

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Dear Members,

We welcomed 2021 with the anticipation and excitement of a New Year—with the hope for a quick and painless recovery from the pandemic and the much longed for return to normal



everyday life in every aspect. Our Credit Union expects nothing less and shares these exact feelings of optimism for the future. As with the beginning of every year, it is a time for retrospection and an evaluation of the year that has passed. The COVID-19 pandemic plagued the previous year with insurmountable challenges, yet our Credit Union, with its dynamic growth and development, has overcome them all. And so, with this in mind, I would like to share the highlights of our Credit Union's success and the positive impact we were able to make across our communities through the very challenging 2020:

- In 2020, our assets grew to \$2.378 billion, an increase of \$310 million. Deposits entrusted to us increased by \$ 296 million to \$ 2.136 billion. Our loan portfolio increased by \$46 million, reaching \$1.213 billion. Our operations in 2020 yielded the net profit of \$5.681 million. It's pertinent to keep in mind the conditions of our economy (record-low interest rates which are the direct effects of the central bank's monetary

policy changes due to the pandemic) which had a direct impact on our financial institution. At the end of December, PSFCU's net worth was \$215 million.

- More importantly, we are most pleased with the growth in our membership. In 2020, we welcomed 8,114 new members. Our total membership grew to 104,440. With joint account holders included, we are now serving more than 127,000 people!

- Next, the attractive real estate rates proved to be irresistible: a record breaking 1,188 members applied for residential mortgage loans totaling \$264 million—a stunning 42% increase over the previous year.

- With a full understanding of the economic hardships at hand and how the pandemic may have affected our members, we made the executive decision to implement

a modified payment plan to help those who have suffered a significant income loss. 544 members took advantage of this initiative. Additionally, we aided small business owners in obtaining the governmentally funded PPP loans. With our aid, over 100 Polish businesses received \$2.1 million in government funding. To further aid our members through the COVID-19 pandemic, we refrained from collecting most checking and savings account fees for nearly three months.

- It's also worth mentioning that we were one of the very few financial institutions to have kept its doors continuously open throughout the pandemic, while adhering to strict CDC rules and regulations, in order to be there for our members. Additionally,

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## Nearly \$103,000 for Children in Need

Members of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union collected nearly \$103,000 for three children's hospices and the needs of seriously ill Polish-American children during the annual "Children's Holiday Smile" charity drive.

The seventh edition of the annual campaign ended on December 31, 2020. The members of our Credit Union made 4,692 payments for a total of \$102,905.57. Those donations included:

- \$38,390 for "Promyczek," The Chil-

dren Home Hospice Foundation in Ot-  
tock,

- \$25,719 for „Dom Chłopaków,” Nurs-  
ing Home for Children and Youth in Bro-  
niszewice,

- \$24,435 for Blessed M.Sopocko Hos-  
pice in Vilnius, Lithuania

- \$14,361 for New York Children's  
Smile Foundation.

PSFCU does not charge any transfer or  
collection fees. The full amount collected

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### PSFCU In Numbers

information as of December 31, 2020

Assets

**\$2,378,250,199**

Loans

**\$1,213,354,404**

Net worth

**\$214,566,647**

Number of Members

**104,440**



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even in the most difficult periods of this pandemic, every member had unlimited access to his/her funds and financial services via our PSFCU Mobile & Online Banking. In addition, our Member Services Center received over 123,000 calls, of which 90% were answered within 40 seconds! This is the kind of service for which we strive—not the kind which many of us have all probably experienced at other call centers during the pandemic: waiting endlessly on hold or never even reaching a live representative.

- Throughout 2020, we also kept introducing a variety of improvements. In the beginning of the year, we upgraded our VISA® debit and credit cards to allow our members to perform contactless transactions. Since June, our members have been able to submit wire transfer requests online through our Online Banking. We also introduced significant overall improvements to our Online and Mobile Banking services. Our IT/IS Department made sure to make all upgrades and transitions safe, secure, and reliable.

- Even at the start of this pandemic in March of 2020, we never lost sight of our mission as a leader of the Polish-American community. Hence, our Board of Directors moved to designate \$250,000 towards the PSFCU Coronavirus Relief Fund dedicated to helping our most disadvantaged members. Using this fund, we were able to help 33 Polish organizations across New York, New Jersey,

Illinois, and Connecticut, reaching thousands of elderly, sick, and disadvantaged persons. Additionally, we were able to assist 217 PSFCU members working on the frontlines of the pandemic, providing them with food products and protective masks, which at the time were in extremely short supply.

- Despite the many limitations and economic uncertainties, we continued to endorse our Scholarship Program, providing support to 399 students for a total of \$480,000. Our support of the Polish community remained our priority with over \$600,000 granted in the form of donations. Out of the 248 events we sponsored, the most noteworthy include celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of John Paul II at the residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington, the Flavor of Poland series broadcast on PBS television, and a prom for 218 Polish supplementary school graduates on the East Coast.

