



2024

Support, Inspire and Grow.



*“You can’t control how other people receive your energy.
Anything you do or say gets filtered through the lens of what-
ever they are going through at the moment, which is not about
you. Just keep doing your thing with as much integrity and
love as possible.”*

Nanea Hoffman

*“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.
If you haven’t found it yet, keep looking. Don’t settle.
As with all matters of the heart, you’ll know when you find it”*

Steve Jobs

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LETTER FROM FOUNDER & CEO



Agata Klimczak works to help people around the world go beyond their obstacles to achieve personal and professional growth, and to understand the purpose and deep sense of helping others. Agata Klimczak is a voice of inspiration, a celebrated speaker, author, mentor and business expert. As a Founder and CEO of Brilliant Minded Women Organization, Brilliant Minded Women Foundation and Brilliant Minded Organization she is empowering people worldwide and acknowledging those who create a better world in the present and for generations to come. She has been recognized with multiple awards including Top Leaders Award, Chamber of Commerce Award, and Order of St. Stanislas.

Dear Brilliant Minds,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for joining us to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Brilliant Minded Women Organization. Your presence at this milestone event adds to the excitement of our decade-long journey.

The evening promises to be a grand affair, as we honor the remarkable achievements of our awardees and express our gratitude to our sponsors, donors, ambassadors, and distinguished guests. Your unwavering support has allowed us to flourish and make a meaningful impact, and for this, we are truly humbled.

Tonight's gala is a celebration of diversity and unity. We take immense pride in representing a broad spectrum of talent and perspectives, and we are committed to using this platform to inspire and support the future leaders of our community.

This memorable evening is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and resourcefulness of the Gala Committee. Their efforts have created an engaging and vibrant environment for all to enjoy.

Thank you once again for being part of this special celebration.

With your continued support, we look forward to achieving even greater heights in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Klimczak Agata".

Sincerely,

Agata Klimczak
CEO & Founder

BRILLIANT MINDED WOMEN ORGANIZATION

The Brilliant Minded Women Organization, founded in 2014 by Agata Klimczak, is a dynamic forum dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the extraordinary contributions of women visionaries who go above and beyond their professional and personal lives to serve and support their communities and countries. This organization highlights the remarkable journey these women undertake, often navigating through hardships, struggles, and challenges at various stages of their lives.

VISION

To cultivate a dynamic community where accomplished women, converge to forge robust, nurturing connections, explore avenues for personal and professional advancement, and ignite transformative leadership that shapes tomorrow's standards of excellence. Our vision is to create a space where innovative minds thrive, where collaboration fuels creativity, and where each member finds empowerment in contributing to a collective journey of growth and impact. Through shared insights and supportive mentorship, we aspire to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders, fostering a legacy of progressive leadership and inclusive success that resonates across generations.

MISSION

The mission of our organization is to recognize and honor the achievements and leadership of exceptional women, while also celebrating their profound impact on the world. Through mentoring and coaching, we create connections among these remarkable women, supporting their involvement in social and charitable initiatives. By fostering this network of support, we enable women to share experiences and discover new opportunities for growth. Our goal is to empower women to fully realize their potential, drive positive change, and build a legacy of empowerment and excellence worldwide.

"The goal is to inspire people to push boundaries, discover their purpose, and build a better world through mutual support and growth. I believe that true strength lies in supporting others at every stage of their journey."

Agata Klimczak

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Mahatma Gandhi



BRILLIANT MINDED WOMEN FOUNDATION

The Brilliant Minded Women Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to advancing higher education by providing publicly available scholarships and grants, with a particular focus on women across Canada. Our foundation also offers coaching and mentoring, assisting students in achieving success in their academic pursuits. The scholarship program is designed to support and recognize the efforts and accomplishments of students who contribute to improving the world through small acts that have far-reaching significance for their personal goals and the communities they serve. These young individuals demonstrate personal determination in their quest for development while simultaneously working towards a better world.

GOAL

To support the development of future leaders through education, mentoring, and community impact, shaping a world where each individual's potential is nurtured for the benefit of society. We aim to raise funds for scholarships for young students annually. We seek to recognize and support students who demonstrate academic excellence and commitment to community service, fostering their growth into future, influential leaders.

Why Join Us?

Education is incredibly important for both genders; however, as we all know, the world is not always a safe or fair place. Worldwide, over 130 million girls are denied access to education, preventing them from realizing their full potential. This issue is not confined to distant places. The student debt crisis in our own communities hinders young people from pursuing higher education. Brilliant Minded Women aims to provide scholarships that enable students to achieve their dreams and contribute to the betterment of our community. A key aspect of our mission is to support these individuals by showcasing stories of leadership and achievements, and by offering ongoing mentorship to help them develop their skills.

“Education is the best gift you can give yourself or someone else.”

Nahtab Narsimhan





BOARD OF DIRECTORS



AGATA KLIMCZAK
Founder & President



IRYNA YAKOVENKO
Co-Founder &
Chairwoman



RITA FRAGNITO
Treasurer



**NESRINE
THABET**
Director



**ANIELA
GANCZAK**
Director



**NADIA
ASFOUR**
Director



**VO NGOC YEN
NHI (DIANA)
DINH**
Director



**KENNETH
MICHALAK**
Accountant



**KEVIN
AGUANNO**
Advisor



JOHN KIEFTE
Advisor



BEATA KAAS
Advisor

HONOURABLE GUESTS

MICHAEL A. TIBOLLO

Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

.....●●●●.....

PATRICE BARNES

MPP for Ajax, Parliament assistant to the Minister of Education
Second Deputy Chair of the Committee

.....●●●●.....

SABINA KLIMEK

Vice Consul for Economic Affairs
Consulate General of Poland in Toronto

.....●●●●.....

PATRYCJA SZMYD

Polish Consulate, Finance and Administration
Consulate General of Poland in Toronto

.....●●●●.....

JACEK ŻYRKOWSKI GCCSTS

Prior of Malopolska

.....●●●●.....

HENAH HANNAH JI

Dame Grand Cross of the Order of St George

.....●●●●.....

Cavaliers of St. Stanislas Order

JULIUSZ KIREJCZYK

JOHN KIEFTE

.....●●●●.....

Brilliant Mind Global Ambassadors &
Dames and Cavaliers of St. Stanislas Order

EMILY KRULA

VERA MERCIER

KENNETH MICHALAK

KEVIN AGUANNO

DOROTA & KRIS JAKUBOWSKI



HONOURABLE GUESTS & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

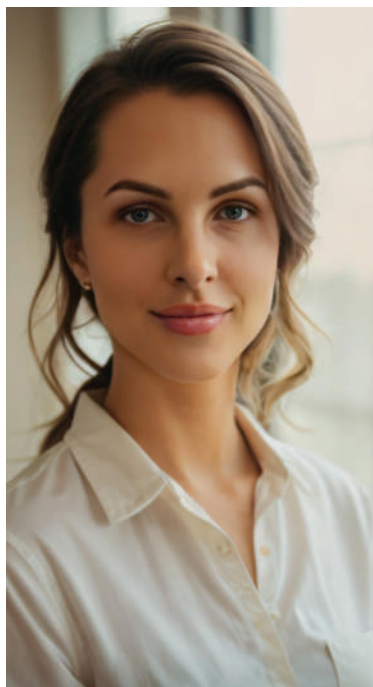


DR. JEAN AUGUSTINE

Born on September 9, 1937, in St. George's, Grenada, she is an influential Canadian politician and advocate for social justice. Immigrating to Canada in 1960, she quickly gained recognition in education and politics. She graduated from the University of Toronto with both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in education. She began her career as a teacher and later became a principal with the Metropolitan Separate School Board in Toronto. She played a pivotal role in organizing the Caribana Festival and was actively involved in the National Congress of Black Women of Canada and the Urban Alliance on Race Relations. In 1993, she made history as the first Black woman elected to the Canadian House of Commons, representing Etobicoke—Lakeshore until 2006. During her tenure, she held significant positions, including Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of State for Multiculturalism and Status of Women, and Chair of parliamentary committees. Her accomplishments include establishing February as Black History Month and supporting the construction of the Famous Five Monument. After her political career, she served as the Ontario Commissioner for Equality (2007-2015) and is now engaged in social advocacy as a patron of non-profit organizations.

GISELLE DREW WALSH

A dynamic leader, motivational speaker, and advocate with a powerful story of resilience and service. As Mrs. Universe Canada '24/'25, she represented Canada at the Mrs. Universe competition in South Korea, where her outfits honored various eras of the Canadian Military, including a handmade National Costume adorned with poppies from veterans. She placed in the top 25 out of 110 delegates, marking a significant achievement for Canada. Giselle dedicates her platform to empowering individuals to overcome adversity, promote mental health awareness, and inspire leadership. Her military background, focused on education and training, instilled in her a passion for resilience and empowerment. This unique blend of military discipline and personal experience makes her a sought-after speaker on leadership, mental health, and women's empowerment, resonating with diverse audiences, from veterans to corporate teams. As Board Secretary for Valour in the Presence of the Enemy and a director at CIMVHR, she champions veterans' needs and advocates for better mental health resources. Additionally, she hosts the Breaking Dress Regs podcast, sharing stories of resilience and leadership that inspire change. Giselle's speaking engagements focus on personal growth, community power, and leadership in adversity. Through her authenticity and storytelling, she inspires action and fosters compassion. Her mission is clear: to empower individuals and organizations to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, making a lasting impact in the journey toward resilience.



9-11 LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Keyno speakers

Giselle Drew Walsh

– photo and biography

Jean Augustine photo and biography

Juliusza list

Kena

Permier

Michael Tibollo

Polish consuls

9-11 LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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– photo and biography

Jean Augustine photo and biography

Juliusza list

Kena

Permier

Michael Tibollo

Polish consuls

BRILLIANT MINDED GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

Brilliant Minded Global Ambassadors are distinguished individuals of remarkable professional and personal achievement, serving as proud cultural emissaries of their respective nations. They exemplify a profound commitment to community welfare through philanthropic initiatives and charitable endeavors. Their exemplary lives inspire and empower future generations to pursue meaningful paths guided by authentic values, fostering a world where integrity, compassion, and global citizenship thrive.

JOANNA ANDROS
Co-Founder of Courageous Living



TANYA CHERNOVA
Co-Founder of Courageous Living



COPERNICUS LODGE
Senior Home



MAGGIE HABIEDA
Founder of Fotografia Boutique



JERZY MARIA KALISKI
Founder of Krakbau S.A.



JOANNA KLIMCZAK
Senior Director US & Canada, CREO Syndicate



KRZYSZTOF MAJEWSKI
Founder of Dentica Clinics



BEATA & MATEUSZ MALEK
Founders of XL Logistics



MARGARET MAYE
Founder and President of Epilepsy Cure Initiative



KENNETH JAMES MICHALAK
Chartered Accountant



WLODZIMIERZ SKLENIARZ
Founder of Drukarnia Skleniarz



MARTA WILCZYNSKA & MARCIN SIUDEM
Founders of The Doors Ltd.



