



# CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

P.O. BOX 290 SAN RAMON, CA 94583

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## **THE CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND (CSF)**

The Croatian Scholarship Fund was established in late 1989 by three dedicated Croatian- Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area. They established a non-profit organization whose primary mission is to provide financial scholarship aid for young and bright needy students from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to attend a university in Croatia. The Croatian Scholarship Fund established an executive board of directors to provide leadership and direction for the newly founded organization. The executive board adopted rigid academic standards for student admission into the program.

The long-range goal of the CSF Board of Directors is that someday these students will become future leaders in medicine, agriculture, transportation, technology, economics, law, engineering, political science, teaching, and other major academic disciplines. The CSF Board of Directors also believe these students could someday become future leaders toward helping Croatia establish and maintain a free democracy and a sound enterprise system enabling Croatia to become more competitive in the global economy during the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **BACKGROUND**

As a result of the outbreak of the war in 1991 and the devastation in Croatia, it became more apparent there would be an urgent need to help rebuild the infrastructure of the country during the post-war era. The CSF felt it was also very important to establish sound programs that would be beneficial for the growth and development of its most important resources --- future generations of Croatians to help rebuild their country during the next century and beyond.

Croatians throughout the United States and other countries made significant humanitarian contributions by sending containers of food, clothing, medical supplies, equipment, and other types of aid to help Croatia during the war years. These noteworthy efforts were greatly appreciated and helped Croatians through this most difficult period. The CSF Board of Directors strongly believes that more should be done to provide help to Croatia.

### **CURRENT STUDENT STATUS REPORT**

Since the inception of the CSF scholarship program, over 215 students have been admitted into the program and received funding for an education based on criteria established by the CSF Board of Directors. The CSF is currently providing scholarships to approximately *fifty-two* students. The monetary value of a single scholarship is \$1500 in U. S. currency per year, with a maximum of no more than four years of funding for a single student. Each year the CSF receives over hundred applications from students in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina but is only able to accept 10 - 15 because of insufficient funding for additional students.

To date, *ninety-nine* students have graduated from a university in Croatia since the CSF program began. Of particular importance, these students have received degrees in medicine, economics, electrical engineering, natural science, law, philosophy, maritime engineering, pharmacy, political science, theology, and transportation.

In an effort to evaluate the success of the scholarship program in conjunction with the CSF mission and goals, the board of directors established a system to track and monitor each graduate to determine how their education helped the student gain employment, as well as other professional achievements. Several students in the CSF program have been recognized for their outstanding leadership and other professional accomplishments.

In addition to his studies, one student has been appointed as the secretary of the European Youth Parliament of Croatia in which he helps to organize conferences in Croatia and other European countries. After completion of law degree, one graduate is working in a Law firm in Split as a junior lawyer. One graduate was employed as an assistant to a Professor of Economics at the University of Economics in Zagreb. A Computer Science graduate was employed by the Siemen company and an Economics graduate is working for the Government in the election office.

### **FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

The CSF has been recognized by The White House and members of the United States Congress for its efforts in helping to provide scholarships for Croatian students. The scholarship program has been well received by the Croatian community in California and other states along with Canada, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. St. Anthony's Croatian Catholic Church in Los Angeles and the Croatian-American Cultural Center in Sacramento has held fundraising events to help support the CSF program. To date, the CSF is pleased to report that its goals are being achieved by helping young Croatian students in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to pursue an education with the hope that someday they will become future leaders of their country.

Each year funds are generated for the scholarship program mostly through private donations, endowments, or other special events. The CSF recognizes any individual, family or organization as a benefactor who provides \$1,500 to support one full scholarship for a single academic year. The CSF is pleased to report that over fifty people or organizations have become benefactors since the inception of the program. Several benefactors provide funds for multiple students each year.

Each year the CSF conducts special fund raising events. In April, the Croatian Cultural Center in Sacramento, under the leadership of Mike Zupan, sponsored a highly successful fund raising event, which included an excellent dinner and Croatian entertainment. In June, Mr. Zlatko Vasilj with his son organized an annual golf tournament in Sacramento and provided majority of the proceeds to the CSF.

The CSF Board of Directors greatly appreciates the support provided by its benefactors, as well as over one thousand contributors who make donations of various amounts. The CSF program generates approximately \$100,000 annually to fund the scholarships. The CSF believes that the scholarship program serves as a model throughout the United States and that the energy and efforts to fund the CSF program is money well invested. We invite those interested to help support these young Croatian students as they prepare to become future leaders of their country in the years ahead.

For more information, please contact the CSF office: P.O. Box 290, San Ramon, California 94583, or telephone (925) 556-6263 or fax (925) 556-6263.