

# FACT SHEET

## Focus on Poland

### Why Poland?

Our founder, Sue Ryder, worked with the Polish detachment of the Special Operations Executive in World War II and witnessed for herself the suffering of the Poles in the years immediately following the war. Her work with Polish refugees, the victims of Holocaust, and those suffering the mental and physical scars of war inspired her to establish the Sue Ryder Foundation in the UK in 1953.

“The Sue Ryder Foundation is a Living Memorial to all those millions who gave their lives during the two World Wars in defence of human values, and to countless others who are suffering and dying today as a result of persecution.”

*(Sue Ryder, 1953)*



Our organisation’s ties with Poland continued throughout the years of the Cold War, and when Sue Ryder was ennobled she chose to become Baroness Ryder of Warsaw as an expression of her “great admiration, respect and love for the Polish people”.

Sue Ryder’s name is still widely honoured in Poland. There are streets named in her memory in Konstancin and Gdynia and a park named after her in Warsaw. Her name has also been given to a school near Krakow, where pupils follow the ideals of Sue Ryder by helping old and lonely people, visiting social care centres and offering self-made gifts to the residents.

Lady Ryder received numerous awards during her lifetime, including the Polonia Restituta in 1965, the Golden Order of merit in 1976, the Polish Order of the Smile and the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award in 1981, and the Order of Merit from the President of Poland in 1992.

### Who do we help?

Sue Ryder’s name is associated with some of Poland’s most vulnerable communities: disabled people and those in need of palliative (pain-relieving) care.

14 hospices, social care homes and oncology units throughout Poland bear her name.

One example is Dom Sue Ryder in Bydgoszcz, which provides residential and home-based hospice care benefiting 8,500 people and their families every year. [www.domsueryder.org.pl](http://www.domsueryder.org.pl)



## How do we work?

Sue Ryder Care works in partnership with the Sue Ryder Foundation in Poland. Over the past ten years Sue Ryder Care has contributed £2.2 million to Poland.

These funds have gone towards the upkeep of Sue Ryder homes, training staff and developing the activities of the Sue Ryder charities.

For example, the Sue Ryder Foundation in Warsaw provides grants to help physically disabled people re-train following accidents and supports a mobile mammogram service for women living in rural communities. This service was established as the last wish of Lady Ryder and saves hundreds of lives every year by enabling women with breast cancer to be treated at an early stage.



The First Step project involves young people who are paralysed in traffic and sporting accidents, something which affects over 2,000 people each year.

The Sue Ryder Foundation in Poland provides grants of £1,000 to help individuals re-train and live as fulfilling a life as possible.



Warsaw names a park in memory of Lady Ryder (2006).

The ceremony was attended by HRH Princess Anne, Mrs Maria Stolzman, President of the Sue Ryder Foundation in Poland, and John Oldham, Chair of Trustees of Sue Ryder Care.

## How can I help?

All donations are very much appreciated, whether large or small, and will directly benefit people assisted by the Sue Ryder Foundation in Poland.

If you wish to make a donation please email [ben.simms@suerydercare.org](mailto:ben.simms@suerydercare.org), or call 020 7400 0637.

***“Child of my love, fear not the unknown tomorrow  
Dread not the new demand life makes of thee  
Thy ignorance holds no cause for sorrow  
For what thou knowest not is known to me.”***

Child Of My Love, by Frank Exley -  
quoted in Lady Ryder’s autobiography of the same name.