Brilliant Minded



Dear Global Ambassadors

It is with great honor and deep admiration that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you for your exceptional commitment and exemplary service to your communities. Your unwavering dedication in representing your nations with dignity and your valuable contributions to charitable and philanthropic activities have left a lasting mark of inspiration.

As ambassadors of Brilliant Minded, you embody the fundamental values of leadership, integrity, and compassion. Your outstanding professional achievements and personal successes serve as a beacon of hope and motivation for future generations. Through your relentless efforts, you have not only made a profound impact on your communities but have also established a model for others to follow. Your steadfast dedication to supporting noble causes and effecting positive change in the lives of others is deserving of the highest praise.

Whether through initiatives in education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, or social justice, your actions have touched countless lives and fostered enduring, positive transformations. We are also immensely grateful for your financial support, which has enabled the production of this inspiring documentary album. This significant endeavor not only showcases your invaluable work but also spreads a message of hope and change that, thanks to your support, will reach a broader audience.

We are profoundly proud to have you as ambassadors of our foundation, exemplifying excellence and unwavering commitment in every initiative you undertake. Your contribution is a testament to global citizenship and the power of passion and determination. Once again, we offer our sincere congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. Your achievements inspire us all to strive for excellence and effect meaningful change wherever we are. We eagerly anticipate continuing this shared journey, creating a brighter future for communities around the world.

With warm regards,

Agata Klimczak and Brilliant Minded Women Team



JOANNA ANDROS

Joanna Andros is a passionate educator in emotional intelligence, author, therapist, entrepreneur, and life and emotional healing coach. With over three decades of experience, she has dedicated her life to helping individuals overcome obstacles and achieve success in all aspects of life. Joanna specializes in various modalities including Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP), therapy, coaching, and writing. Joanna's journey to support others is grounded in her own life experiences. As a first-generation immigrant, she moved from England to Canada aboard the Queen Mary ship while still in vitro. Health issues began when Joanna was 21 years old, with an autoimmune disease affecting her kidneys. At 25, she started dialysis, and at 28, she received a kidney transplant

from her sister. In 2020, at the age of 57, Joanna miraculously received her second kidney transplant. Her experiences taught her about the power of the mind in both creating illness and facilitating healing. Overcoming her own emotional issues and blocks fuels her passion and commitment to providing others with immediate, proven techniques to alleviate emotional, mental, physical, sexual, and financial suffering. Joanna is an expert in neuroscience and neural programming with PNRT, positioning her as a master educator and healing therapist. Joanna's outstanding contributions have garnered recognition and awards. In 2017, she was honored with the Brilliant Minded Women Self Development Award presented by Ontario's Premier, Kathleen Wynne. In 2019, she received the Brilliant Minded Women Achievement Award, further underscoring her significant impact in the field of personal development. Continuing to be a source of inspiration, Joanna Andros offers transformative teachings, empowering individuals to overcome their limitations and lead fulfilling lives. Through her profound knowledge, unwavering commitment, and personal triumphs, she has become a catalyst for change, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those she touches.





TANYA CHERNOVA

Tanya was born in Moscow, Russia, and immigrated with her family to Winnipeg, Canada in 1980. Dedicated to empowering individuals and organizations to surpass their limitations and achieve their peak potential, Tanya Chernova is a catalyst for personal and professional growth. She has been recognized as one of WXN's Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada, and honored as an Iconic Women Leader of the Decade by the Women's Global Economic Forum, receiving accolades for Global Excellence and Empowering Entrepreneurship. With over two decades of experience as an engaging and charismatic expert in human behavior and the neuroscience of success, Tanya is an award-winning speaker, #1 best-selling author, certified consultant, and NLP

Success coach. She has inspired emerging leaders and Fortune 100 and 500 companies across more than 60 countries, consistently guiding clients to receive industry acclaim and recognition. Tanya's insights have been featured in prestigious publications including Forbes, Inc., The Huffington Post, and The Financial Post, among others. Beginning her career in the wellness industry, Tanya achieved international acclaim at the age of 27 with her own line of anti-aging products, reaching \$1 million in sales within her first year on global shopping channels. With degrees in business and psychology, and numerous teaching certificates in public speaking, business development, sales, leadership, and customer service, Tanya combines her expertise in human behavior and neuroscience to help entrepreneurs, corporations, and their teams achieve breakthrough success in any work environment. For over 10 years, Tanya has been happily married to Curtis Priest and is a loving mother to Braven.





COPERNICUS LODGE

Since its inception in 1979, Copernicus Lodge has been a cherished haven for Polish seniors in Toronto's Roncesvalles Village. Founded by Father Michael Smith, OMI, and a dedicated board, its mission is to meet the holistic needs of elderly Polish individuals—caring for their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being in an environment steeped in their culture, heritage, and Roman Catholic faith. The Lodge emerged to address the critical needs of Toronto's Polish diaspora, particularly those who had faced wartime service or Siberian exile. Its founders envisioned not just a residence but a true home where seniors could find comfort and maintain their cultural identity. Over 45 years, Copernicus Lodge has become a cornerstone institution, serving over 400 seniors through independent living apartments and a comprehensive long-term care facility. This growth reflects the increasing demand for specialized care tailored to the Polish community's needs and the dedication of its staff and volunteers. As a nonprofit, Copernicus Lodge relies on government funding and the generosity of the Polish-Canadian community. Through charitable donations and community events, it enhances its programs and facilities to ensure high standards of care and quality of life for its residents. In 2024, Copernicus Lodge celebrated its 45th anniversary with a series of events, including the Galaxy Ball, organized by the Copernicus Lodge Foundation, which raised vital funds and honored the Lodge's history. The revival of the Father Michael Smith Annual Golf Tournament further engaged the community. The Lodge remains a key participant in the Roncesvalles Polish Festival, showcasing Polish culinary heritage. Looking ahead, Copernicus Lodge continues to adapt and innovate, committed to providing exemplary care and preserving cultural heritage. It stands as a beacon of hope and belonging for Polish seniors, embodying the spirit of community and cultural continuity.





MAGGIE HABIEDA

Maggie Habieda, affectionately known as "Maggie the Magician," is a renowned figure in the world of photography, celebrated for her ability to capture the essence of individuals through Timeless Portraits. As the Owner of Fotografia Boutique in Oakville, Ontario, Maggie has established herself as a master of her craft, earning the prestigious title of Master of Photographic Arts. Her studio is not just a place for photography but a sanctuary where people rediscover their beauty, confidence, and joy. At Fotografia Boutique, Maggie creates more than just photographs; she crafts timeless memories that resonate with her clients. Her innovative use of light, posing techniques, and artistic editing transform ordinary moments into extraordinary portraits,

capturing the inner and outer beauty of everyone. Her portfolio ranges from glamorous shots to heartfelt family portraits, corporate headshots to empowering "Every Woman is a Princess" sessions that celebrate the strength and beauty of women. Maggie's expertise extends beyond her studio walls. She has worked with a diverse clientele, including corporate executives, politicians, performing artists, and everyday individuals, all seeking her magic touch to immortalize their moments. Her dedication to customer satisfaction and her knack for capturing the true essence of her subjects have earned her accolades and awards both locally and globally. Notably, Maggie Habieda's contributions go beyond photography. She is the creative force behind the Brilliant Minded Women Living Legacy Album, showcasing 100 portraits that embody resilience, strength, and achievement. Her entrepreneurial success is matched by her devotion to motherhood, balancing a thriving career with a fulfilling family life. In essence, Maggie Habieda's journey is a testament to her passion for art, her commitment to excellence, and her ability to inspire and empower through the lens of her camera.





JERZY MARIA KALISKI

Jerzy Maria Kaliski, born in 1944 in Rzeszów, Poland, has had a distinguished career in the construction industry spanning over three decades. Guided by his parents, Zbigniew and Wanda de Białynia Wójcikiewicz, he pursued civil engineering at Kraków University of Technology, earning accolades for his challenging master's thesis in steel structures. His commitment to learning led him to doctoral studies in organizational management. Jerzy's career began at Chemobudowa-Kraków in 1969, where he served as CEO from 1980 to 1990, significantly expanding the company's scope and international presence. In 1990, he founded Krakbau S.A., a Polish capital-financed enterprise, leading it to prominence in various construction sectors, including general construction, tunneling, and marine works. Krakbau's achievements include establishing branches in Frankfurt (1992) and Copenhagen (2016), and receiving the "Eagle of Polish Business" award in 2011. Jerzy has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Knight's Cross and Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and the Commander's Cross of the Order of Saint Stanislaus, for his exceptional contributions to Poland's technical and construction sectors. A devoted family man, Jerzy is married to Dorota Krystyna Machnik, and they are proud parents of Tomasz and Patrycja, the latter serving as Vice President of Krakbau S.A. Jerzy's passion extends to sports, particularly judo, alpine skiing, and tennis, where he has achieved national acclaim. He is also a prominent figure in community engagement and industry advocacy, serving on various international committees and supporting social causes. In July 2024, Jerzy and his company were honored with the title "Personality of the 35th Anniversary of Poland" alongside former President Bronisław Komorowski and Sobiesław Zasada. His leadership continues to drive Krakbau S.A.'s success and growth in the European construction industry.





JOANNA KLIMCZAK

Joanna is a Canadian social entrepreneur, investor, and civil society leader committed to leveraging the private sector's role in addressing social and environmental challenges. Born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, to Polish immigrants, Joanna grew up with a strong work ethic instilled by her parents. Her mother, Agata Berek-Klimczak, is the Founder and CEO of the Brilliant Minded Women Organization and Foundation, and her father, Lech, is retired in British Columbia. Joanna excelled academically and in extracurricular activities from a young age, speaking five languages fluently by 20. She was Miss Teen All Canadian and founded Hand in Hand, an international non-profit empowering youth. The organization raised \$50k for education and healthcare in India and Sierra Leone and was active in anti-tobacco campaigns in Ontario. She attended McGill University, where she received a Major Renewable Academic Scholarship and completed her Bachelor's Degree in Commerce with distinction. There, she pioneered McGill's Minor Concentration in Social Business & Enterprise and met Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, who became her mentor. Joanna co-founded MyVision, an international accelerator for student entrepreneurs. Joanna's post-graduate achievements include winning the Rhodes Scholarship and earning a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of Oxford, where she co-launched the Rhodes Venture Forum. At the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), she advised Fortune 100 corporations on net zero emissions strategies. Currently, Joanna leads the US & Canadian regions at CREO, a global platform investing \$100 billion by 2025 in decarbonization. CREO partners with UHNW families and has one of the world's largest climate capital portfolios. Passionate about sustainability and equity, Joanna is inspired by her partner, Connor Lyons, and remains dedicated to her family, friends, and community.





