

# Polish Diaconia Newsletter



December 2012-  
January 2013

## Wigilijne Dzieło Pomocy Dzieciom is on

„Share your heart – multiply the love” – with this motto this year’s *Wigilijne Dzieło Pomocy Dzieciom* proceeds. It is an ecumenical charity action organised every year during the Advent by roman catholic Caritas, lutheran and reformed Diaconia, as well as orthodox Eleos.

During the action Christmas Eve’s candles are being sold. The income will be used to finance meals for children at schools and day rooms, educational help and summer rest. Diaconia of the Evangelical Church Augsburg Confession will distribute over 13 000 candles. The honorary patronage over the

action took the Ombudsman for Children.

On 1st December in the Metropolitan Cathedral of St Mary Magdalene a festive ecumenical charity concert inaugurated the action. The Academic Choir of the Warsaw University directed by Irina Bogdanovich sang religious works of the three Christian traditions. The songs were interlarded with texts by Janusz Korczak, an exceptional pedagogue, whose year we have celebrated. (Michał Karski)



This issue:

Wigilijne Dzieło Pomocy Dzieciom

„Prezent pod choinkę”

Advent fair

Polish-German Diaconia Congress

Diaconia Awards 2012

Projekt FairCare

Workshops in Pabianice

## Prezent pod choinkę already on its way to Ukraine

Since 12th November presents from all Poland are being brought to Dziegiełłów. For the next few days they will be prepared by the volunteers for further transport – to Ukraine. The packages were collected in the 12th charity action *Prezent pod choinkę* (Present under the Christmas tree), organised by the Centre for Mission and

Evangelisation of the Evangelical Church Augsburg Confession, with cooperation of Diaconia and the Silesian branch of the Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe. The organizers encouraged children, young people and adults to prepare presents in shoeboxes, which the poorest children in Ukraine will receive before Christmas. Last year 5184 presents were prepared, and

given to the children from 26 towns – e.g. Kharkiv, Odessa, Petrodolina, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Boryslav, Yalta, Berdyansk and Simferopol. The most presents were prepared for girls in the age 6-8. They were distributed in churches, orphanages, schools, kindergartens, day rooms, hospitals, dormitories, among poor families and, for the first time, in a boys’



correction facility. (from:  
[www.cme.org.pl](http://www.cme.org.pl))

## Making normal life possible for people with mental problems



- Poland and Germany answer to the challenges connected with growing number of people with mental problems living in our societies in a similar way – with these words Wanda Falk, the General Director of Polish Diaconia, summed up the results of the symposium “New directions in working with people with mental problems. Polish-German experiences exchange”, which took place in Pabianice, on the 16th November. The workshops were organised by Warsaw Diocese of the Evangelical Augsburg Church, Evange-

lical-Augsburg congregation in Pabianice, German Diaconia and Polish Diaconia. Their participants were representatives of various institutions and offices in the Łódź region who have to do with the issue of people with mental problems, including ward administrators for children, youth and adult psychiatry, representatives of the self-help homes, city help centres and Ombudsman for people with disabilities. Voivode of Łódź, Marshal of the Provincial Parliament and President of Łódź listened to this international discus-

sion. The workshops were conducted by Maciej Prochowski PhD, director of the Health and Social Issues Department of the city Łódź. The lecturers were Professor Jürgen Armbruster from Stuttgart and Edwarda Patura Szost PhD from Łódź. (Piotr Kirsch)

## Diaconia Prizes 2012 awarded

„There are no children. There are people.”

*Janusz Korczak*  
(1879-1942)

For the sixth time already Polish Diaconia has awarded with the statue of “Good Samaritan” people who work in the field of diaconal service and show a Samaritan’s heart.

The prize giving ceremony took place during the festive XI Gala Ubi Caritas on 6th October in the Warsaw Roma theatre. The celebration had an ecumenical character – also the roman catholic Caritas and ortho-

dox Eleos have awarded their prizes.

