

Youth Program



The Youth Program has the objective of providing equal opportunity in education for school-going children from small towns and rural areas. We support non-governmental organizations that take upon themselves the establishment of local scholarship programs for high school students, we assist proactive schools in organizing extracurricular activities for their charges, and help to promote good replicable models of working with youth. In an effort to reach the most needy, we liaise with local organizations that are concerned with similar problems, entrusting them with the task of advertising the projects in their localities, accepting applications, and with disbursing grants as well as the organization of meetings with grant recipients.

Equal Chances

The *Equal Chances* project, carried on as of April 2000, has the objective of aiding in the establishment of a scholarships system for young people wishing to continue high-school education (rather than matriculating at vocational schools or abandoning schooling altogether). In pursuing this initiative, we hope to assist talented youth from low-income families by putting in place new mechanisms for financing scholarships that draw on the resources, financial and otherwise, of local communities. The local scholarship funds established with our assistance collect money for study grants from local businesses, individual donors, and from the local administration. Such funds operate on the basis of their own charters, drawn up by special scholarship committees; the scholarships awarded by them, varying between 100 and 250 PLN per month, are used to purchase textbooks and other learning aides, to pay for lodging, extra courses, travel to and from school, etc. The decision to award a scholarship is usually based on the applicant's school record to date and on the financial standing of her/his family, sometimes also on involvement in community service and in similar non-academic pursuits.

Only in the first year of the project's operation, the 26 local scholarship funds established under its auspices collected in their local communities more than 800 000 PLN, almost 50% more than they originally planned. These funds, increased by a further 560 000 PLN provided by the Stefan Batory Foundation, made it possible to award, in September of 2001, 963 scholarships. This result puts us in fifth place after the Ministry of National Education, the Office of the Prime Minister, the State Treasury Agricultural Property Agency, and the Episcopate's *Work of the Third Millennium* Foundation – to date, the only institutions maintaining nationwide scholarship programs in Poland.

As of mid-2001, the project involves 34 organizations from 14 districts around Poland. Our Foundation provides them with training in the area of establishment, management, and promotion of scholarship programs, collection and administration of funds, and of building local coalitions. Upon meeting the condition of raising a declared amount of money from local resources, every such organization receives a grant from the Stefan Batory Foundation towards increase of the scholarship fund.

After School

The objective of this project lies in supporting schools in the offering of extracurricular activity to students as well as to the local community in general. In 2001, the project was pursued in the district of Kujawy and Pomerania; our local partner, charged with advertising the project among schools, accepting applications, and with disbursing grants, was the Polish Humanitarian Organization's Regional Office in Toruń. Subsidies of up to 2 000 PLN could be sought by elementary and secondary schools as well as by community organizations affiliated with them. The project enjoyed considerable response, with 194 applications for subsidies received; of these, 49 received positive assessments. A meeting for participants of the project's first edition (2000, Podlasie province) was organized by the NGO Support Center of Białystok and the MEM Cultural Association of Olsztyn.

Footbridge

Following the floods of July 2001, the Stefan Batory Foundation and Commercial Union – Life Insurance Company (Poland) S.A. combined their efforts to provide assistance for children and youth from the afflicted areas, fronting 440 000 PLN for the *Footbridge* project for schools and community institutions. Under this initiative, eligible schools and institutions could seek grants of up to 3 000 PLN for after-school activities for children and young people in the areas of their operation. The *Footbridge* project was executed together with five local partner organizations through which the grants were disbursed; as in the *After School* project, these partners were responsible for the project publicity and for assessment of incoming applications. Thanks to this initiative, 230 schools, NGOs, parishes, culture centers, and libraries organized activities for 10 245 children during the autumn and winter semester.

Pass It On

The goal of this project lies in fostering ties between organizations pursuing tested programs for the benefit of young people – initiatives which can serve as examples for others of their sort – and organizations wishing to replicate them on their own ground. We extend grants towards the preparation of information materials about selected programs, for their tailoring to suit the specific needs of the organizations implementing them, for training of staff, and for consultations and guidance in the first stage of the new program's operation. We received a total of 30 applications in 2001, 4 out of which were awarded grants.

Local History Competition

For several years, in conjunction with the Karta Center Foundation, we promoted the *Local History Competition*, addressed to secondary school students. The aim of the program was to stimulate the interest of youth in Poland's recent history and to encourage them to search for witnesses to historic developments and trace documents related to those documents in their neighborhoods.