KRZYSZTOF MAJEWSKI

Dr. Krzysztof Majewski is a distinguished dentist from Zawiercie, known for his exceptional care and expertise in the field. His passion for medicine and dentistry began early, leading him to study at the Faculty of Medical-Dental. He pursued further training in Poland and internationally, gaining extensive knowledge in various dental specialties. As the founder of Dentica Center for Aesthetic Dentistry and Implantology, Dr. Majewski established a state-of-the-art clinic in Zawiercie. The clinic is renowned for its high-quality dental care and innovative treatments, continually investing in the latest technologies. It offers a comprehensive range of services, including preventive care, aesthetic dentistry, oral surgery, endodontics, and implantology. Notable treatments include laser gum therapy and microscopic endodontics, as well as reinforcing weakened teeth with advanced post-core systems. Dr. Majewski's mission is to provide exemplary patient care through clear communication and a focus on patient comfort and safety. Dentica Clinic is also active in social and charitable initiatives, working to improve local oral health and educate the community about dental prevention. Under Dr. Majewski's leadership, the Dentica team regularly updates their skills through top-tier training and remains engaged with global dental professionals. Dr. Majewski's commitment to excellence and his active participation in prestigious industry organizations reflect his dedication to advancing the field of dentistry. Krzysztof Majewski is celebrated not only for his clinical skills but also for his leadership and contribution to the medical community.





BEATA & MATEUSZ MALEK

Under Beata and Mateusz's leadership, XL LOGISTICS has earned a reputation as an innovative industry leader. The company specializes in comprehensive logistics services, including transportation, warehousing, and supply chain management, utilizing advanced technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), drivers support and assistance systems, operational data analytics, TMS/WMS systems and communication exchange platforms. These solutions not only enhance operational efficiency but also minimize environmental impact. Under their guidance, XL LOGISTICS has received numerous prestigious awards,

including Company of the Year 2022 and 2023, Business Tiger 2022, Business Diamond 2023 and 2024, and the Polish Quality Award 2024. The company was also recognized for the highest revenue growth in 2023 according to TSL Gazeta Prawna. Beata and Mateusz Malek also had the honor of co-creating the book "50 Business Personalities" on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Rak'n'Roll Wygraj Życie! foundation and supporting this foundation in organizing charity galas. The international operations of XL LOGISTICS, spanning markets such as Germany and France, reflect its commitment to multiculturalism and inclusivity. The company employs a diverse workforce from various cultural backgrounds and places a strong emphasis on employee development, which translates into high service quality and effective management of complex logistics projects. Their joint achievements in business, along with a fulfilling family life, stand as an example of innovation, dedication, and strategic thinking. XL LOGISTICS continues to expand its capabilities, investing in employee development and striving for excellence in the logistics industry, ensuring lasting success and a strong market presence. Their accomplishments, including over 37,000 completed orders, 4,900,000 kilometers traveled annually, 1,300 clients, and 20 operational locations, demonstrate the effectiveness of their growth strategy and their enduring impact on the industry.





MARGARET MAYE

Born in a small town, Margaret's early life was shaped by her family's values of empathy and solidarity, traits that would later define her tireless efforts in support of epilepsy awareness and cultural enrichment. Margaret's path took a defining turn when her son was diagnosed with epilepsy, igniting within her a fierce determination to alleviate the challenges faced by those living with the disorder.

In 1997, Margaret co-founded the Epilepsy Cure Initiative Organization (ECI), driven by a mission to educate the public, dispel myths, and advocate for improved medical therapies. Under her leadership, ECI has grown into a formidable force, organizing ground breaking initiatives such as the International Seminar for Medical

Nutrition Therapies for Epilepsy in Toronto, which brought together leading experts and practitioners to advance treatment options. Her advocacy extends beyond awareness campaigns; Margaret has been instrumental in lobbying for legislative changes to enhance epilepsy care systems across Canada. Her efforts have led to the establishment of Epilepsy Awareness Days at prominent venues like Queen's Park in Toronto and Parliament Hill in Ottawa, ensuring that the voices of epilepsy patients are heard at the highest levels of government. Her artistic talents have garnered recognition, including the Order of Merit from the Ministry of Culture of The Republic of Poland in 2004 and the Silver Award for Extraordinary Achievements from the Polish Canadian Congress in 2007. These honors underscore her role as a cultural ambassador, bridging gaps and celebrating the richness of Canada's multicultural fabric. Throughout her career, Margaret has received numerous accolades for her contributions to both advocacy and the arts. She was honored with the Volunteer Achievement Award for Contribution to the Community from Cherri DiNovo, MPP in 2010, and in 2022, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award for artistic and social contributions from the Brilliant Minded Woman Foundation. These awards not only recognize Margaret's outstanding achievements but also highlight her unwavering dedication to promoting equality, respect for human values, and cooperation among cultural groups within Canadian society.





KENNETH J. MICHALAK

Kenneth Michalak's illustrious career spans more than half a century, characterized by a steadfast dedication to excellence and a profound commitment to both professional mastery and community stewardship. Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, Kenneth's journey began with humble entrepreneurial roots, inspired by the pioneering spirit of his grandparents who established a thriving bakery and delicatessen after immigrating to Canada in the early 1900s.

Educated in Toronto's public school system and graduating with distinction from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Kenneth embarked on a career trajectory that seamlessly blended

his passion for finance with a desire to make a lasting impact. His early years at the Canada Revenue Agency provided invaluable experience before he pursued and attained the prestigious Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation.

Driven by a thirst for knowledge and a commitment to lifelong learning, Kenneth further honed his expertise as a controller and later in the estate planning sector of a prominent insurance firm. In 1986, armed with a wealth of experience and a vision for personalized financial services, Kenneth founded his own accounting practice. Over the years, he built a sterling reputation for delivering meticulous financial guidance and steadfastly supporting his clients' aspirations.

Kenneth's professional journey is not only a testament to his proficiency in accounting and financial planning but also underscores his unwavering dedication to his community. Serving on the board of a local credit union and actively contributing to Little League Baseball as both a coach and director, Kenneth played a pivotal role in shaping the lives of young athletes and fostering a culture of sportsmanship and personal growth.

Beyond his professional and community endeavors, Kenneth's commitment to cultural enrichment is evident through his role as a board member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, where he advocated tirelessly for the arts. His leadership and vision have left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of his community.





WŁODZIMIERZ SKLENIARZ

Włodzimierz Skleniarz was born into a family with a rich legacy spanning three generations in the printing industry. His roots in printing craftsmanship run deep. His grandfather, Stanisław, was a typesetter who founded his own printing press in Zawiercie. Following this tradition, his father Marian also pursued a career in printing, working in prestigious institutions like the Samorządowy Instytut Wydawniczy in Warsaw before settling in Krakow. To uphold his family's printing heritage, Włodzimierz embarked on formal training in polygraphic vocational school and continued his education at a technical school specializing in printing. His career journey began at Zakłady

Graficzne na Podwalu in Krakow, followed by roles at Drukarnia Narodowa and Poligraficzna Spółdzielnia Inwalidów. With steadfast commitment to quality and innovation, he founded Drukarnia Skleniarz, which has since become a cornerstone in Poland's printing industry. Over more than three decades, under Włodzimierz's leadership, Drukarnia Skleniarz has solidified its position in the market, renowned for reliability, punctuality, and exceptional service quality. Beyond his professional achievements, Włodzimierz Skleniarz has been honored with numerous awards and distinctions, including the Order of Saint Stanislaus, the Gold Cross of Merit, and the Medal Honoris Gratia bestowed by the Mayor of Krakow. His contributions to entrepreneurship have been recognized with accolades such as the Husarz Polskiej Przedsiębiorczości and the Mecenat 100-lecia ZPAP. He has received notable recognition from institutions like the Polish Publishers Association and the BBC, underscoring his impact on both the local and international printing landscape. His leadership and achievements continue to inspire and set benchmarks in Poland's printing sector. Today, with his two daughters and their partners, he continues to uphold and expand upon the proud tradition of printing craftsmanship, embodying the family's dedication to excellence across three generations.





MARTA WILCZYŃSKA & MARCIN SIUEDEM

Marta Wilczyńska and Marcin Siudem are the visionary co-founders of The Doors Ltd., a leading front door manufacturing company based in the vibrant city of Mississauga. Born, raised and educated in Poland, Marta and Marcin immigrated to Canada and found their niche in the construction sector. With 18 years of leadership, they have guided their enterprise to prominence in the industry. Each of them spearheads different aspects of the business. Marta heads the custom front door manufacturing division and brings her expertise in craftsmanship and design to create bespoke custom door solutions for clients. Her keen eye for detail and dedication to quality ensure that

every door leaving the production meets the highest standards of excellence. Marcin, on the other hand, oversees sourcing and importing premium European windows, entry doors, and garage doors, adding a touch of continental elegance to The Doors Ltd.'s offerings. His extensive network and knowledge of the European market enable him to curate a diverse selection of top-quality products for customers seeking sophistication and style. Together, Marta and Marcin complement each other's strengths, driving The Doors Ltd. to success as a one-stop destination for exceptional door and window solutions. Their collaborative efforts ensure that customers receive unparalleled service. Marta Wilczyńska and Marcin Siudem are not only business partners at The Doors Ltd. but also a devoted married couple raising two wonderful children together. Balancing the demands of entrepreneurship with family life, they embody resilience, teamwork, and mutual support. Their shared commitment to both their family and their business endeavors strengthens their bond and drives them towards success in all aspects of their lives.





DEAR AWARDEES

It is with great joy and deep appreciation that I reach out to express my heartfelt congratulations on receiving the prestigious award from the Brilliant Minded Women Organization. Your extraordinary achievements and unwavering commitment truly symbolize excellence and reflect the values we hold dear in our organization. The award you have earned honors work that has a profound and transformative impact on both the local and international communities.

Your remarkable accomplishments not only testify to your resolute determination but also leave a lasting legacy that will inspire and motivate future generations. In each of the awarded categories, your endeavors serve as a model to follow, demonstrating significant influence as leaders and showcasing your relentless commitment to shaping a better world. Your social engagement is an invaluable source of hope and support for others.

You are exemplars who inspire and motivate others to pursue their personal and social goals, and your vision and dedication will leave indelible marks on our community. May your future achievements and leadership continue to inspire others, encouraging them to follow in your footsteps and contribute to building a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Agata Klimczak".

Agata Klimczak

CEO and Founder

Brilliant Minded Women Organization

BRILLIANT MINDED WOMEN ORGANIZATION AWARD CATEGORIES

HONORABLE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Honourable Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed upon an individual who, throughout her lifetime, whether in life or posthumously, has had a profound and transformative impact on her community and/or business. This prestigious award recognizes her exceptional contributions, unwavering dedication, and enduring influence, ensuring that her legacy will be cherished and remembered by future generations.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an individual who has been a driving force behind significant transformations in her community, environment, family, and business over many years. The nominee embodies wisdom and the depth of service that leads to profound changes, enriching the lives of individuals and groups. Her exceptional achievements and commitment serve as a lasting source of inspiration and a model to be followed by future generations.

GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Global Excellence Award recognizes an individual who has made an exceptional impact on the international stage. The nominee has been a key, positive force in the global exchange of culture, intellect, and ideas, continuously building bridges between diverse cultures through her international endeavors. Her efforts in promoting understanding and cooperation among nations serve as a model of excellence and inspiration for future generations.

