



CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND END OF YEAR ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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 as well as all other individuals that support CSF so that we can continue meet our goal and help many Croatian University students achieve a college education. CSF and the students are extremely grateful to everyone's generosity. We are also grateful to our committed all volunteer Board members, support staff and other volunteers, without their help and involvement this organization would not be able to function or help so many deserving Croatian 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 29 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 at the completion of 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 that we supported a record number of students for 2018

CSF Program:

- **Graduated** – There are no graduates this year due to the implementation of Bologna system in 2014 where CSF changed from 4 to 5 year scholarship funding. Students accepted four years ago are now in their 5th year of graduate study.
- **Accepted** into program in 2018 --- 20
- **Existing** students in program ----- 55
- **Total** number in the program ----- **75**

CSF-Grgich Endowment Fund Program:

- Internships funded ---- 3
- Scholarships funded -- 5 (2 first year & 3 second year students)
- Total number ----- 8 --**Total expenditure for 2018 = \$19,852**

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 following events and fundraising efforts were held in 2018

1. **Sacramento Gala Dinner.** On April 22st, the 19th 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 five student scholarships in the name of CACC using the funds raised at the Gala Dinner.

3. **Bay Area Golf Tournament.** On September 28th, our 7th 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 are awarded in the name of Bay Area Golf Tournament. Due to the success of this annual event and the funds raised, effective 2019, a total of four scholarships will be allocated using Golf Tournament funds.

4. **Zlatko Vasilj Golf Tournament.** On September 15th, 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 are 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. **Vidovich Event, Celebrating Success.** On October 20th CSF held a special and very successful fundraiser held at John and Lydia Vidovich beautiful home in Lost Altos. The Vidovich Family sponsored this special fundraiser for CSF during the four-day national conference for the Association of Croatian American Professionals, ACAP. The theme of the event was "Celebrating Success" and the goal was to highlight success in the Croatian community from around the world. Many dignitaries, celebrities, entertainers, artists, ACAP members, and CSF sponsors were in attendance with the goal of raising funds to educate the next generation of leaders in Croatia.

5. **CSF Newsletter.** The December 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 Student Sponsors.** We have approximately 30 sponsors that pay full scholarships of \$2,000 per year for their students and many of these individuals support

more than one student. Our total sponsorship contribution for this year was approximately **\$161,000**. This is a record number and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

6. Donations. CSF attempts 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 2018 pursued the following activities:

- Monitored the Budget effectively.
- Successful in fundraising efforts.
- Submitted IRS and State reporting, met all guidelines, and continue to maintain 501c(3) non-profit status.
- Updated CSF Manual.
- Updated CSF Documents, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, Job Descriptions etc.
- Created One Page Fact sheet for Marketing Purposes.
- The Investment Committee and 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 Sponsor Master list and sponsor tracking.
- Board members assigned sponsor contacts.
- Updated public information and marketing materials designed to help promote the CSF mission through printed and electronic media.
- Continue to work and update the CSF website and Facebook
- Updated Croatian High Schools email list, received from Croatian Ministry of Education, which helped with the recruitment of student applicants.
- Continue to collaborate with CSF Croatia graduates and Bozo Skoko, especially in recruitment of students.
- Received over 200 applications and ensured that student application selection process was accomplished fairly, efficiently and on time.
- Ensured funding and accepted 20 new students with 3 alternates into the program.
- Continues to oversee the budget and administer the CSF Grgich Endowment Fund.
- Continues to collaborate with the faculty at the University of Zagreb Viticulture and Enology Department to ensure smooth selection process.
- Ensured funding, initiated application process and selection of Grgich interns and scholarship recipients.
- CSF's support staff was very busy performing their assigned tasks.
 - **We welcomed Mrs. Mary Jo Spalj**, our new administrative assistant. She supports the Board in all fundraising events, sends out thank you letters, maintains master mailing list and performs other duties as assigned. Mary Jo is a wonderful addition to the CSF team.
 - **Our Student Liaison, Ms. Veronika Skalar**, is successfully performing her duties and is in regular contact with the students in the program. She monitors students effectively and all scholarship payments were distributed to students on time using PayPal.
 - **Mrs. Slavica Skracic, CSF's Graphic Designer**, keeps us looking professional and maintains highest standard in, printed and electronic, marketing materials. She produces our printed materials, event flyers, announcements, event invitations and our well-known December Newsletters.

The Executive and Advisory Board officers for 2018

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
Denise Standridge----- Member At Large
Rosemary Dixon----- Member At Large

Advisory Board Members

Gary Allen
Serge Barbir
Vesna Brekalo
Liz Buljan
Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D.
William Cumbelich
Vera Duplančić
Zora Ljoljić
Zeljko Pavić

Alan Saračević
Matt Darko Sertić
Marina Sertić
Anthony Ujdur
Robert Wilson

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

Send us an email at: info@croatianscholarship.org

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