory. It is difficult because the economy continues to be sluggish and there are so many people out of work. Some people have exhausted their unemployment benefits. The bottom line is there needs to be more employment opportunities. There is a new program available for Pennsylvania employers that pays 50% of employees' gross wages for on the job training (OJT). Maybe some of our local employers would like to participate in this program so they can hire a few more people. More information about this program is listed on this page. There have also been some changes to the unemployment compensation law in Pennsylvania and those changes are addressed in a separate article.

Our agency has also been adversely affected by the economy. Donations generated by workforce contributions such as United Way and other programs have decreased as these donors have lost their jobs. Charitable giving from corporations and individuals has also been greatly reduced as scant resources are directed to other areas of need. We appeal to all of our readers to consider donating to PASS this holiday season. Donations to PASS are fully tax deductible. We need your help now more than ever!

Finally I thank those people and institutions that continue to support PASS through financial gifts or donations of time and/or talents. I would also like to thank the members of the community that share their time and resources with those less fortunate so that more people can have a basic quality of life. On behalf of the entire PASS staff, I wish everyone happy holidays and lots of health and happiness in the coming year.

Changes to Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law

On June 17th, the Unemployment Compensation law in Pennsylvania was changed that affects the following areas: Extended Benefits Period – the EB period was determined by comparing the current average unemployment rate to the average unemployment rate for the corresponding period in the prior two years. This was changed to the previous three years instead of two for eligibility till the end of 2011.

Active Work Search – Starting with benefit years that begin on or after January 1, 2012, a claimant must actively search for work in order to be eligible for benefits.

Severance Pay - Starting with benefit years that begin on or after January 1, 2012, severance pay will be deducted from the claimant's unemployment benefits.

Phone Hearings – The Unemployment Compensation Board shall permit either party to a hearing to testify via telephone, without regard to distance of hearing location from either party.

Shared-Work – an employer facing temporary layoffs would reduce the work hours of employees instead of laying off employees and then those workers could qualify for shared work benefits.

For a copy of the Fall 2011 Unemployment Compensation Issues Update, call **PASS** at **215-923-1900**.

In recognition of a contribution from

The Michael J. Kosloski Foundation
In loving Memory of Leo Kosloski

For Polish American Social Services programs



helpline number at (215) 765-9040 or PASS (215) 923-1900.

www.PCACares.org

For more information about PASS and its Services, visit us on the Internet at:
PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

Polish American Social Services "PASS" United Social Services Outreach Program

Main Office:

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106
Open Monday to Friday • 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Telephone: (215) 923-1900

Outreach Services in and around the Philadelphia area

Look Out For LIHEAP

Fuel Rebate Program About to Begin



As in previous years, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), also known as the Fuel Rebate Program, begins on **November 1, 2011** and is scheduled to end on **March 30, 2012**. Those who have applied in previous years should be receiving applications in the mail.

For those who are not familiar with the program, there is no age restriction to apply. The household income must be within the following guidelines:

Number in Household	Approximate Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	\$1,361	\$16,335
2	\$1,839	\$22,065
3	\$2,316	\$27,795
4	\$2,794	\$33,525
5	\$3,271	\$39,255
6.	\$3,749	\$44,985

For more information on filing requirements or to get an application, call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

Pennsylvania Career Link's Business Services

PA Career Link has a department called Business Services which is designed to help employers assess their workforce needs and design plans to address their most challenging issues. A new program being offered through the Business Services department is an OJT (On the Job Training) Assistance Program that will help employers pay for the salaries of trainees. Fifty percent of the gross wages would be covered and the training program must be in writing and have a duration that "makes sense." The position must be full time (30 hours) and pay at least \$13.00/hour. Employers interested in this program should contact the PA Career Link Business Services Department at 215-854-1979 or check out the website at www.cwds.state.pa.us.

United Social Services Information Outreach

Sponsored by

Polish American Social Services "PASS"

**Tuesday, December 6th &
Wednesday, December 7th, 2011**

During the Polish American Radio Program

11 A.M. to 12 Noon on 860 AM Radio

Live broadcast from the:

Polish American Cultural Center

308 Walnut Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106

Guests will offer updates on various social services programs.

Information in the English and Polish language.

The Staff of PASS will be available before and after the Information Outreach broadcasts on

December 6th & 7th.

For more information call: (215) 923-1900

For general services contact
PASS during regular office hours:

Monday through Friday: 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Call (215) 923-1900

In recognition of a contribution from the

Barra Foundation

For Polish American Social Services programs

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