CHARITY OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Charity of the Year Award celebrates an individual, organization, or institution whose profound and enduring impact has markedly transformed charitable efforts, delivering sustainable benefits to the community. Through their exemplary philanthropy, they have set an unparalleled standard of excellence, forging a legacy that will inspire and be remembered across generations. Their contributions have not only enriched the lives of those they serve but also established a model of generosity and dedication for future endeavors.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes an individual whose dedicated commitment to community service has created profound and transformative impact. Through her unwavering compassion and steadfast dedication, she has catalyzed meaningful and positive change, advancing the missions of one or more organizations. Her exemplary service embodies the highest ideals of volunteerism, setting a distinguished standard of generosity and leadership that inspires and elevates the spirit of community engagement.

BRILLIANT MINDED WOMEN ORGANIZATION AWARD CATEGORIES

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Philanthropist of the Year Award honors an individual who has significantly advanced the welfare of others through substantial financial and in-kind contributions to communities in need. The nominee exemplifies exceptional civic and charitable responsibility, serving as a model of generosity and philanthropy. Their actions not only make a substantial impact on community development but also inspire others to share their own kindness in a similar manner.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH AWARD

The Business Development and Growth Award recognizes an individual whose visionary leadership has been pivotal in the dynamic expansion of her organization, both domestically and internationally. The nominee, in collaboration with her team, has served as a driving force in advancing best practices in business development, fostering substantial growth, and establishing a benchmark of excellence within the industry. Her exceptional contributions reflect a profound commitment to elevating organizational success and setting new standards of achievement.

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Political Leadership Award is conferred upon an individual whose political career or posthumous legacy has profoundly shaped the lives of her community, caucus, family, and business. Her exemplary leadership has been instrumental in fostering meaningful and positive change, and her enduring legacy will be perpetually revered by future generations.

BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Best Community Service Award honors an individual whose substantial contributions to local service-oriented organizations—encompassing educational, cultural, and sporting initiatives—have profoundly advanced community development. Her unwavering dedication of time, talent, and effort exemplifies the highest standards of civic engagement, positioning her as an esteemed role model in the realm of community service.

SELF DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The Self Development Award is presented to an individual whose unwavering commitment to intentional and sustained personal growth over the years sets a remarkable example. Through her achievements, including her dedication to educational advancement and the pursuit of her own goals, she actively contributes to her community by providing mentorship and encouragement. This empowers others to follow in her footsteps and realize their fullest potential. The nominee embodies self-awareness, inspiration, elegance, and grace.

BRILLIANT MINDED WOMEN ORGANIZATION AWARD CATEGORIES

MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT AWARD

The Mind, Body, and Spirit Award is presented to an individual whose significant contributions to the well-being of others have been realized through her dedicated work in wellness, spirituality, and holistic balance. The recipient is profoundly enhancing the natural human experience, promoting comprehensive health, and fostering a harmonious integration of mind, body, and spirit.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT AWARD

The Arts and Entertainment Award is bestowed upon an individual whose profound and transformative impact has significantly furthered the advancement of artists and entertainers, inspiring communities to engage with their work on a deeper level. The recipient has played a pivotal role in elevating awareness of the indispensable contribution that arts and entertainment make to the cultural and developmental enrichment of the community. Additionally, this award honors artists who demonstrate exceptional commitment to social and charitable endeavors, actively participating in various artistic initiatives and championing the greater good.

RESILIENCE AWARD

The Resilience and Strength Award is bestowed upon an individual who, with unwavering determination and grace, has overcome significant personal challenges. The recipient shares her wisdom on the journey of reclaiming strength and self-belief, offering hope and support to others seeking inner fortitude in the face of their own difficulties. Her example serves as a profound source of inspiration and motivation for those striving to surmount their own challenges.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Student of the Year Award celebrates an individual who has exemplified outstanding leadership throughout her academic journey. This accolade honors a student who has actively participated in extracurricular pursuits while consistently achieving academic excellence. Her involvement extends beyond the classroom, contributing significantly to her community and various organizations. She epitomizes the virtues of exemplary citizenship, leaving a lasting positive impact on her environment and serving as a beacon of inspiration and leadership for both her peers and the wider community.



HONOURABLE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



DAUNA JONES-SIMMONDS

Dauna, a trailblazer in community service and leadership, was recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Influential Black People from 2022 to 2024 and honored with the Brilliant Minded Award. Originally from St. Kitts, Dauna, the 13th of 14 children, demonstrated remarkable maturity early in life. At seven, she moved to Nevis with her aunt, later returning to St. Kitts where she became the community's go-to babysitter and an avid netball player. Her community service journey began at age 11 with the Social and Education Association (SEA), focusing on youth education and social development. After relocating to Canada, Dauna continued her commitment by co-founding JOIN, a non-profit aimed at securing sustainable employment for individuals with disabilities. Her impactful work extended to the Board of Directors at ACCES Employment, where she

served as Chair for over six years, and other boards including Delta Family Resource Centre and DYLOTT. Through these roles, she mentored over 60 individuals, many of whom have become lawyers, CEOs, and entrepreneurs. Dauna's leadership also encompasses the co-founding of the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women project, celebrating the achievements of 500 Black Canadian women through publications, Fireside Chats, annual symposiums, and biennial book launches and award ceremonies. In 2024, she made history as the first Black President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Toronto, Canada's largest Rotary Club, founded over 115 years ago. Among her recent philanthropic endeavors, Dauna orchestrated the donation of 40,000 syringes to diabetics in St. Kitts who could not afford them and spearheaded a sewing project to create menstrual pads for homeless women in the Dominican Republic. In her personal life, Dauna takes pride in her award-winning garden, a testament to her dedication and creativity, having won front garden awards for 20 years. She cherishes time with her five grandchildren - Harlowe, Peyton, Wren, Robyn, and Graham - and enjoys a close-knit family life with her husband, Wrensford, their son, Wrensford II, daughter, Dauren, and their spouses, Shannon and Greg. An avid traveler and Caribbean cooking enthusiast, Dauna has explored over 40 countries, continually seeking new destinations and culinary experiences. Her dream remains to contribute to making the world a better place for future generations.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



DIANA LYNN DUPUY

Diane, a visionary leader and humanitarian of Italian descent, founded Famous PEOPLE Players in 1974, revolutionizing perceptions of disability through black light theatre. Under her guidance, the troupe has graced global stages, from Broadway to the Great Wall of China, advocating inclusivity and empowerment for individuals with developmental challenges. The CBS Movie-of-the-Week "Special People" celebrated Diane's journey with Famous PEOPLE Players, highlighting their artistic excellence and societal impact. Her steadfast pursuit of artistic and humanitarian excellence earned her the Order of Canada and the title of Woman of the Year by B'nai B'rith Women. She has also received prestigious awards like the Ernest C. Manning Award for Merit and Ernst & Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year. As a prolific

author, Diane inspires with best-sellers such as "Dare to Dream" and "Throw Your Heart Over the Fence," encouraging courage in pursuing aspirations. A sought-after international speaker, she addresses forums like the SAMBHAV Conference 2010 in India on imagination, entrepreneurship, and leadership. In 2010, Diane expanded her vision with Toronto's Dine & Dream Theater, offering a unique Culinary Dream program blending culinary and theatrical experiences. This initiative enriches cultural understanding and supports community development within Famous PEOPLE Players. Alongside her husband Bernard, children Jeannine and Joanne, and grandson Dustin, Diane nurtures future generations of artists and leaders. Her commitment to creativity and inclusivity illustrates art and compassion's transformative power in fostering a more empathetic world.



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



NATALIA KUSENDOVA-BASHTA

Natalia Kusendova-Bashta was born in Slovakia and raised in Mississauga, Ontario. Her heritage is a blend of her mother's Polish and her father's Slovak roots, and she proudly holds dual citizenship. Natalia attended Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School before pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology and Human Physiology at the University of Toronto, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Nipissing University. She is currently advancing her education with a Master's of Nursing Research at Toronto Metropolitan University. Natalia's linguistic proficiency spans five languages: English, Polish, French, Czech, and Slovak. In her professional capacity, Natalia represents the constituents of Mississauga Centre, articulating their concerns in the provincial

parliament. On June 6, 2024, she was appointed Ontario's Minister of Long-Term Care, having served as a Member of the Provincial Parliament since 2018 for the Mississauga Centre Riding. Her prior roles include Parliamentary Assistant (PA) to the Ministry of Francophone Affairs, PA to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, and PA to the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Natalia's legislative accomplishments are notable. She introduced Bill 121, the Improving Dementia Care in Ontario Act, aimed at enhancing care for dementia and Alzheimer's patients by promoting specialized training for personal support workers. Additionally, she has championed breast cancer screening, successfully advocating for the reduction of the eligibility age from fifty to forty years. Her motion to expand Ontario's lung cancer screening program further exemplifies her commitment to public health. Beyond her political career, Natalia is a dedicated Registered Nurse. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she exemplified her commitment to healthcare by working 12-hour shifts in the emergency department at Etobicoke General Hospital. Natalia finds joy and balance in staying active. She believes in the importance of physical activity for both mental and physical well-being. Her favorite pastimes include walking her puppy Cleo, camping with friends and family, and participating in hot yoga, salsa, and local gym classes. These activities provide her with a sense of comfort and equilibrium, underscoring the harmony between physical movement, mindfulness, and the appreciation of life's simple pleasures.



BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



MARIA KUCHARSKA

Maria, born on October 3, 1953, in Nowy Targ, boasts a rich professional background and extensive involvement in community activities. She graduated from a Vocational Technical School in Nowy Targ, laying a solid foundation for her career development. Maria is a proud mother of three children: her son Rafał Kucharski, co-owner of Marysin Dwór Hotel and Restaurant in Katowice, and her two daughters: Marzena Milner, also a co-owner of Marysin Dwór, and Martyna Kucharska-Staszcz, a lawyer. Maria gained recognition as a co-owner of Katowice Fur Works and served as a representative in a joint venture with American capital. She is the co-founder of Góralska Karczma Pod Strzechą in Katowice, which has received numerous awards, including the "Śląski Znak Jakości." Maria is also instrumental in the success of Marysin Dwór Hotel and

Restaurant in Katowice, which has been honored with awards such as the "Employer of Tomorrow" awarded by the SME Center and PARP, as well as the TERAZ POLSKA award for the best hotel services under the patronage of the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda. For many years, Maria has served as the Honorary Ambassador of Nowy Targ and co-authored the Podhalan Association Branch in Katowice. Her impressive social activism includes co-organizing the Oplatek Maltański event at Marysin Dwór Hotel and Restaurant and organizing Children's Day for needy families in Katowice. Recognized for her assistance to Ukraine during the outbreak of war, Maria was awarded the Pro Merito Melitensi order by the Grand Master of the Order of Malta in Rome. Maria supports charitable activities of the Church in Katowice and worldwide, organizing numerous charity balls for noble causes. Beyond her professional and social commitments, Maria Kucharska is a devoted mother and grandmother. Her family life radiates warmth and support, reflecting in the professional successes of her children. In her leisure time, she actively supports local initiatives. Maria's work and dedication serve as a role model for many, leaving an indelible mark on the history of the region.



BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



JOANNA MAJ

Joanna's journey is a testament to resilience, community spirit, and unwavering dedication to making a difference. Born in Krakow, Poland in 1979, Joanna was raised by her heroic single mother, Iwona Maj, alongside her brother Radoslaw. Her childhood in Krakow was marked by love and community involvement, influenced deeply by her grandfather Józef's ambitious spirit and her grandmother Leokadia's nurturing presence. The Maj family's emigration to Canada in 1993 brought Joanna to Toronto's vibrant Little Italy, where she quickly adapted to new cultures and traditions despite initial challenges with language and educational policies. At Brother Edmund Rice School, Joanna thrived academically and socially, immersing herself in extracurricular

activities and community initiatives, setting the stage for her lifelong commitment to service. Joanna's career began in the insurance industry, where she spent 16 years nurturing her passion for event planning and fundraising through various side ventures. Her expertise in organizing events—from concerts and political campaigns to fundraisers and weddings—has not only displayed her creativity but also raised substantial funds for Polish organizations and community initiatives. A trailblazer in community service, Joanna has held pivotal roles such as Director of Mississauga Polish Day and Chair of the Young and Youth Committee for the Canadian Polish Business Association. Her contributions extend to education as Director of Polish Studies at the University of Toronto and involvement in the Polish Scouting Association, sharing traditions with her daughter Gabriella. Joanna's accolades include the Cultural Heritage Award from Heritage Mississauga Foundation and the Civic Award of Recognition from the City of Mississauga. She continues to inspire as the Founder of Alderwood Academy, a Polish Canadian elementary school, and through her advocacy for causes like the Cancer Society of Canada and SickKids Hospital. Joanna Maj is a brilliant mind, inspired by many remarkable women in her life, including her grandmother Leokadia, her single mother Iwona, and her business-oriented godmother Beata. She is a resolute mother to Gabriella, who at an early age already understands the importance of sharing and donating.



BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



LIDIA MASLANKA

Lidia, a tax advisor with the Silesian branch of the National Chamber of Tax Advisors in Warsaw, has been running her own tax office in Myszków for over 25 years. Her passion for tax law and dedication to providing practical advice make her a respected expert in her field. Clients value her skills in solving complex tax issues that they cannot manage on their own. Lidia graduated with a degree in Finance and Accounting from the Faculty of Administration and Management at the University of Economics in Katowice. Her extensive professional experience and ongoing commitment to professional development have earned her numerous diplomas and certifications from esteemed institutions, including the Modzelewski & Partners Tax Studies Institute, the Local Initiatives Centre, and the Jurajski Center for Social Economy Support (JOWES). While her professional work inspires her, it is her charitable activities that bring her the

greatest satisfaction. Since July 2014, she has been the founder and president of the "Cooperation and Development" Foundation. The foundation operates both locally and internationally, executing humanitarian projects in Poland (Częstochowa, Zawiercie, Silesian Voivodeship) and Africa (Cameroon). Through her dedication, the foundation has managed to deliver medications and medical equipment and provide care and education to orphans in collaboration with the Polish Missionaries. One of the foundation's most significant projects was the construction of three deep wells in Cameroon, which substantially improved access to clean water for the local population. Lidia's foundation is also involved in collecting corrective eyewear for residents of Ethiopia and Cameroon and collaborates with the Catholic Charity Association "Betel" to assist in building homes for people with disabilities in both Poland and Africa.



SELF DEVELOPMENT AWARD



MARTA WILCZYŃSKA

Marta Wilczyńska, born on November 11, 1975, in Brzeg Dolny near Wrocław, Poland, is a dynamic individual whose journey is marked by resilience and diverse accomplishments. Marta's educational path began with a focus on economics at a general secondary school, followed by studies in banking in Wrocław. Her career then led her to an eight-year tenure in accounting at the Wołów correctional facility, under the Polish Ministry of Justice. Seeking further educational and professional growth, Marta pursued a degree in Physical Education at the Academy of Physical Education in Wrocław, graduating with a master's degree. Her commitment to education extended to Canada, where she later settled after completing her studies. Initially faced with the challenge of learning English

from scratch, Marta persevered and eventually had her academic credentials recognized by the University of Toronto, leading to opportunities in teaching Polish language. Marta's career in Canada flourished as she transitioned into early childhood education, bringing her unique blend of skills in physical education and bilingual instruction to preschool settings. Over three years, she gained invaluable experience that later influenced her role in business alongside her husband, Marcin. Together, they nurtured a growing enterprise, balancing technical operations with Marta's expertise in logistics, customer service, and accounting. Beyond her professional achievements, Marta finds fulfillment in her role as a mother to two children, Aleksander and Wiktoria. As Wiktoria prepares to embark on her nursing studies at Western University, Marta embraces the next chapter of supporting her family's aspirations and contributing to her community. Marta exemplifies dedication and adaptability, embodying the essence of perseverance and success in both personal and professional spheres. Her journey reflects a commitment to continuous learning and making meaningful contributions wherever life takes her.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH AWARD



AGATA GRAJDEK

Agata Grajdek was born in 1975 in Ogródzieniec. She grew up in a family with two brothers, Robert and Mariusz, under the care of her parents, Maria and Teofil. Her education began at Primary School No. 5 in Zawiercie, where she made a lifelong friend, Joanna. Growing up in Zawiercie shaped Agata's character and passions. A pivotal moment in her life was the decision to pursue education at a medical school, obtaining a nursing diploma, which set the direction for her further education and career. After completing medical school, Agata met Grzegorz, who soon became her husband. Together, they welcomed their daughter, Kinga, which brought new challenges and motivation for further development. Life was challenging for the Grajdek family, but Agata persevered. She began her career as a dental assistant at Krzysztof

Majewski's small dental practice, a pivotal moment. She expanded her education at the Adult Medical School in Zawiercie, earning a diploma in dental assisting. Not stopping there, Agata pursued further qualifications, completing a course to become a dental hygienist. Simultaneously, she began educating future dental assistants and hygienists at the same school, becoming a certified contract teacher after a qualifying pedagogical course. Agata has achieved several diplomas, including ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System internal auditor certification and healthcare management leader certification. She has completed over 60 courses in medicine and management, and actively supports charitable initiatives like the "Noble Box" program. Agata Grajdek exemplifies success through hard work, determination, and a passion for continuous self-improvement, both professionally and personally. Her hobbies include crafting and caring for her beloved dogs.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH AWARD



BEATA MALEK

Beata, born on October 24, 1978 in Poland, is a distinguished entrepreneur and the co-founder of XL LOGISTICS, an international logistics company celebrated for its achievements over the past 18 years. Alongside her husband, Mateusz Malek, Beata has played a pivotal role in establishing XL LOGISTICS as a leading global logistics operator. Beata Malek, an acclaimed entrepreneurship leader, has earned accolades including the Entrepreneurial Leader Certificate 2024 and the Businesswomen Award 2023. She holds a degree in Economic Enterprise Management from Częstochowa University of Technology, postgraduate studies in Logistics Management from EAN Institute, and an MBA SME from WSB Academy. Beata Malek believes that development is a key factor influencing intellectual, emotional, financial, relational, and social well-being. Therefore, she has been continuously learning and training, believing that by becoming a better person, she can provide greater value to her family,

employees, clients, and allies. She combines theoretical knowledge with practical management skills. Her commitment and determination have allowed the company to gain recognition in a male-dominated market. She is invited as a speaker to international economic events (e.g., International Economic Forum in Katowice 2024). In interviews, she emphasizes that the keys to success are passion, hard work, and the ability to balance professional and family life. In her professional life, Beata Malek places great emphasis on building relationships with clients and the continuous development of the company and its employees. She constantly enhances her skills through numerous trainings in business psychology, sales, marketing, and management with Dr. Mateusz Grzesiak and Dr. Katarzyna Bilińska, professor at the University of Economics in Katowice. In 2021, she completed courses in meditation and spirituality with Dr. Iliana Ramirez. In 2024, she began additional postgraduate studies at the Academy of Mental Trainers at the Łazarski University in cooperation with JBB International under the guidance of Jakub B. Bączek. Privately, she is a warm, sensitive, and affectionate person. She always emphasizes that her authenticity and adherence to her values, honesty, and respect for others allow her to build long-lasting relationships and trust among friends, colleagues, and clients. She loves making changes and eagerly embraces challenges. Since childhood, she has been passionate about chess, which has developed her analytical thinking, planning, and forecasting skills. She enjoys tennis, swimming, yoga, and family travels.





LETTER FROM THE PRIOR OF MALOPOLSKA AND THE GRAND PRIOR OF POLAND



DEAR HONOURABLE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Congratulations on your remarkable achievements as the 2024 recipients of Brilliant Minded Women! Your dedication and hard work have truly set you apart, and we are proud to celebrate you alongside the esteemed Global Ambassadors and the Dames and Cavaliers of the Order of Saint Stanislas. This year's collaboration with Brilliant Minded Women highlights the extraordinary impact we can achieve together. Your commitment to philanthropy and community support is inspiring and exemplifies the spirit of unity and purpose that drives us all. As we honor your successes, let us also recognize the incredible journey ahead. Together, we are creating a brighter future for those in need, not only in Małopolska but throughout the entire country. Your efforts will undoubtedly pave the way for future leaders and initiatives that will continue to make a difference. Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. We look forward to the continued collaboration and the positive change we can bring to our communities together.

Warm regards,

Jacek Zyrkowski GCCStS
Przeor Małopolski OSSt



Marek Kramarski GCCStS
Wielki Przeor Polski OSSt

ORDER OF ST. STANISLAS

Order of Saint Stanislas is a Polish order of knighthood that was instituted in 1765 by the last Polish King before the partitions of the country, King Stanislaw August Poniatowski. It is deeply grounded in the history of the final years of the Kingdom of Poland before its dissolution (a Commonwealth Kingdom which included Polish Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus), and it is a symbol of Polish heritage and culture. The institution of Order came with the development of Bishop-Martyr's cult, a defender of faith and those who suffer. After the 1830 Uprising by Russian tsars, it was incorporated into the honors system of the Russian Empire, and by independence, the Second Republic of Poland replaced it with Order of the Rebirth of Poland. However, by the 9th of July 1979, at the 900th Anniversary of the death of the Martyr of Saint Stanislas, Order of Saint Stanislas was reinstituted by the President of Republic of Poland and Polish Government (in Exile) and since 1990 Order become an independent world-wide distinction.

