

## THE GREAT ORCHESTRA OF CHRISTMAS CHARITY

This year we are celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity Foundation. It all started in March 1993. This time the foundation was officially registered in Warsaw. The founders are **Jerzy Owskiak**, **Lidia Niedźwiedzka – Owskiak**, **Bohdan Maruszewski**, **Piotr Burczyński**, **Paweł Januszewski**, **Walter Chełkowski** and **Beata Bethke**. The first fundraiser for the Grand Finale took place in January 1993. Initially, it was supposed to be a one - time happening to raise money for the cardiac surgery ward at the Children’s Memorial Hospital in Warsaw. But due to the amount of money collected, it was decided to continue and develop the foundation.

The main founder of the foundation is **Jerzy Owskiak**. He is a music journalist, writer and broadcaster. His wife (**Lidia Niedźwiedzka – Owskiak**) is also a member of the GOCC. She is a director of the medical division of the foundation. She is taking care of all medical purchases.



Jerzy Owskiak with his wife

### The GOCC logo



Now money for this foundation is collected in different ways. They can be paid via the website or handed in individually at the office of the GOCC . Money can also be collected at various auctions. One of the most popular auctions in London was held at the Nike store. For over 700 pounds, the goalkeeper gloves of the famous Polish footballer – **Łukasz Fabiański** were auctioned off.

Every year, the **Pol'And'Rock festival** takes place with the participation of famous artists and emerging bands. All the money raised for the purpose set by the foundation is also summarized there. **Pol'And'Rock** seems to be the best way to reach thousands of people from all walks of life. During the festival, in addition to the show of amazing music and art, the organizers aim to launch various educational initiatives.



The Pol'And'Rock festival

This year the foundation is collecting money for **children’s ophthalmology**. So far, **136mln** has been collected, but the final summary of the money raised will be held on **March 30**.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>What the money was spent on</b>	For saving the life and health of children and providing decent medical care for seniors	For equal opportunities in the treatment of newborns	For the purchase of medical equipment for specialized children's hospitals	For pediatric interventional medicine	Laryngology, otolaryngology, head diagnostics	<b>For children's ophthalmology</b>
<b>Amount of money collected</b>	105 570 801zł	126 373 804zł	175 938717zł	186 133 611zł	210 813 830zł	For now – 136mln zł