

Update on “PASS” Polish American Social Services and its United Social Services Outreach efforts which serve Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Effective and Efficient Agency

PASS has earned a reputation as a highly effective and efficient component of the social services delivery system in the Philadelphia area due to its comprehensive benefits counseling, information/referral, and advocacy services to constituents. Its unique contribution to social services is that it addresses the needs of a largely under-served community with language and cultural barriers that block access to programs and services that build constituents' self-sufficiency, self-esteem, and overall physical and mental well being.

A Community Resource For Thousands

PASS, also known as United Social Services, is a multi-service agency with a thorough knowledge of numerous resources and the flexibility to meet varied and complex constituent needs. In addition to assisting constituents from the Polish/Slavic community in Southeastern Pennsylvania, PASS is a referral point for six additional ethnic groups and receives referrals from over 70 organizations. The efficient sharing of comprehensive resources and services with people of all ages saves time and money and provides a reliable point of contact for those in need.

Who Benefits From “PASS” - United Social Services?

Each year, thousands of Philadelphia-area residents benefit from income-enhancing programs, such as rent/property tax rebates, PACE, utility discounts, and many other programs. PASS's services help individuals to add as much as one full month's worth of income each year, allowing them to weather occasional financial crises and live healthier lives. The end result is fewer trips to the doctor and less stress over the rising cost of maintaining their homes.

PASS Helps To Save Money

PASS works with thousands of constituents annually, saving government and agencies millions of dollars in the long run. Through the efforts of PASS's staff, individual constituents could receive up to \$1,000 in benefits from various income enhancing programs. These rebate programs allow them to stretch their annual budget, add to the economy and help them remain more self-sufficient. Approximately 90% of PASS's constituents manage to remain self-sufficient and in their own homes.

Ongoing PASS Program Objectives Include:

1. To enable constituents to make better use of available income through timely and well-informed income management and benefits counseling including low and moderate income programs such as: PA Property Tax/Rent Rebates, LIHEAP, PACE, and services offered by other agencies which promote self-sufficiency and a reasonable quality of life.
2. To remove obstacles and solve problems which prevent self-sufficiency and a reasonable quality of life.
3. To establish and coordinate linkages between social service programs to assure service delivery to constituents.
4. Maintain a telephone helpline, which is particularly beneficial to individuals for whom travel is difficult and constituents in need of information and referral.
5. Promote employment opportunities through Job Fairs, employment-unemployment services, resume preparation and job training programs.

A Strong Bond With Constituents

Although PASS has established a strong bond with thousands of Philadelphia-area constituents, the ongoing needs of constituents continues to grow. As residents approach retirement age, or as current retirees experience both rapidly diminishing financial resources and failing health, they find themselves in unexpectedly dire circumstances, not knowing where to turn for help. Even neighbors and relatives who have assumed a caretaker role are ignorant of available services and resources. Often they are suspicious of government bureaucracy or reluctant to “go on welfare related programs” and seek help from PASS.

PASS Has A Well Established Outreach Network

Because of PASS's positive reputation in the community and its access to multiple media outlets, including radio, neighborhood churches and organizations, local newspapers, the Polish American News, and a website, PASS is the ideal one-stop point of contact. PASS staff is pleased to provide information and referrals to other services and direct assistance to constituents to help them retain their self-sufficiency during difficult times.

For more information call: PASS - United Social Services
 308 Walnut Street in Philadelphia, PA, 19106
 Office open: Monday to Friday - 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
 Telephone: (215) 923-1900
 UnitedSocialServices.com or PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

Polish American Social Services “PASS” Special Appeal

Dear Supporters,

The rising cost of living has been difficult for many people. This is especially true for those who are trying to address the situation on their own as they have done their entire lives.

Polish American Social Services (also known as United Social Services and PASS) has been a leading force in helping people in need, especially those who are experiencing age-related difficulties, or are living on a fixed income with no possibility of extra income to keep up with the rising cost of living, or those facing long-term unemployment. Many face language and cultural barriers and have no place else to turn to.

In addition to serving the **Polish/Slavic communities in Southeastern Pennsylvania**, the agency assists constituents from six additional ethnic groups through its **United Social Services Outreach Program**. As a one-stop point of contact, **PASS** helps individuals remain self-sufficient by helping them access many forms of assistance that remain available.

We appeal to supporters to join in our mission of building self-sufficiency for thousands of constituents each year. **PASS** avoids directing people to government welfare programs that promote dependence by helping constituents address a temporary difficulty with income enhancement programs like energy, utility and property tax rebates or discounts, and the tax freeze for the low-income elderly. In this way, constituents retain personal dignity, self-confidence and psychological well-being. **Kindly help us continue our mission.**

Cut out the form below and return with your donation.

United Polish American Social Services Polish American Social Services (“PASS”) United Social Services

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • (215) 923-1900
 Outreach Services in Southeastern Pennsylvania
 Internet: UnitedSocialServices.com

Donor Reply Form

To help raise additional funds from matching grants available to Polish American Social Services, I offer my donation in support of the services listed below. **Kindly check one or more:**

- Community outreach services to people of all ages to build self-sufficiency in time of need.
- Information, referral and direct assistance to low income senior citizens.
- Senior citizen services for individuals seeking bilingual services.
- Employment outreach services.
- Educational outreach media services (print, internet and radio) directed to helping constituents avoid a crisis by timely information about benefits and services

Donor & Mailing Information (Please print or type your information.)

Donation categories:

\$50.00 \$75.00 \$100.00 Total donation: \$ _____

Please make check payable to: **Polish American Social Services**
 308 Walnut Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19106

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail _____

Charge my donation to:

Visa American Express Discover Master Card

Total credit card amount \$ _____ Card # _____

CVV Code# _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

We are grateful for your support.

You may list my contribution Do not list my contribution

**You can also donate online from the link at:
 PolishAmericanSocialServices.com**