In the year 2000/2001, we announced a competition entitled *Work in the People's Republic of Poland: For Oneself, for Society, for the System*. Presentations based on the source materials assembled by the students could be submitted in any format – essay, collection of documents and photographs with commentary, video, or audio. A total of 649 submissions were received from 371 schools across all Poland; these were the fruits of work by 1 086 students who solicited the cooperation of several thousand of their elders, setting down their recollections and views. Awards and honorable mentions were accorded to the authors of 91 pieces; there were also 12 awards for the young authors' tutors. The awards ceremony was held on June 5, 2001 at the Great Hall of the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

Equal Chances

<p>Regional Development Agency for Northeast Mazovia, Ostrołęka</p>	<p>Grant towards the <i>Kurpie</i> Scholarship Fund (a total of 53 scholarships for the school year of 2001/2002 were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 10 000 PLN</p>
<p>Elbląg Foundation, Community Foundation of the Elbląg Region, Elbląg</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students in Elbląg (a total of 57 scholarships for the first semester of the 2001/2002 school year were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 15 000 PLN</p>
<p>Cultural Initiatives Foundation, Radomsko</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for artistically gifted children and youth (a total of 21 scholarships for the school year of 2001/2002 were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 27 300 PLN</p>
<p>Knowledge Foundation for Assistance to Children and Youth, Świerklaniec</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 15 scholarships for the first semester of the 2001/2002 school year and three awards for winners of the Community's Best High School Graduate were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 15 000 PLN</p>
<p>Family Foundation, Sławno</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for elementary and high school students (a total of 25 scholarships for the school year of 2001/2002 were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 10 000 PLN</p>
<p>Foundation for Development of Goldap Region, Goldap</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 20 scholarships for the school year of 2001/2002 were awarded out of grants and other assembled funds) 17 600 PLN</p>
<p>Foundation for the Development of Łukta Region, Łukta</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for high school graduates (a total of 7 scholarships for the school year of 2001/2002 were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 37 500 PLN</p>
<p>The Biłgoraj Community Foundation, Biłgoraj</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for young people (a total of 116 scholarships for the school year of 2001/2002 were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 27 500 PLN</p>
<p>Leżajsk Association for the Support of Economic Activities, Leżajsk</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 67 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 22 000 PLN</p>
<p>Nidzica Community Foundation, Nidzica</p>	<p>Grant towards the <i>Straight A</i> scholarship program for high school students (a total of 26 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 50 000 PLN</p>
<p>Sokółka Community Foundation, Sokółka</p>	<p>Grant towards the <i>Straight A</i> scholarship program for high school students (a total of 45 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 20 000 PLN</p>
<p>Local Fund of the Year 2000 Charitable Association, Tomaszów Mazowiecki</p>	<p>Grant towards the <i>Most Gifted Youth</i> scholarship program for high school students (a total of 18 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 13 200 PLN</p>
<p>Together Charitable Association, Zelów</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for gifted youth (a total of 28 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 10 000 PLN</p>
<p>Association of Rural Initiatives, Stoczek Łukowski</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for secondary schools (a total of 99 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 10 000 PLN</p>
<p>Association for Social Welfare Development Foundation, Rzeszów</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 82 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 12 800 PLN</p>
<p>Harbour Association for Fostering a Friendly Educational Environment for Children and Youth, Iława</p>	<p>Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 22 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds) 26 400 PLN</p>