- Our 10 Year Anniversary in Chicago-land marked the start of 2020. We sponsored a celebratory gala at the Copernicus Center, attended by over 2,000 members, hosted by Tomasz Kammel and featuring performances by Halina Mlynkowa and Blue Café. We were honored by the presence of Presidential Minister Pawel Mucha who read a letter on behalf of Polish President Andrzej Duda, praising PSFCU on its success in Chicago in particular, and as a thriving Polish-American financial organization in general.

- To traditionally end the year, we co-organized the Children's Holiday Smile charity drive to help raise funds for hospices for children. Even in these difficult times, our members managed to collect over \$102,000, which brings us to a total of \$835,000 raised over the seven years of the campaign! Our Members, yet again, did not disappoint and showed kindness and generosity in these difficult times.

The previous year proved to be one of hard work, resilience, and importance for our Credit Union. In the most challenging times of the pandemic, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union was able to maintain its stability, develop technologically, and most importantly, relentlessly support its members and maintain an active role in the Polish-American community. Through these difficult times, the dedication and loyalty of our employees and volunteers shone bright as ever. Our success would not be possible without the support of you - our members, for which I am forever grateful.

I thank you for sharing 2020 with our Credit Union. I wish you all the most pleasant start and even better ending to 2021! May this New Year be filled with satisfaction brought by our mutual achievements!

Sincerely,

Bogdan Chmielewski  
PSFCU President/CEO

## Nearly \$103,000 for Children in Need - cont.

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during the drive goes directly to the organizations listed above.

"Members of our Credit Union did not disappoint and again showed great generosity," said Bogdan Chmielewski, PSFCU President/CEO. "I would like to thank our members for each, even the smallest contribution, made in such

difficult times, during the pandemic. The number of nearly 4,700 transactions in the 35 days of the drive is very impressive," he added.

Every year, our Credit Union members can contribute to the drive starting on the day after Thanksgiving (last year it was November 27) until the last day of December.

PSFCU has been organizing the holiday drive since 2014. Through all seven editions of the campaign, our Credit Union members collected a total amount of more than \$834,000 that were entirely donated to 16 hospices in Poland, a hospice in Vilnius and New York's Children's Smile Foundation.

## Apply for a PSFCU Scholarship

February 28, 2021 is the deadline to apply for scholarships awarded by our Credit Union to members studying at colleges and universities. To be considered, you have to fill out an online application available on our website: [www.psfcu.com](http://www.psfcu.com).

In order to qualify for the 2021 PSFCU Scholarship Program, applicants have to be PSFCU members for a minimum of one year. They also need to be at least sophomores with a minimum GPA of 3.0, attending an accredited higher education institution.

If you have not applied yet, do it today. The deadline for submitting applications is on February 28, 2021.

Detailed information about this year's program can be found at [www.psfcu.com](http://www.psfcu.com), via e-mail: [scholarships@psfcu.net](mailto:scholarships@psfcu.net) or by phone: 973-396-9514.

## Mortgage Loans at PSFCU

Low mortgage rates are a great opportunity to invest in property. Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union offers attractive home mortgage loans with a down payment as low as 3 percent.

PSFCU offers residential mortgages for owner-occupied condominiums and 1- to 4-family houses. Our members can choose between fixed and adjustable rates.

### Fixed or adjustable rate?

Fixed-rate maintains its original interest rate throughout the entire duration of the loan. Fluctuations in market rates won't have any impact on the monthly payments that you pay over the term of your loan. That is particularly important for homeowners who plan to live on the property for a long time. PSFCU offers Fixed-Rate residential mortgages with terms of 10, 15, 20 and 30 years.

If you choose an adjustable-rate mortgage, your interest rate and monthly payments will change every 12 months during a 30-year term. Because this type of loan is subject to adjustments later on, the initial interest rate is set lower than standard fixed rates. This kind of loan allows homebuyers to qualify for higher mortgage amounts.

We also offer two-step adjustable rate mortgages where monthly payments are fixed for 3, 5, 7 or 10 years,

after which they start being adjusted annually (every 12 months) for 30-year loans. This kind of mortgage guarantees fixed-rates for a certain number of years and lower rates at the beginning. It is an attractive option for buyers who want to have lower payments on the beginning and plan to live on the property from 3 to 10 years.

### Down payment as low as 3 percent

A mortgage offered by the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union means:

- A low interest rate as compared to similar financial institutions;
- No "points" that can traditionally constitute an additional fee of 1-3 percent of the amount borrowed;
- No hidden fees, such as an origination fee, and no limits to one payment per month;
- Servicing of the mortgages happens at the PSFCU branches from beginning to end.