CAVALIERS & DAMES OF ORDER'S OF ST. STANISLAS 2024

AGNIESZKA SZEWCZYK (CSStS)

Dame-Commander's Cross of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown & Silver star

*

IWONA EWA KIREJCZYK (CSStS)

Dame-Commander's Cross of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown & Silver star

*

MARIA DE BIALYNIA WOYCIKIEWICZ (CSStS)

Dame-Commander's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

JERZY DE BIALYNIA WOYCIKIEWICZ (CSStS)

Cavalier-Commander's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

ANIELA GANCZAK (CSStS)

Dame-Commander's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

AGATA GRAJDEK (CSStS)

Dame-Commander's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

FRAN RIDER (CSStS)

Dame-Commander's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

MATEUSZ MALEK (CSStS)

Cavalier-Commander's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown



CAVALIERS & DAMES OF ORDER'S OF ST. STANISLAS 2024

*

MARGARET MAYE (DCStS)

Dame-Knight's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

DR. JEAN AUGUSTINE (DCStS)

Dame-Knight's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

EVELYN BAILEY (DCStS)

Dame-Knight's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

DAUNA JONES-SIMMONDS (DCStS)

Dame-Knight's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

CARMELA LIPAROTI (DCStS)

Dame-Knight's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown

*

COPERNICUS LODGE (OCStS)

Cavalier-Officer's of Order of St. Stanislas with Crown



**Class I
(GCCStS)**

Great Cross
with Crown on
the Ribbon &
the Gold Star



**Class II
(CSSStS)**

Commander's
Cross with
Crown & the
Silver Star



**Class III
(CStS)**

Commander's
Cross with
Crown



**Class IV
(OCStS)**

Officer's Cross
with Crown



**Class V
(KCStS)**

Knight's Cross
with Crown





JACEK ŻYRKOWSKI (GCCStS)

Prior Małopolski OSSt

Since 2004, Knight Jacek Żyrkowski has served as the Prior of Małopolska. He holds multiple degrees from AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, including Electronics, Organization and Management, and Renewable Resources and Energy Sources, along with a degree in Tourism Organization and Economics from Kraków University of Economics. His professional journey includes a decade with the Diocesan Management of the Catholic Action in the Archdiocese of Kraków, where he was pivotal in establishing several Housing Cooperatives. These initiatives led to the construction of around 250 housing units, benefiting young residents of orphanages and low-income families. In addition to his contributions to social

welfare, Żyrkowski has made a significant impact in education. As a teacher at Kraków's Electronic and Tourism Technical Schools, he facilitated valuable international experiences for students through ERASMUS+ internships in Italy, enhancing their global perspectives and practical skills.

MAREK KRAMARSKI (GCCStS)

Deputy Prior of Małopolska

In 2009, Sir Marek Kramarski GCCStS was appointed Deputy Prior of the Małopolska Province, hailing from a distinguished Kraków family. Marek began his entrepreneurial journey during his school years and continued through the socialist era. Leveraging his chemical education, he established a workshop where he manufactured frames for both sunglasses and prescription glasses. Simultaneously, he managed an authorized dealership for four automotive brands and two motorcycle brands. Since 2000, he has been running a Medical Products Consulting Firm. As an entrepreneur, he was a co-initiator of the revival of the Kraków Chamber of Commerce and Industry, serving as a member of the Chamber's Board from 1992 to 1994. Since 1997, Marek has been actively involved in charitable activities, including



fundraising for flood victims and monthly collections for chronically ill patients at the St. Lazarus Hospice in Kraków. In 1998, he organized fundraisers and meals for the homeless and residents of the St. Albert's House on Krakowska Street. For many years, he has supported disabled children from the Special Educational and Care Center No. 4 in Kraków, financing rehabilitation trips and providing Christmas packages for the St. Lazarus Hospice and hospices in Kałków-Godów.





MACIEJ KALISKI (GCCStS)

Grand Herald and Bailiff of Order of St. Stanislas

Maciej Kazimierz Kaliski, born March 2, 1947, is the Grand Duke of the Union of the Association of Polish Monarchist Organizations. An academic professor of technical science, habilitated doctor, engineer, he graduated from the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków in 1970, earning his Ph.D. in 1975 and his habilitation in 1990 from the Silesian University of Technology. He has authored approximately 280 scientific publications and supervised 14 doctoral candidates. Dr. Kaliski has held academic positions at the University of Algiers (1980-1985) and completed research internships in Belgium and Syria. He has worked with the Belgian group CBR, Heidelberg Cement in Germany, and the Ministry of Economy, where he led the Departments of Oil and Mining. As Deputy Minister of Economy during the Polish EU Presidency, he was responsible for the energy, fuel, and mining sectors. Kaliski has received numerous state, departmental, and ecclesiastical honors from Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, including the highest awards from the Polish Hunting Association and the Polish Kennel Club.

AGNIESZKA SZEWCZYK (CSSStS)

Comm.'s Cross, Order of StS with Crown & Silver Star

Born in Połczyn-Zdrój, Agnieszka spent her childhood in various cities across Poland, including Poznań and Mirosławiec, before her family settled permanently in Kraków. It was in Kraków where she established her family, married, and is now raising two children. In 2002, Agnieszka embarked on her entrepreneurial journey by founding Kedarix. Prior to launching her own venture, she gained diverse experience in roles such as an accountant, warehouse worker, employee in a building materials store, and stair factory. These experiences provided her with a solid foundation for her own business. Kedarix quickly gained recognition and became a well-established name in its industry. Agnieszka is a proponent of continuous learning and innovation, which is evident in her current efforts to develop training programs aimed at addressing the shortage of skilled workers, particularly plumbers. Despite facing numerous challenges, including personal difficulties related to divorce and attempts by individuals to undermine her company, Agnieszka has persistently worked on rebuilding her business. Her determination and commitment have not only enabled her to navigate through tough times but also to grow her company, with a strong emphasis on innovation and development.





DR. IWONA EWA KIREJCZYK (CSStS)

Comm.'s Cross, Order of StS with Crown & Silver Star

Dr. Iwona Ewa Kirejczyk is a compassionate and dedicated educator whose life has been devoted to helping others. Born in Warsaw, Poland, she was deeply influenced by her mother, Lieutenant Krystyna Puławska-Wolska, a participant in the Warsaw Uprising, and her parents' commitment to service. After earning a Master's degree in Geography from the University of Warsaw and a Doctorate in Education for Visually Impaired Children from the University of Gdańsk, she began her career in Poland, specializing in special education. In 1990, she emigrated to Canada, where she spent 21 years working with the York Catholic District School Board, teaching children with visual impairments and integrating newcomers from the Polish community. Her passion for education earned her recognition and awards, including the Brilliant Minded Women Lifetime Achievement Award and Volunteer Service Awards. In 2024, she was honored with the Knight's Cross of Order of Polonia Restituta by the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda. Beyond her professional life, she is a devoted grandmother, artist, and enthusiast of travel and culture.

MARIA DE BIALYNIA WOYCİKIEWICZ (CSStS)

Commander's Cross, Order of StS with Crown

Maria de Białynia Woycikiewicz (Trepieńska) is a journalist and economic commentator. Active in the field since the 1990s, she has focused on economic issues throughout her career. She began her professional journey at Dziennik Zachodni and subsequently worked with prestigious national media outlets, including Gazeta Bankowa, Puls Biznesu, and Forbes. She is a recipient of the esteemed Award of Excellence in Journalism, granted by Columbia University in New York and Citibank. She has also been honored with the Ostre Pióro BCC Award on four occasions and received the Golden Laurel of Skills and Competence in the Media category from the Regional Chamber of Commerce in Katowice. Additionally, she was recognized with the "Brand of Silesia" title by the Regional Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Gliwice. For nearly 20 years, she has organized the Silesia Press journalism competition, promoting high professional standards. She is the author of the book **Religia: Świat wokół serca**, which tells the story of the distinguished Polish heart surgeon and transplantation pioneer. Part of the book's proceeds were donated to the Foundation for the Development of Cardiac Surgery. She has been actively involved in charitable work, especially for children. She initiated a calendar featuring journalism stars in costumes designed by the renowned film costume designer Barbara Ptak, with the proceeds supporting the youth at Dom Aniołów Stróżów.





ANIELA GANCZAK (CSStS)

Commander's Cross, Order of StS with Crown

Aniela, born in Józefów near Lublin into a military family associated with the Home Army, earned her Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Lublin in 1980. She began her career in spatial planning at the Spatial Planning Office in Zamość and later served as the Head of the Environmental Approval and Planning Department in the municipal authorities. In 1992, she emigrated to Canada with her two daughters, Iwona and Magdalena. As a single mother, she quickly became involved in the Polish community, participating in cultural initiatives such as Radio Maryja and the choir, and establishing a charitable foundation in Poland to support impoverished children. As the President of the Ladies Circle "Nadzieja" until 2024, she led an organization dedicated to supporting healthcare and families in challenging situations. She also actively participated in the Canadian-Polish Congress and served as Volunteer Coordinator at the Copernicus Retirement Home, engaging in elderly care. Beyond her community work, Aniela found joy in connecting with nature through her participation in the Koliba Tourist Club and exploring hiking trails across Ontario. Her greatest pride is her role as a mother and grandmother.

AGATA GRAJDEK (CSStS)

Commander's Cross, Order of StS with Crown

Agata was born in 1975 in Ogródzieniec. She grew up with her two brothers, Robert and Mariusz, under the care of her parents, Maria and Teofil. Her education began at Primary School No. 5 in Zawiercie, where she formed a lifelong friendship with Joanna. Her upbringing in Zawiercie significantly shaped Agata's character and passions. A pivotal moment in her life was her decision to pursue medical studies and earn a nursing diploma, which set the course for her future education and career. After completing her medical training, Agata met Grzegorz, who would soon become her husband. They welcomed a daughter, Kinga, which brought new challenges and motivation for further development. Life for the Grajdek family was not easy, but Agata remained steadfast in her pursuit of her goals. She began her career as a dental assistant in a small dental practice with Krzysztof Majewski, marking a significant turning point. She furthered her education at the Adult Medical School in Zawiercie, obtaining a diploma as a dental assistant. She completed a course to become a dental hygienist and subsequently started teaching future dental assistants and hygienists. Agata holds numerous diplomas, including certification as an internal auditor for quality management systems and a leader in healthcare management. She actively supports charitable initiatives, such as the "Szlachetna Paczka" program.





FRAN RIDER (CStS)

Commander's Cross, Order of StS with Crown

Born in 1954 in Toronto, Fran is a pioneering figure in women's ice hockey, known for her remarkable contributions both on and off the ice. Professionally, Fran's influence in the hockey world is unparalleled. She founded the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) in 1975, an organization that has since become a cornerstone for women's hockey in Ontario and beyond. Under her leadership, the OWHA has grown exponentially, supporting thousands of female athletes and organizing numerous tournaments and leagues. Her tireless advocacy was instrumental in the inclusion of women's ice hockey in the Olympic Winter Games, first appearing in Nagano in 1998. Fran's impact extends internationally as well. She played a key role in the establishment of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women's World Championship, which has been held regularly since 1990. Her efforts have significantly contributed to the growth and recognition of women's hockey worldwide, ensuring that female athletes receive the opportunities and support they deserve. Throughout her career, Fran has been honored with numerous awards and accolades, including the Order of Canada in 2015 and induction into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2019. These recognitions are a testament to her unwavering commitment and profound influence in the world of women's hockey.

