



## **CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND END OF YEAR ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

### **ABOUT US**

The Croatian Scholarship Fund, (CSF) established in 1989 as a 501-C (3) non-profit organization, enjoyed another successful year of effective operation and fundraising efforts to meet the annual goal of providing financial scholarship assistance to the students accepted into the CSF Program. CSF is grateful to our student sponsors, donors, Croatian organizations and supporters for their continued generosity and support. We are also grateful to the committed Board members and volunteers that helped with the fundraising efforts, Golf Tournaments and Gala Dinner. Without this support and involvement, we would not be able to help so many financially deserving Croatian university students.

The CSF is the only Croatian organization in the United States providing scholarship assistance to Croatian university students living in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The White House along with Members of the United States Congress, Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have paid special recognition for CSF's outstanding humanitarian and scholarly efforts.

### **GRADUATES**

Over the past 28 years, CSF graduates have earned college degrees from various universities in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. They have received degrees in academic disciplines including medicine, economics, electrical engineering, physics, natural science, law, philosophy, maritime engineering, pharmacy, political science, and other professions. Many of these graduates now hold Doctorate degrees, have become leaders in their professions and are contributing to Croatian Society as a whole.

### **STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM**

We have a record number of students in the program. After rigorous selection criteria, we monitor students' academic progress very closely. Prior to receiving funds, student must submit a transcript after each semester showing successful academic progress.

Croatia adopted a Bologna system of Higher Education, in order to comply with the European Union higher education guidelines. Under this system, students spend three years completing their Bachelor level work and two additional years for Masters degree. In 2014, CSF adjusted to this system and we are now funding scholarships for the duration of time students are enrolled at the university. This can be up to five years if they successfully complete their Bachelor degree in three years and officially enroll into the Masters program. All students in the program receive a scholarship of \$2,000 per year.

The CSF is pleased to report the student status for 2017

### **CSF Program:**

- Graduated - 20
  - Accepted into the program -14
  - Sponsor extended scholarships -11
  - Total number in the program – **72**
- Total scholarships expenditure for 2017 = \$126,326.00**

### **CSF-Grgich Endowment Fund Program:**

- Internship - 4
- Scholarships - 3

**Total Internship and Scholarship expenditure for 2017 = \$16,559**

### **FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND EVENTS:**

Major sources 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's 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.

The following events and fundraising efforts were conducted in 2017

1. **Sacramento Gala Dinner.** On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Gala Dinner was held at the Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento, CA. This was a successful fundraising event and CSF is grateful to Croatian American Cultural Center for hosting and donating all proceeds for student scholarships. The CSF has 5 student scholarships in the name of CACC using the funds raised at the Gala Dinner.

3. **Bay Area Golf Tournament.** On September 18th, our 6th Annual Golf Tournament was held at the Crystal Spring Golf Course on the Peninsula. This was a very successful fundraiser event and CSF is grateful to all organizers, event sponsors, donors, supporters, and participants who contributed to the success of the tournament. Three specific scholarships were awarded in the name of Bay Area Golf Tournament. Due to the success of this annual event and the funds raised, effective 2018, a total of four scholarships will be allocated using Golf Tournament funds.

4. **Zlatko Vasilj Golf Tournament.** On October 21 Mr. Zlatko Vasilj held another successful big Joe's Golf Tournament at the Morgan Creek Golf Club in Roseville, CA. Mr. Vasilj has held these tournaments for many years now and the proceeds are always donated to CSF. Three scholarships were awarded in Mr. Zlatko Vasilj's name including one established in memory of his son Marko Vasilj. CSF is grateful to Mr. Vasilj for his overwhelming support.

5. **CSF Newsletter.** In December the CSF Newsletter was mailed to over 2,000 Croatian families, and businesses located in California and across United States. The newsletter featured many of our students currently in the program. We also featured our fundraising events for the year and gave an update on appointments and success of some of our graduates. With the CSF newsletter our goal is to reach out to the Croatian community, ask for financial support and recruit new student sponsors.

5. **CSF Sponsors.** We have approximately 30 sponsors that pay full scholarships for their students and many of these individuals support more than one student. Our total sponsorship contribution for this year is about **\$125,000**. This is a record number and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

6. **Donations.** We try to reach out to individuals, businesses and organizations for donations. This is done through appeal letters, newsletters, web site and other electronic media. Our goal is to expand the donor appeal efforts and we will continue to look for ways to reach out to potential donors.

### **CSF BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Executive and Advisory Board for the year 2017 pursued the following activities:

- Monitored the Budget effectively.

- Successful in fundraising efforts.
- Created a CSF Manual.
- Added 4 new Advisory Board members
- Updated CSF Documents, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, Job Descriptions etc.
- The Board reviewed the CSF and Grgich Endowment investment funds and adjusted the investment portfolio to ensure that the funds are invested in the most prudent and low risk securities.
- Created a Sponsor Liaison
- Continue to update public information and marketing materials designed to help promote the CSF mission through printed and electronic media.
- Continues to work and update the Fundraising Plan, definitely work in progress.
- Continues to work and update the CSF website and Facebook
- Continue to collaboration with the Office of the Croatian Ministry of Education that helps with the recruitment student applicants.
- Continue to collaborate with CSF Croatia graduates and Bozo Skoko, especially in recruitment of students.
- The Student Application Process was smooth, we received over 200 on line applications
- Ensured funding and accepted 14 students into the program for this year.
- CSF continues to oversee the budget and administer the CSF Grgich Endowment Fund. We collaborate regularly with the faculty at the University of Zagreb Viticulture and Enology Department to ensure smooth selection process and implementation of funding for Grgich interns and scholarship recipients.
- Our Student Liaison, Ms. Veronika Skalar, is successfully performing her duties and is in regular contact with the students. She monitors students effectively and all scholarship payments were distributed to students on time using PayPal.
- CSF Master Mailing list was maintained and updated by Mrs. Slavica Skracic. She also sends out thank you letters for all donations, designs CSF Newsletters and event invitations and updates our marketing materials.

The Executive and Advisory Board officers for 2017

**Executive Board Members:**

Marijana Pavic -----President  
 Nina Jurjevic -----Vice- President  
 Marko Buljan -----Secretary  
 Branko Barbir-----Co-Treasurer  
 Barbara Jagiello-----Co-Treasurer  
 Chip Kumparak -----Member At Large  
 Rosemary Dixon----- Member At Large

**Advisory Board Members**

Gary Allen	Alan Saračević
Serge Barbir	Matt Darko Sertić
Vesna Brekalo	Marina Sertić
Liz Buljan	Denise Standridge
Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D.	Anthony Ujdur
William Cumbelich	Robert Wilson
Vera Duplančić	
Zora Ljoljić	
Zeljko Pavić	

**Student Liason and Administrative Support:**

Veronika Skalar - Student Liaison  
 Slavica Skračić - CSF Graphics, Marketing, Mailing List, Thank You Letters

The CSF leadership expresses a sincere THANK YOU to all sponsors, benefactors, contributors, and volunteers.

For more information please visit CSF web site at: [croatianscholarship.org](http://croatianscholarship.org)

Send us an email at: [csfinformation@gmail.com](mailto:csfinformation@gmail.com).

Call us:

CSF President, Marijana Pavic - 530 392 2467 or

CSF Secretary, Marko Buljan - 650 867 4674

Contact us via regular mail: CSF PO Box 290 San Ramon, CA 94583

Respectfully submitted

Marijana Pavić,

CSF President