Dezydery Chłapowski Educational Society , Kościan	Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 19 scholarships and six prizes were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds)	42 000 PLN
Helpful Hand Association , Złoty Stok	Grant towards the scholarship program for gifted secondary school students (scholarships to be awarded in January of 2002)	19 203 PLN
Association of Friends of the Public High School in Nowiny , Sitkówka – Nowiny	Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 21 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds)	7 500 PLN
Association of Catholic Families , Goczałkowice Zdrój	Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (scholarships to be awarded in January of 2002)	5 000 PLN
Association for the Local Development and Philanthropy , Kielce	Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 22 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds)	14 300 PLN
Association for the Support of the Deaf , Przemyśl	Grant towards the scholarship program for high school students (a total of 24 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds)	15 000 PLN
Association for the Development of Człuchów District , Człuchów	Grant towards the scholarship program for prep school students (a total of 55 scholarships were awarded out of grants and other assembled funds)	40 000 PLN
Common Knowledge Educational Association , Gdańsk	Grant towards the scholarship program for gifted secondary school students from rural areas (a total of 35 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds)	17 600 PLN
Echo of Pyzdry Cultural Association , Pyzdry	Grant towards the <i>Patronage</i> scholarship program for high school students (a total of 8 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds)	10 000 PLN
Association for the Development of Kwidzyn District , Kwidzyn	Grant towards the scholarship program for children and youth (a total of 98 scholarships were awarded out of the grant and other assembled funds)	40 000 PLN
Training	Training and meetings for representatives of NGOs participating in the <i>Equal Chances</i> program.	61 781,66 PLN
After School		
NGO Support Center , Białystok	Organization of the <i>Active School</i> conference – recapitulation of the first edition of the <i>After School</i> project in the Podlasie district in 2000, presentation of the most interesting ideas for after-school activities fostering community activity at schools	13 820 PLN
	Organization of a <i>Summer School of Skills</i> for teachers involved in the first edition of the <i>After School</i> project	30 960 PLN
Polish Humanitarian Organisation , Toruń	Execution of the second edition of the <i>After School</i> project in the Kujawy and Pomerania district; disbursement of grants to the total amount of 79 997 PLN towards after-school activity at 49 schools	93 800 PLN
MEM Cultural Association , Olsztyn	Organization of the <i>Active School</i> conference for participants of the project's first stage; presentation of the results for stimulating activity of schools and local communities	7 000 PLN
Footbridge		
	[200 000 PLN towards the project's execution provided by Commercial Union Poland]	
Social Welfare Foundation , Brzeszcze	Execution of the project in the districts of Chrzanowo, Cracow, Myślenice, Nowy Targ, Olkusz, Oświęcim, Sucha, Tatry, and Wadowice; provision of grants towards extracurricular activity for children and youth from areas afflicted by the floods to 40 schools and organizations	88 000 PLN

Regional Foundation for the Development of Rural Areas and Agriculture, Nowy Sącz	Execution of the project in the districts of Brześć, Dąbrowa, Gorlice, Limanowo, Nowy Sącz, and Tarnów; provision of grants towards extracurricular activity for children and youth from areas afflicted by the floods to 51 schools and organizations 88 000 PLN
LOS Lublin Self-Help Center Association, Lublin	Execution of the project in the districts of Kraśnik, Mielec, Opatów, Opole, Sandomierz, and Tarnobrzeg; provision of grants towards extracurricular activity for children and youth from areas afflicted by the floods to 47 schools and organizations 88 000 PLN
Association for the Local Development and Philanthropy, Kielce	Execution of the project in the districts of Kielce, Ostrowiec, Pińczów, Starachowice, and Staszów; provision of grants towards extracurricular activity for children and youth from areas afflicted by the floods to 50 schools and organizations 88 000 PLN
Altum Society for the Support of the Development of Children and Young People, Rzeszów	Execution of the project in the districts of Brzozowo, Jasło, Jarosław, Krosno, Lubaczów, Przemyśl, Przeworsk, Sanok, and Strzyżów; provision of grants towards extracurricular activity for children and youth from areas afflicted by the floods to 42 schools and organizations 88 000 PLN

Pass It On

The Grodzki Theater Arts Association, Bielsko-Biała	Promotion among other organizations (community day care centers, care homes) of the <i>Theater Workshops for Children and Youth</i> project utilizing drama techniques in the education, resocialization, and readaptation of youth 21 700 zł
Green Action Ecological Foundation of Legnica Region, Legnica	Promotion among ecological organizations of the project entitled <i>Social Nature Preserves in Lower Silesia</i> , utilizing pro-ecological work in the integration of students and of the local community in general 37 600 PLN
You Have a Chance Foundation, Lublin	Promotion of the <i>Youth Peer Support Programs</i> project – preparation of young people for assisting their peers in crisis situations 23 900 zł
Franciszek Ryx Association for Polish Culture Promotion, Warsaw	Promotion among other organizations (primarily schooling and education centers) of the theater and therapy workshops project entitled <i>On the Paths of Dziwierz</i> . 38 940 zł

Other Grants

Federation of Educational Initiatives, Warsaw	Legal assistance for schools participating in the <i>Small School</i> project, publication of a bulletin 22 550 PLN
Foundation for Poland, Warsaw	Execution of the <i>Bridges</i> project for young people from small cities – workshops and discussions about tolerance, democracy, and multi-culturalism in contemporary Europe 10 000 PLN
Gębiczyn Foundation, Gębiczyn	Community educational program for children and youth (half the grant provided by Commercial Union) 10 000 PLN
Karta Center Foundation, Warsaw	Grant towards execution of the <i>Local History</i> Competition in the school year of 2001/2002 220 000 PLN
Club of Catholic Intelligentsia, Warsaw	Organization of an integrative meeting for young people from Warsaw and Urle 5 200 PLN

Grants:	1 510 373,00 PLN
Trainings:	61 781,66 PLN
Operational costs:	122 719,46 PLN
TOTAL:	1 694 874,12 PLN