JERZY DE BIALYNIA WOYCİKIEWICZ (CStS)

Commander's Cross, Order of StS with Crown

He aspired to be a sailor but became an engineer and entrepreneur instead. The twists of fate for his family changed everything. His grandfather hailed from Austria-Hungary and, before World War II, moved to Lwów, Poland, where he ambitiously managed a business as the representative of the German firm Bosch, Industrial Works. After the war, he lost nearly everything, fleeing to the former German city of Bytom, and starting over once again. His mother served in the intelligence of the Home Army, while his father was an adjunct to General Józef Haller von Hallenberg, Commander-in-Chief of all Polish Armed Forces. This was the family's first harsh lesson in history and economics. He attended the Higher Automotive Officers' School and the Silesian University of Technology, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Energy. Upholding family traditions, he grew up in an environment that valued science and the cultivation of patriotic attitudes. Through many years of running a business in automotive electromechanics, he trained hundreds of young people. He has always financially supported those eager to learn and acquire new skills. Extensive global travels have also allowed him to aid the poor and needy. In Poland, he actively participates in various charitable auctions.





MATEUSZ MALEK (CStS)

Commander's Cross, Order of StS with Crown

Born on April 23, 1978, he is a co-founder and partner of XL LOGISTICS, an international logistics company that has been thriving for 18 years. He is a devoted husband and father of two teenage sons. Mateusz holds a Master's degree in international Transport and Freight Forwarding from the University of Economics in Katowice (2003), a postgraduate diploma in Logistics from the Institute of Logistics and Warehousing (EAN), and an MBA in Small and Medium Enterprises from WSB University (2023). Mateusz continuously expands his knowledge through various training programs in modern technologies, business psychology, sales, and management. His leadership at XL LOGISTICS has led to significant growth and innovation, earning the company numerous accolades, including Company of the Year, Business Tiger, Business Diamond, Business Master, and the Polish Quality Award. Recognized as a leading entrepreneur, Mateusz has received individual honors such as the Businessman Award and the Business Master Award. He actively participates in economic conferences and TSL seminars and supports educational and charitable initiatives. He has also begun postgraduate studies in Mental Coaching at Lazarski University. Mateusz also enjoys spending time with his family and pets and has a passion for travel, film, and sports.

JEAN AUGUSTINE (DCStS)

Knight's Cross, Order of StS

Born on September 9, 1937, in St. George's, Grenada, she is an influential Canadian politician and advocate for social justice. Immigrating to Canada in 1960, she quickly gained recognition in education and politics. She graduated from the University of Toronto with both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in education. She began her career as a teacher and later became a principal with the Metropolitan Separate School Board in Toronto. She played a pivotal role in organizing the Caribana Festival and was actively involved in the National Congress of Black Women of Canada and the Urban Alliance on Race Relations. In 1993, she made history as the first Black woman elected to the Canadian House of Commons, representing Etobicoke—Lakeshore until 2006. During her tenure, she held significant positions, including Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of State for Multiculturalism and Status of Women, and Chair of parliamentary committees. Her accomplishments include establishing February as Black History Month and supporting the construction of the Famous Five Monument. After her political career, she served as the Ontario Commissioner for Equality (2007-2015) and is now engaged in social advocacy as a patron of non-profit organizations.





EVELYN BAILEY

Knight's Cross, Order of Sts

Evelyn is a first-generation Chilean Canadian born in Toronto, has built a remarkable career in the arts, shaped by her diverse heritage and creative upbringing. Raised by parents who fled Chile during the Pinochet dictatorship, Evelyn's Jamaican ancestry adds depth to her cultural identity, reflected in her surname. From an early age, she pursued classical fine arts and later earned a degree in Art of Animation, mastering traditional and digital techniques. Her observational drawing skills, honed during subway rides, led to the creation of a notable short film, opening doors in film and production. After a tragic fire destroyed her family's home in

Chile, Evelyn returned to Canada, becoming a mother to twin boys in 2016. Undeterred by personal challenges, she founded Evaluation Workshop in 2017, empowering others to heal through art. Evelyn's influence extends beyond her art; she plays a key role in Niagara Falls' cultural scene, participating in the Artists Discovery Program and the Arts and Culture Committee. As Creative Director of the award-winning Light Show in Cambridge and through her company Enlightened Art Inc., launched in 2021, Evelyn continues to blend technology and art, inspiring others to embrace creativity and resilience.

DAUNA JONES-SIMMONDS (DCStS)

Knight's Cross, Order of StS

Dauna, recognized as one of the 100 most influential Black individuals in Canada, is a pioneer in social service and leadership and a recipient of the Brilliant Minded Women Award. Hailing from St. Kitts, where she was the thirteenth of fourteen children, she displayed caregiving abilities from a young age. After moving to Nevis and then returning to St. Kitts, she gained a reputation as a community caregiver and an active participant in sports and social activities. In Canada, she co-founded JOIN, an organization supporting the employment of individuals with disabilities, and served as Chair of ACCES Employment. She was involved with the Delta Family Resource Centre and DYLOTT, preparing over 60 individuals for leadership roles. She also co-founded the 100 Outstanding Black Canadian Women project, which honors successful professional women. In 2024, she will become the first Black President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Toronto, the largest Rotary Club in Canada. Dauna enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and family, traveling to over 40 countries, and is passionate about Caribbean cuisine.





CARMELA LIPAROTI (DCStS)

Knight's Cross, Order of StS

Born in Buenos Aires, immigrated to Canada at seven. Settling in Toronto, she grew up embracing her Nipissing Algonquin Métis heritage alongside her Italian roots. Her studies in languages at York University enriched her ability to work with diverse communities. Initially, she worked in social services in Mississauga, and later emerged as a leader as President of the Mississauga Italian Canadian Benevolent Association (MICBA). In this role, she initiated projects such as the Forum Italia Non-Profit Housing Corporation and Villa Forum Long Term Care Home. Carmela is also active in charitable endeavors, supporting Sunshine Dreams for Kids and projects in Tanzania. Her commitment has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Diamond Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II and the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism in Ontario. Internationally, she has been honored with the Cavaliere of Order of the Star of Solidarity of Italy. Her philosophy of giving back to the community that embraced her is reflected in her renowned statement: "I did not choose this country, but now I have decided to live here, and I want to give something back."

MARGARET MAYE (DCStS)

Knight's Cross, Order of StS

Margaret Maye embodies resilience and compassion through her community service, artistic work, and civic engagement. Raised in a spirit of empathy and solidarity, her life was dramatically altered by her son's epilepsy diagnosis. In 1997, she co-founded the Epilepsy Cure Initiative (ECI), focusing on public education, dispelling myths, and improving treatments. ECI organized significant events such as the International Seminar on Medical Nutritional Therapies in Epilepsy and influenced legislative improvements in Canada, including the establishment of Epilepsy Awareness Days at Queen's Park and Parliament Hill. Margaret's impact extends to the arts, where she promotes cultural diversity and understanding. Her contributions have been recognized with honors such as Order of Merit from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland and the Silver Award from the Polish-Canadian Congress in 2007. She also received the Volunteer Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brilliant Minded Woman Foundation. Supported by her family—partner Gary, son Tomek, daughter-in-law Małgosia, and grandson Daniel—Margaret continues her advocacy for epilepsy awareness and the arts. Their support is crucial to her ongoing success and commitment to improving lives and fostering cultural enrichment.





COPERNICUS LODGE (OCStS)

Officer's Cross, Order of StS

Since its founding in 1979 by Father Michael Smith, OMI, and a dedicated board, the Kopernik Residence has served Polish seniors in the Roncesvalles neighborhood of Toronto. Initially established to support those affected by the war and deportation to Siberia, the Residence provides a culturally enriched environment integrating physical, emotional, and spiritual care. Over the past 45 years, it has expanded to accommodate over 400 seniors, offering both assisted living and long-term care. As a non-profit organization, it funds its operations through government grants and community donations. Celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2024, the Residence has organized events such as the Galaxy Ball and the revival of the annual Father Michael Smith Golf Tournament. It remains actively engaged in the community, participating in events like the Roncesvalles Polish Festival, while steadfastly upholding its mission of compassion, respect, and cultural preservation for Toronto's aging Polish population.





OUR TEAM



AGATA KLIMCZAK



DIANA DINH



ATOOSA TEHRANI



EMILIE NAYLOR



VICTORIA SIUDEM



VICTORIA SIUDEM



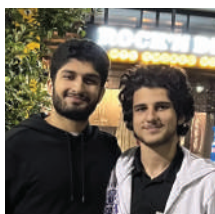
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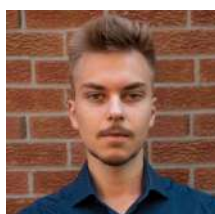
ANDREW SUDYK



KENNETH
MICHALAK



ALI & MOHAMED
BAGHERI



MYKHAILO
KONYASHYN



JACEK
ŻYRKOWSKI

SUPPORTERS



IRYNA YAKOVENKO



BEATA KAAS



NADIA ASFOUR



RITA FRAGNITO



OUR TEAM



MASTER OF CEREMONY

MARTA AND KRZYSZTOF RAKOWSKI



In 2014, at an international Polish folklore festival in Rzeszów, Poland, fate brought Krzysztof and Marta Rakowski together. It was love at first sight, which quickly blossomed into a lasting and passionate partnership. They lived on two continents, but both came from Polish families. Marta Klich was from Toronto, Canada, and Krzysztof Rakowski was from Slough, England. During Krzysztof's final years of medical studies, Marta joined him in England, where they began a new chapter of their lives together. They married in 2016 and subsequently traveled the world, discovering new cultures and places. Settling in Canada,

they now, alongside their two adventurous children, continue their mission of community service and engagement. Marta is the Artistic Director of The White Eagle Song and Dance Ensemble (Biały Orzeł) and has a background as a Math Teacher. Over the past 25 years, Marta has been actively involved in the Polish community, from her early days as a scout to her international performances, representing Polish heritage through song and dance. Her commitment also includes serving as an MC at prestigious events such as the Mississauga Polish Festival, the Roncesvalles Polish Festival, and many other charitable events. Marta is a pillar of Polish culture in Canada, continually merging her artistic passion with community service. Dr. Krzysztof is a family physician and the Medical Director at Dundas West Medical Clinic in Etobicoke. He completed his medical studies in England before moving to Canada. His earlier life involved Polish folklore dancing, scouting, and playing guitar in a function band. Currently, Krzysztof passionately balances his family life with medical work and various community activities. His experience and dedication to community life are evident in every aspect of his professional and personal life. Marta and Krzysztof Rakowski are a couple whose lives exemplify the integration of personal passions with a commitment to community service. Their shared story is not only one of love and partnership but also of relentless work in preserving Polish heritage and supporting local communities. Their dedication and achievements inspire others, demonstrating how passion and commitment can create a lasting impact on the lives of individuals and communities.