The main Diaconia’s prize was awarded to Kinga Januszko, who has been leading the diaconal station in Sorkwity for 12 years with great heart and engagement. Its work includes, among other things, helping elderly people, unemployed, addicts and the poor. There is also a day room for children. Diaconia’s commendations were given to Irmgarda Wacla-

wik and Joanna Głogowska from the Lutheran congregation in Zabrze. Since 2006 they have been conducting a Senior’s Club, which encourages many elderly and lonely people to various forms of activity. The awards were handed by Wanda Falk, Diaconia’s General Director, and bishop Rudolf Bażanowski, the chairman of Diaconia of the Masurian Diocese. (MK)



## “FairCare Project” – honest work, legal employment

The “FairCare Project” functions since January 2012 in Diaconia’s office, in the Projects department. It offers legal employment ensuring legal protection, regulated working hours, social security for cases of sickness or

accident and the length of service included in the retirement. Diaconia’s activities in the Project: providing information about it, taking applications, language assistance and help with the contacts with the German side. The project

is carried out in Baden-Württemberg. Diaconia cooperates with Diakonisches Werk Württemberg, Verein für Internationale Jugendarbeit und Evang. Frauen in Württemberg in Germany and with AIDROM in Romania. (AD)

## Diaconia's Polish-German Congress in Warsaw

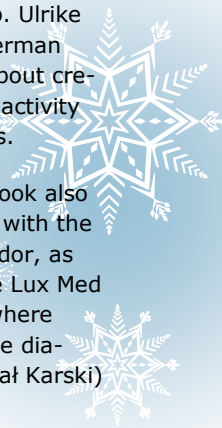
Modern social politics and possibilities of cooperation in this field were debated in Warsaw during the congress "Strategic basis of development. Challenges for social politics in Poland and Germany" on 4-5th October. The conference was organised by Polish Diaconia and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, with additional funding from the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation and honorary patronage of the German Embassy in Warsaw and Führungsakademie für Kirche und Diakonie in Berlin.

The representatives of the Ministry: Secretary of State Jacek Męcina PhD and the Director of the Department for Senior Policy Marzena Breza, held speeches. During the Congress Rev. Dariusz Chwastek PhD, Günther Wienberg PhD and Martin Patyelt presented positive examples of Polish-German cooperation from the economic and social perspective.

Rev. Klaus-Dieter Kottnik, former president of Diakonisches Werk and at present advisor for the Polish Diaconia, presented

possibilities for Polish-German partnership in the field of social help. Ulrike Geith from the German Embassy spoke about creating a culture of activity for elderly citizens.

The participants took also part in a meeting with the German ambassador, as well as visited the Lux Med Tabita facilities, where they could observe diaconal work. (Michał Karski)



## Advent fair in Koszalin and Zabrze

The diaconal women's club at the Evangelical-Augsburg congregation in Koszalin prepared the 1st Advent fair, which took place on Sunday the 2nd December before and after the service. The profits from the fair will support the club's further activity, as well as work with child-

ren. One could buy handmade Christmas cards and decorations, as well as the candles by Wigilijne Dzieło Pomocy Dzieciom.

The fourth Advent fair took place on 8th December in Zabrze, organised by the Evangelical-Augsburg congregation and Youth House

of Culture no. 2. It offered music and word, performances of the choirs, children and youth groups, homemade Christmas dishes and gifts. (from: [www.diakonia-koszalin.pl](http://www.diakonia-koszalin.pl) and [www.luteranie-zabrze.pl](http://www.luteranie-zabrze.pl))



## Meeting with Diaconia from Brandenburg

On the 5-7th November the Polish Diaconia's delegation went on a study journey to Brandenburg. The study visit's programme was prepared by the Evangelical Deaconesses House Berlin Teltow Lehnin.

Guests from Poland, with the General Director Wanda Falk, could get to know

Brandenburg Diaconia's activity in a practical way by visiting, among others, a help centre for people with Alzheimer's, mental disabilities and the elderly.

During the visit a meeting with House's management, management and co-workers of the hospice and youth centres. The visit in Teltow Lehnin is the first

step in partnership contacts, started not long ago during a Polish workshop meeting in April. (DL)

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The Diaconia of the Evangelical Church Augsburg Confession is a non-governmental organization. It attained legal personality on 10 February 1999 and operates on the entire territory of the Polish Republic.

Since 2003 the Polish Diaconia has been a member of the Eurodiaconia with its seat in Brussels.

Since 2006 the Polish Diaconia has had the status of a non-profit organization.

*A happy and successful New Year 2013!*

*wish*

*Management and co-workers of the Polish Diaconia's Office*



*„Albowiem dziecię narodziło się nam, syn jest nam dany i spocznie władza na jego ramieniu, i nazwą go;  
Cudowny Doradca, Bóg Mocny, Ojciec Odwieczny, Książę Pokoju. Potężna będzie władza i pokój bez końca...”  
Iz 9,5-6*