Our Union also offers mortgages with low down payments, starting at 3 percent. To qualify for this kind of loan, the buyer has to have legal status in the U.S. and has to purchase Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI).

### Now in Connecticut!

PSFCU offers mortgages for properties located in the states of Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida and Connecticut. The individual rates will depend on the borrower's

credit history and other factors.

Starting in January 2021, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union offers mortgages for owner-occupied condominiums and 1- to 4-family houses in the state of Connecticut through our PSFCU representative located in the state. If you are interested, please contact Dorota Ciszewska, the PSFCU Connecticut Mortgage Consultant directly 203-913-7503, dciszewska@psfcu.net.

For more information about any of our mortgage loans, please visit one of our 20 branches or call Member Services Center toll-free 1.855.PSFCU.4U.

All loans are subject to credit approval and verification. Purchase of a private mortgage insurance policy (PMI) is mandatory for all loans with a down payment lesser than 20%. Products are not available in all states. PSFCU membership required. Other conditions and restrictions may apply.



**NO BETTER  
TIME TO  
BUY A CAR**

WITH RATES  
AS LOW AS

**0%\***

Promotional rate effective from January 15 to March 31, 2021. Rate based on 36 month new car loan purchase or refinance with one time application fee as follows: \$199 for loans up to \$10,000; \$299 for loans \$10,001-\$20,000; \$399 for loans \$20,001-\$30,000 (maximum loan amount). The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) will depend on the amount borrowed. For example, a 36 month auto loan amount of \$10,000 will be 1.309% APR with \$277.78 monthly payment; a 36 month auto loan amount of \$25,000 will be 1.047% APR with monthly payment of \$694.45. Credit is subject to credit verification and approval; 0% rate is offered to applicants with credit score 740 or above. Other rates and terms are also available. Offerings, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. PSFCU loans are not available in all states. Offer valid for PSFCU members only. Other restrictions may apply. For more details contact PSFCU branch or Member Services Center at 1-855-773-2848.



## New Payment Technologies During Pandemic

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly influenced our daily lives. New hygiene guidelines and social distancing significantly changed the way we shop.

### Safe and easy

During the COVID-19 pandemic contactless payments gained much popularity. That is because the risk of catching the coronavirus infection is much smaller while avoiding direct contact with the payment portal and also by not passing your payment card to another person.

We'd like to remind you that all PSFCU VISA® payment cards, both credit and debit, allow our members to perform touchless transactions. In order to perform this kind of transaction, one has to check if the terminal accepts contactless payments, wait for the instructions to appear on the screen and hold the card near the reader. The transaction will be authorized after a few seconds and it will end without the need for any contact with the machine.

### Pay with your smartphone

Smartphone owners can also perform contactless payments through their devices. It requires registering your credit or debit card with a mobile payment app on your device. PSFCU VISA® credit and debit cards can be added into the digital wallet apps:

Apple Pay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay. That way our members can make payments directly through the phone and without the need of touching their credit or debit cards.

For detailed information about VISA® payment cards (credit and debit) offered by PSFCU please visit our website: [www.psfcu.com](http://www.psfcu.com), or call Member Services Center: 1.855.PSFCU.4U.



You can also make contactless payments using your smartphone

## Remembering John Paul II

In 2020 we have celebrated the 100th birthday of Our Pope, John Paul II, St. Karol Wojtyla. Despite the pandemic, Our Union supported many of the initiatives related to the celebrations of this anniversary. We funded posters that were placed in Polish delis as well as a special edition of the 2020 calendar with unique and not yet widely publicized pictures taken by Holy Father's personal photographer.

The special year ended with the announcement of the winners of an art contest for children from Polish schools in the Chicago area organized by the regional Polish Teachers Association. The goal of the contest was for the students to broaden their knowledge and interest in the figure of Saint John Paul II and also promote the most beautiful sites from Pope's pilgrimages. Our Credit Union was the sponsor of the prizes, which were handed in the PSFCU branch in Norridge, Chicago area.



## PSFCU VISA® ELITE Credit Card

*Make your everyday purchases using the PSFCU VISA® Elite credit card and get 1.25 rewards points for every dollar spent, which you can then exchange for cash or attractive rewards*



Cash Rewards Program is offered on PSFCU VISA® ELITE credit cards only. Credit cards are subject to credit verification and approval. Offerings, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. You must be a PSFCU member to apply. Offerings may not be available in all states. Other restrictions may apply.

Your savings federally insured to at least \$10,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government  
**NCUA**  
National Credit Union Administration, U.S. Government Agency  
**EQUAL HOUSING LENDER**  
PSFCU is an Equal Opportunity Lender.