

Front Panel

The Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

Providing Community and a Helping Hand Since 1846

Panel 2

For over 150 years, the Swiss Benevolent Society of New York has been providing a sense of home and community to generations of Swiss, while lending a friendly hand to those in need.

Our history has been one of feeding, housing, advising and caring for the elderly, the indigent, the unemployed, immigrants, students and others of every age and situation. It has encompassed a summer camp that flourished for nearly two decades and a boarding house for “self-supporting girls and women.” It has included relief programs during the Great Depression, an employment agency for new arrivals to the United States and nursing home facilities for the old and frail. In short, the SBS has responded to the needs of each new generation with programs and services that fit the changing times.

Today’s SBS provides social services to those in need, scholarships to those seeking higher education and opportunities for all to share in a rich cultural heritage.

We hope you’ll decide to join our family, to make a difference in your own life and the lives of others.

Panel 3

Social services are the heart of the SBS.

Our doors are always open and our services free to fellow Swiss who experience difficulties, no matter what their age.

Two certified SBS social workers are available to provide case management, short-term counseling, referrals and advice. They connect those in need with appropriate services and coordinate these services, help them apply for entitlements from the U.S. or Swiss governments, advocate for and facilitate care.

Often, one of their most important roles is just being a friend. They visit the home-bound and those in institutions, sometimes taking the place of family that is far away. And because we are a relatively small community that stays connected socially, we can follow up with members to ensure everyone who might need care, has the opportunity to receive it.

In recent years, hundreds of Swiss or Swiss-Americans of all ages have attended college or graduate school thanks, in part, to the generosity of our members.

The SBS provides a number of scholarships and grants, some based on merit alone and some based on a combination of need and merit. They include the opportunity not only to study at U.S. institutions of higher learning but at a Swiss University or technical college. They even provide the opportunity for interested Swiss students to study in the United States.

Panel 4

Sometimes, the most important role we play is simply to bring a community together.

Each year, thousands of Swiss, Swiss-Americans and their guests gather for an afternoon of music, food, drink and fun with a distinctive Swiss flair. The annual Swiss National Day celebration, held on a mid-summer afternoon in an outdoor location in the heart of New York City, is an opportunity to meet new people, catch up with old friends and re-connect with your roots. There are activities for children, contemporary and traditional Swiss music, mouth-watering *bratwurst* and scrumptious *raclette*. It's a chance to socialize and network, and it's all in support of the SBS.

While the Swiss National Day celebration is our biggest event of the year, many members also gather for our festive Christmas party and annual Spring Outing to destinations ranging from Teddy Roosevelt's House and the New York Botanical Gardens to the stately gardens of Caramoor. In between, our monthly *Kaffeeklatsch* get-togethers provide yet another opportunity for networking, friendship and mutual support.

Finally, whether you are trying to track down a translator, craftsperson, Swiss product or business, there's a good chance you'll find what you seek in our online Swiss Business Directory. Many members have discovered that this directory, which is continuously updated, is a great place to promote their own businesses, as well.

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The SBS receives no financial support from the United States or Swiss governments.

This means that everything we do is funded by contributions from the Swiss community. Only through the generosity of individuals like you can we continue to do the work we do. And since we keep our administrative costs to a minimum, you can feel confident that, whatever amount you give, the greatest possible portion of it will go directly into programs to help others.

The Swiss Benevolent Society of New York is a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of New York. All contributions and donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Let us know if your employer has a matching gift program. We would be happy to provide the necessary documentation.

Learn more about our programs, activities, memberships and opportunities for giving at our website:
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