



Fundacja
Mleko i Miód

Kraków 7.03.2024



The Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation – PACCF Joseph W. and Rose M. Kaminski Trust

Introduction

Dear PACCF Board of Directors:

I am pleased to report that another part of the renovation (this time co-financed by the PACCF Foundation and Joseph W. and Rose M. Kaminski Trust) of the building where the Community Self-Help Center “Przystanek Betlejem” is located has come to an end. I would like to say with full responsibility that a renovation on this scale would be impossible without your support. Please allow me, in addition to a list of what exactly your funds were spent on, to provide you with some important information about the cooperation between the “Mleko i Miód” Foundation and the Community Self-Help Center “Przystanek Betlejem”. As you have probably already noticed, the “Mleko i Miód” Foundation is a kind of 'financial arm' supporting the long-standing activities of the Community Self-Help Center “Przystanek Betlejem”. By supporting the center, we help other people. You may ask why this particular center? After all, there are around 900 such centers in Poland. We believe that there is simply no other center like “Przystanek Betlejem”. We take into account both the degree of disability of the center's Charges and their number in the center. In most centers, there are 4 - 6 people with profound intellectual and physical disabilities for every 30 participants. At “Przystanek Betlejem” we have 18 profoundly disabled people. This makes “Przystanek Betlejem” different from all other day-care centers of this type in Poland.

Another very important factor which has made the “Mleko i Miód” Foundation provide help to “Przystanek Betlejem” is the so-called joy therapy. This individual approach to the Charges is a series of non-standard activities that are undertaken in the center and which allow the charges to experience the joys of life.

Here are some examples:

1). About 12 years ago, Tomasz Stefański, who is severely autistic, joined the Community Self-Help Center “Przystanek Betlejem”. From the very beginning, Tomasz was aggressive and his behavior posed a threat to other charges of the center.

When no methods of calming him down were effective, Piotr Podgórski (the head and founder of the center), knowing from Tomasz's father that Tomasz is very calm when driving, decided to take an unusual approach.

One of the center's windows was knocked out and a Skoda 120L car was brought in (yes, brought in!) through the widened window, which is still standing inside the center to this day.

Since then, Tomek's life at the center has changed dramatically. He was sitting quietly in the car all day long, slowly getting used to new people and new surroundings. Today, 40-year-old Tomek sits in his favorite armchair all day long and does not pose a threat to himself or other Charges of the center. (Please find attached a photo of the Skoda car).

2). Experiencing and enjoying the joys of life put a smile on the faces of the center's Charges. Three years ago, the Foundation financed a trip for several Charges to a professional race track in Kielce. They had opportunity to drive a sports car there, accompanied by a rally driver. The driving experience (speed and feeling the acceleration of the sports car) was particularly important for Aleksandra, who is a blind person with quadriplegia. (Please find attached a photo from the track with a Porsche 911 in the background).

3). Once a year, “Przystanek Betlejem” takes its Charges to the rocks near Krakow where they can experience looking at the world from a different perspective. Even the most disabled ones can experience this. In the photos attached, you will see Rafał Biegaj, who suffers from quadriplegia, being pulled up on ropes onto the rocks. There's a smile on his face. A huge thanks to you as well. Because, after all, in today's reality it is difficult to do anything without adequate financial background.

These are just a few examples showing the uniqueness of this center. First of all, the center's staff members are exceptional in their dedication, commitment to another person. All the center's activities involve enormous costs. That is why, the “Mleko i Miód” Foundation supports the center financially so that the management and staff of the center do not have to worry about finances and can focus on helping other vulnerable people.

We are grateful to you that, even though you are so far away, you still think and support Poland and the Poles. I will not hide the fact that, as the President of the “Mleko i Miód” Foundation, I look forward to long-term cooperation with the PACCF Foundation and with Joseph W. and Rose M. Kaminski Trust for the good of another human being.

Financial support from the PACCF Foundation and from Joseph W. and Rose M. Kaminski Trust could not have come at a more opportune time. A few weeks before receiving financial support from you, the center's roof developed leaks, which quickly appeared through water stains and mold inside the building (photos attached). The center's roof was completely uninsulated and had not undergone any thorough maintenance for almost 50 years. As the "Mleko i Miód" Foundation, we were faced with a dilemma, as we knew that the funds we had at our disposal at that time were not sufficient to provide respite care and renovate the roof. This was only possible thanks to your financial support. Please find attached the invoices issued to the Parish. This is related to tax law and the appropriate calculation of taxes for the service provided. Thus, the "Mleko i Miód" Foundation paid the Parish and the Parish transferred the funds to the company that renovated and insulated the roof of the building where the Community Self-Help Center "Przystanek Betlejem" is located. Therefore, we spent a significant part of the funds received from you on the renovation and insulation of the entire roof of the building.

PRESENT

By the time you read this report, the "Mleko i Miód" Foundation, in cooperation with the Community Self-Help Center "Przystanek Betlejem", will have secured the first weekend of respite care. It will take place March 15-17. The first person to benefit from respite care will be Ireneusz, aged 50, who suffers from autism and profound mental retardation. Irek is a person who does not control his physiological needs and contact with him is very limited. Irek, outside the center's opening hours, is taken care of by his mother, Józefa, who is 75 years old. These several dozen hours will be, above all, a respite for Józefa, a time of rest she certainly deserves after many years of taking care for her seriously ill son.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would really like the Charges of the Community Self-Help Center "Przystanek Betlejem" to be able to thank you for your help. Unfortunately, the vast majority of them cannot say a word and the rest do not understand the reality around us. So please accept my heartfelt thanks from me, the President of the "Mleko i Miód" Foundation. I send my thanks but also my assurance that I will do my best to put a smile on the faces of our Charges as often as possible.

Once again, I would like to thank the PACCF Foundation and Joseph W. and Rose M. Kaminski Trust for helping those who cannot reach for their dreams and happiness themselves!!!

Yours faithfully,



PREZES ZARZĄDU
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