PERFORMANCES

TONIA EVANS CIANCIULLI

Tonia Evans Cianciulli is a multifaceted concert artist, enchanting her audiences across North America with her signature programs. Tonia is in high demand as a keynote performer for high profile events such as the Metro Toronto Police Chiefs Gala and the Miami Ball, and is a frequent performer at Toronto's Casa Loma. Tonia uses her voice as an access to human vulnerability, to rally the support of her audiences at niche events for meaningful causes.



MARGARET MAYE

Margaret, born in Wroclaw, Poland, is celebrated as a versatile lyric mezzo-soprano, actress, artistic director, and producer residing in Toronto, Ontario. With over 35 years of captivating audiences across Canada, Margaret's career spans a rich tapestry of musical genres—from opera and oratorio to operetta, music theatre, cabaret, and jazz. Her journey began at the Music Theatre School in Gdynia and continued at the Music Academy in Wroclaw, shaping her into an artist of profound versatility and artistic depth.

PATTI JANNETTA BAKER

Patti Jannetta Baker is an internationally renowned singer, entertainer, songwriter, and humanitarian. Discovered in high school, she began her career as a teen actress in the Canadian Rock Theatre's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which opened at the International Hilton in Las Vegas and later moved to the Aquarius Theatre in Los Angeles. Her career blossomed as she represented Canada at the Sopot Music Festival in Poland, performing with Charles Aznavour for a live audience of 50,000 and 60 million television viewers.



I.D.A INTERNATIONAL DANCE ACADEMY

Founded in 2012 by Ida Gerasolo Zucchet, the International Dance Academy (I.D.A.) stands as a premier institution for ballet and dance education in Port Credit. As Artistic Director and CEO, Ida brings extensive expertise, including a B.F.A. Honours in Dance from York University and training from the National Ballet School of Canada.

PERFORMANCES



GRENVILLE PINTO

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Grenville, affectionately known as ‘G,’ has been enchanting audiences with his violin since the tender age of seven. Raised in a musically gifted family, Grenville’s passion for music was nurtured early on, with his mother, a dedicated piano teacher, his father, a talented singer, and his two sisters, professional pianists who often accompany him. This rich musical environment set the stage for Grenville’s lifelong commitment to the arts.

EMIL KHACHATURIAN

He is a master of contemporary music. An award-winning guitar player and composer, Emil Khachaturian has brought his music to sold out venues around the world. Known for his real-time improvisation during shows, he draws audiences into the energy and passion of each performance. For lovers of contemporary guitar music, it’s a must witness evening. Emil’s impressive ownership of his musical style takes over every aspect of his performance. His music goes deep into the soul.



JOE DISILVESTRE – DJ JOE

Joe is one of the original DJs at Tremendous Sound, whose career has been spinning for over 20 years. Hailing from Italian roots, Joe’s musical journey began in the bustling club and bar scene, where he made his mark at iconic venues like Plastique, Joker, and Government. His dynamic sets and infectious energy quickly earned him a spot as a favorite among city nightlife enthusiasts.



LEGENDS SPONSORS



PATRICK KLIMCZAK Senior Financial Agent at Experior Financial Group

Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Canada, has been deeply influenced by his Polish-immigrant parents, whose dedication and hard work instilled in him strong values and an entrepreneurial spirit from an early age. During his formative years, Patrick actively participated in charity fundraisers and pursued early entrepreneurial endeavors, including working as a barber. His professional journey began with a fascination for network marketing, where his drive and ambition led him to break a global record within 30 days and achieve the prestigious rank of the youngest leader in his company. Over the years, Patrick built a successful seven-figure international coffee distribution business operating in more than twenty countries. Leading a team of over 1,000 distributors and customers, he became one of the top trainers in the company, sharing his expertise and mentoring others to reach their goals. Seeking new challenges, Patrick transitioned to the financial sector, earning his HLLQ license and joining Experior Financial Group.



CONNOR LYONS Partner at Power Sustainable

Native of London, Canada, embodies a blend of determination and commitment to lifelong learning that was instilled by his upbringing. Inspired by his parents' remarkable journeys, his mother, a family physician who pursued medical studies after his birth and his two younger sisters, Victoria and Emily, who excel in their own rights, and father, who continued his own education with a doctoral degree in his 50s - Connor's path has been guided by a deep appreciation for personal and professional growth. Connor's academic pursuits led him to earn dual BA degrees in business from the esteemed Ivey Business School and political science from Western University. Armed with this foundation, he embarked on a career trajectory fueled by his passions for finance, sustainability, and public policy. Professional milestones include pivotal roles at Power Corporation of Canada and Bain & Company, where he honed his expertise in corporate strategy and consultancy services for Canada's energy sector. In his current role as Partner at Power Sustainable, he leads initiatives to mobilize institutional capital towards sustainability-oriented investment products, aligning financial goals with collective net-zero ambitions.



THAO NGUYEN Founder of Timeless Beauty Medical Aesthetics

First-generation Canadian born to Vietnamese immigrants, embodies the resilience and work ethic she observed in her parents while growing up in the Greater Toronto Area. Their dedication and hard work in demanding jobs to provide a better life deeply inspired Thao. From an early age, she took on responsibilities, helping at home and caring for her younger brother. From age twelve, she began working every summer on fruit farms with her parents. This early experience, along with various part-time jobs in fast-food restaurants and clothing stores during high school, solidified her work ethic. During this period, she frequently visited McMaster Children's Hospital to support her brother during his health challenges. Balancing caregiving duties with work and family needs, Thao developed a strong sense of responsibility. These experiences shaped her determination to pursue a career in nursing. In 2014, she began her nursing studies at Brock-Loyalist, eager to contribute to the healthcare community. Throughout her education, Thao specialized in aesthetic nursing at Monaco Medical Spa, focusing on facial rejuvenation. In October 2023, she opened her own practice, Timeless Beauty Medical Aesthetics.



MAREK KORNAS

Key figure in the Polish Canadian community, known for his influential role in both local culture and business. His deep connection to Poland has driven his extensive involvement in civil society and professional services. For over twenty years, Marek has organized and promoted concerts featuring some of Poland's most renowned artists, engaging the local Polish community. In 1992, Mark inaugurated the first Polish Book Fair at the Polish Consulate in Toronto. This event, which toured Canadian, American, and Australian Polish communities for twenty-five years, became a cornerstone of Polish cultural promotion abroad. In 1994, he founded Nova Printing, a graphic design and printing business that has flourished in a competitive market. Nova Printing has provided printing services nationwide and inspired other Polish small businesses. Mark is a dedicated patron of the arts and education. He has donated books and textbooks to Polish schools in Ontario and collaborated with various civil and non-profit organizations, including the Polish Teachers' Association, Polish Congress, and Polish Combatants' Association.

LEGENDS SPONSORS

MARIE BUCHAN The Buchan Family Foundation

Marie is a distinguished philanthropist whose dedication to charitable causes shines brightly through her impactful work. Alongside her husband, Robert, she passionately supports a diverse range of initiatives, reflecting their shared commitment to fostering positive change and improving lives. Splitting her time between Toronto, Canada, and California, Marie skillfully balances her roles as a devoted wife and daughter with her extensive philanthropic activities. Her ability to manage these responsibilities with grace and dedication underscores her exceptional character and commitment to both family and community. Marie's remarkable contributions to philanthropy have earned her several prestigious accolades. She has been honored with the title of Dame of the Order of St. Stanislas, a testament to her distinguished service and unwavering commitment to charitable work. Additionally, Marie and Robert have been recognized as the Brilliant Mind Global Ambassador and awarded the Philanthropist of the Year by the Brilliant Minded Women Organization and Foundation. These honors celebrate her outstanding contributions and innovative approach to philanthropy.



MIECZYŚLAW KUCHARSKI Marysin Dwór Hotel & Restaurant

Mieczysław is a prominent figure whose life reflects a deep commitment to cultural heritage and a significant contribution to the gastronomy industry. As the owner of Marysin Dwór in Katowice, Mieczysław has played a key role in the local culinary scene. His influence extends beyond business, encompassing his role as the President of the Silesian branch of the Podhale Association—an organization dedicated to fostering positive relations between Silesians and highlanders, and preserving and promoting their unique cultures. Born in Nowy Targ, Poland, Mieczysław began his career in traditional leatherworking and furriery. After completing his training, he moved to the Silesian region at the age of twenty, drawn by the high quality of local wool. Along with his wife Maria, he settled in Silesia, transforming a pre-war butcher shop in Knurów into a successful tannery and furrier workshop. They later expanded the business, building a new tannery and family home in Katowice. Here as well, Mieczysław aimed to integrate and celebrate his highlander heritage within the local community. His involvement in the Podhale Association led to the establishment of the Silesian branch of the organization in May 2014.



MACIEJ DWORNIK Founder of FENIX ART

Leading company in the field of laser show organization in Poland, with over 30 years of experience in the industry. Since its establishment in 1992, the company has become synonymous with innovation and excellence in the cultural and artistic event sector. FenixArt specializes in creating spectacular mappings and comprehensive event organization, including anniversary concerts, light festivals, and other impressive productions. Founded by Maciej Dwornik, FenixArt began with a passion for blending art and technology to create unforgettable experiences for a broad audience. From the very beginning, the company's goal has been to deliver top-quality services that combine modern technology with artistic vision. The company has earned a reputation as a pioneer in laser shows due to its ability to create unique and innovative visual effects. FenixArt's projects are characterized by precision and creativity, making each event a memorable experience.



FENIX
ART



PROBADEX - KRAKÓW
Spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością Spółka komandytowa

Jerzy Boruta, founder of PROBADEX in Kraków, exemplifies a visionary commitment to sustainable urban development and architectural innovation. Established to promote the responsible evolution of our surroundings, PROBADEX integrates cutting-edge technologies with a deep dedication to environmental preservation and human-friendly design. Since its inception, PROBADEX has gone beyond traditional construction paradigms. Each project, led by Jerzy Boruta and his team, is more than just a structure; it evolves to meet the changing needs and aspirations of communities. With a forward-thinking approach, Jerzy Boruta ensures that every decision positively impacts the world we live in. PROBADEX operates across diverse sectors as architects of innovation, designing investments that meet modern societal demands. The company meticulously manages projects, offering comprehensive oversight to maintain precision and excellence. Their expertise spans spatial studies, local development plans, and sustainable land use. The success of PROBADEX is driven by a synergy of specialized units: the Investment Execution Office, Architecture Studio, Structural Engineering Studio, and Installation Engineering Studio. These teams ensure meticulous attention to detail, innovative design, structural integrity, and the integration of advanced technologies. With approximately fifteen dedicated professionals, PROBADEX is a leader in quality management, holding TÜV Polska certifications in ISO 9001:2015 for construction design and ISO 14001:2015 for sustainable practices. Their numerous awards and distinctions reflect their commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, reinforcing Jerzy Boruta's vision of knowledge enhancement and best practices.



SPONSORS & DONORS 2024



