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# CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

# ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

**2013**

# The Croatian Scholarship Fund, (CSF) established in 1989 as a 501-C (3) non-profit organization, enjoyed another successful year of fundraising to meet its annual goal of $100,000 to help provide financial scholarship assistance to bright and financially deserving Croatian students attending universities in Croatia and Bosnia- Herzegovina. The CSF is known to be the only Croatian organization in the United States that provides four-year scholarship assistance to Croatian university students living in Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. The White House along with Members of the United States Congress, Republic of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina has paid special recognition for CSF’s outstanding humanitarian and scholarly efforts.

Major source of revenue for CSF comes from special fundraising events and generous donations from individuals, organizations and businesses located in California and across the United States. Fundraising is a challenge and CSF continues to look for creative ways to raise funds in order to meet CSF mission and provide scholarships to as many deserving students as possible. The CSF Executive and Advisory Boards are all volunteers and committed to this Mission.

Over the years CSF graduates have earned college degrees from various universities in Croatia and Bosnia – Herzegovina. To date, over 159 students have received college degrees in academic disciplines, including medicine, economics, electrical engineering, physics, natural science, law, philosophy, maritime engineering, pharmacy, political science, theology, and transportation.

CSF selects students into the program using rigorous selective criteria established by the CSF Executive Board. The monetary value of a scholarship for each student is $1,500 per year for four years. Funds are distributed to students in two installments per year. CSF monitors student’s academic progress very closely. Prior to receiving funds each student must submit a transcript showing successful academic progress. CSF continues to help expand its fundraising efforts to help increase the number of potential scholarships. Often students are turned away due to limited funding.

The CSF is pleased to report the student status for 2013:

* Total number of students graduated = 6
* Total number of students accepted into the program = 20
* Total number of students in the program = 54
* Total number of graduates = 159

Additional funds were generated through donations and following fundraising efforts:

1. CSF held another successful fundraising event in March at the Croatian American Cultural Center (CACC) in Sacramento. The CACC event raised $45,000 these funds will provide scholarships to student that CACC sponsors. CSF extends its gratitude and appreciation to CACC for their hospitality and for hosting the 13th annual fundraising event. The CSF was honored with the presence Croatian Consul General from Los Angeles, Mr. Ilija Zelalic, who praised CSF’s outstanding work and for helping young Croatians to earn a college education. These young students would not have an opportunity to earn a college education without the help of the CSF as the future of Croatia lies with its young people.

2. **In May** a second Bay Area Golf Tournament was held at the Hiddenbrooke Golf Club in Vallejo. The event raised over $16,000 and a huge thank you goes to Ante Buljan, Branko Barbir, Alan Saracevic and Gary Allen for organizing the event.

**3. In June** another highly successful “Big Joe’s” Annual Golf Tournament was held in Rocklin, sponsored by the Distinguished Croatian Mr. Zlatko Vasilj. The event raised $10,000. This is the seventh year that Mr.Vasilj has generously donated to CSF scholarship program.

4. CSF and our students are grateful for the generosity of our many **Sponsors and Benefactors** who provide full scholarships to the students that they sponsor.

**5.** The Executive and Advisory Board for the year 2013 pursued the following activities:

* Updated CSF’s By-Laws, Policies and Procedures.
* Approved to continue to implement the 5-year Master Plan
* Continue to update public information and marketing materials designed to help promote the CSF mission.
* Continue to work with early-distinguished graduates, Dr. Bozo Skoko (currently professor at Zagreb University) and other CSF graduates in Croatia to help mentor and coordinate the CSF program in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
* Continue to closely coordinate with the Office of the Croatian Ministry of Education who assist the CSF in helping to select young bright Croatian students to pursue their dream.
* Established Grgich Scholarship Guidelines and Procedures with the University of Zagreb Viticulture and Enology Department.

The Executive and Advisory Board officers for 2013-14 include:

Executive Board

Marijana Pavic -------------- President

Nina Jurjevich -------------- Vice- President

Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D.------2nd Vice- President

Barbara Jagiello-------------- Secretary

Branko Barbir---------------- Co-Treasurer

Chip Kumparak-------------- Co-Treasurer

Maria Olujic Ph.D.---------- Member- At- Large

Rosemary Dixon------------ Member- At- Large

Advisory Board:

Gary Allen Matt Darko Sertic

William Cumbelich Anthony Ujdur

Vera Duplancic Marina Sertic

Zeljko Pavic Anamaria Brozovic, Ph.D.

Alan Saracevic

Student Liason and Administrative Support:

Vesna Brekalo Slavica Skracic

The CSF leadership expresses its sincere thanks to the sponsors, benefactors, contributors, and volunteers and looks forward to continuing its educational leadership across the United States with the help of all of our supporters.

For more information, please contact the CSF office, 31 Mesa Vista Court, San Ramon, California 94583, or call (925) 556-6263. The CSF invites you to visit our website and view our new video at [www.croatianscholarship.org](http://www.croatianscholarship.org)

Marijana Pavic, CSF President Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D., CSF Executive Board Member