

Polish American Social Services "PASS"



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

The summer months are upon us and soon the heat and humidity will be a problem. Not only will it affect the health of many, especially senior citizens, it will affect our pocketbooks with high electrical bills. I encourage everyone to look in on the elderly these next few months, especially when the city declares a heat emergency, to make sure seniors are staying cool. For information on **summer heat related issues**, check out our website at **PolishAmericanSocialServices.com**. While on our site, check out the **CAP program** offered by PECO Energy to see if the program could help with electric bills.

PASS has been very busy with community issues. In May, PASS assisted in organizing a meeting with the **Philadelphia Police Department** to develop a partnership between the 24th Police District and the Polish American community. This month, PASS is working with **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services** to also help members of the community deal with various immigration concerns and find out about the new test required to become a U.S. Citizen. See details about this meeting in this edition.

Also in this edition, look for information about a change for **first-time home buyers** and the **Tax Credit** offered by the Stimulus Package, the Census Bureau timeline for the **2010 Census**, the **Property Tax Rent Rebate Program**, PASS's resume and job seeker services program and the **"extra help" program** for seniors and the disabled who are eligible for prescription drug coverage handled by Social Security. Always remember that you are welcome to call **PASS** with any questions you may have about the programs listed in this newspaper or any social service programs.

The Philadelphia Polonia is invited to a **CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP**

SPONSORED BY:

**U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
 and POLISH AMERICAN SOCIAL SERVICES**

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Where: St. Adalbert's Lower Hall
 Thompson Street & Allegheny Avenue
 (Entrance on Thompson Street)

Agenda:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Presentation (Information will include discussion of the new citizenship test and other important updates)
- Question & Answer Session on ALL immigration matters
- Meet one-on-one with USCIS Representatives
- Workshop is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- Polish Language translators will be available

All members of the community are urged to attend this very important meeting to get updated on immigration matters and have the opportunity to ask questions.

**For more information, contact:
 Polish American Social Services
 (215) 923-1900**

First-Time Home Buyers Can Apply NOW \$8,000 Tax Credit for Home Purchase

In a HUD News Release dated May 29, 2009, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Shaun Donovan, announced that families will now be able to apply their anticipated first-time home buyers tax credit directly toward their home purchase at settlement. Borrowers applying for an FHA-insured mortgage are required to make a minimum 3.5 percent down payment on the purchase of their home. Some lenders will now be able to "monetize" the tax credit for immediate use as an additional down payment, or for other closing costs, which can help achieve a lower interest rate. Also, buyers financing through state Housing Finance Agencies and certain non-profits will be able to use the tax credit for their down payment or closing costs via temporary financing provided by the HFA or non-profit.

All first-time home buyers are encouraged to explore this new option, but must ask trustworthy advisors, such as realtors, lenders, or housing counselors about the details. To get a copy of this press release, go to HUD's internet site at: **www.hud.gov** or call Polish American Social Services at **(215) 923-1900**.

Polish American Social Services "PASS" Welcomes Information and Referral Council



On Thursday, April 23, 2009, over 100 people representing the Information and Referral Council, a consortium of Philadelphia-area social service and multidisciplinary organizations, met at the Polish American Social Services headquarters, 308 Walnut Street, in historic Philadelphia. The Council meets regularly to update member agencies about programs and policies in the social service delivery system. PASS is a long time member of the Council and was pleased to host this meeting once again.

Michael Blichasz, Director of PASS, and Richard Klimek, PASS Program Supervisor, welcomed the representatives. The council enjoyed a productive meeting and a full selection of home-made Polish food. Rose Epstein of the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, coordinator of the I & R Council, conducted the meeting.

The I & R Council is just another example of the great things that can happen when people coordinate their talents and resources for the benefit of others. PASS is proud to be a member of the Council and congratulates the member agencies for their outstanding community work.

In Times Like These, Every Dollar Counts

By James Riley, Social Security Administration
 Area Director, Southeastern Pennsylvania

Fathers are often known for their good advice, whether it's how to catch a ball, ace a job interview, grill the perfect burger or get the best deal on a new car.

But if your father is struggling with the high cost of prescription drugs, maybe it's time for you to give him a few words of advice. This Father's Day, you may be able to help your dad save an average of \$3,900 a year on his prescription drug costs. Here's how:

If your father, or any father figure you know, is covered by Medicare and has limited income and resources, he may qualify for extra help - available through Social Security - to pay part of his monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. The extra help is worth an average of \$3,900 per year.

To figure out whether your father is eligible, Social Security needs to know his income and the value of his savings, investments and real estate (other than the home he lives in).

To qualify for the extra help, he must be receiving Medicare and also have:

- 1.) Income limited to \$16,245 for an individual or \$21,855 for a married couple living together. Even if his annual income is higher, he still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments.

Some examples where income may be higher include if he or his wife:

- Support other family members who live with them; or
- Have earnings from work

- 2.) Resources limited to \$12,510 for an individual or \$25,010 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. A house or car do not count as resources.

Social Security has an easy-to-use online application that you can help complete. You can find it at Socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp. To apply by phone or have an application mailed to you, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs (SSA-1020). Or go to the nearest Social Security office.

To learn more about Medicare prescription drug plans and special enrollment periods, visit www.medicare.gov, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

So this Father's Day, as the meat is grilling, you're playing catch, and talking about your own kids, fit in a bit of good advice for Dad - advice he can put to use right away. Tell him about the extra help with his prescription drug costs. In fact, you can help him apply online in minutes at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp. After all, in times like these, every dollar counts.

**Spread the word about Polish American Social Services "PASS"
 and its outreach services.**

Be sure to visit PASS on the Internet at:

PolishAmericanSocialServices.com