



CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND END OF YEAR ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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. We were proud to celebrate 30 years of CSF's existence. CSF is grateful to our student sponsors, donors, Croatian organizations and other individuals that support CSF. We continue to meet our goal to help many Croatian university students achieve a college education. 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 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 30 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, our Student Liaison monitors 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 2019

CSF Program:

- **Graduated** – 10
- **Accepted** into program in 2019 --- 21
- **Existing** students in program ----- 51
- **Extended** students ----- 3
- **Total** number in the program ----- 75

CSF-Grgich Endowment Fund Program:

- Internships funded ---- 2
- Scholarships funded -- 4 (2 first year & 2 second year students)
- Total number ----- 6 --**Total expenditure for 2019 = \$16,147**

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 2019

1. **Gala Dinner in Sacramento** - On April 27th CSF celebrated 30th year of its existence at **Gala Dinner in Sacramento**. This was also the 20th annual Gala Dinner sponsored by the Croatian American Cultural Center. 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.

2. **Bay Area Golf Tournament** - Was not held in 2019

3. **Zlatko Vasilj Golf Tournament** - On October 19th, 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

4. **CSF Newsletter** - The December Newsletter was mailed to over 2,000 Croatian families, and businesses located in California and across United States. The newsletter featured CSF's 30th Anniversary, new and current students 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.

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.

7. **Memorial Donations** – CSF continues to receive memorial donations in memory of family deceased loved ones. These donations are welcomed and appreciated. When donations are received, thank you letters are sent to donors and family members are notified of these donations as well.

CSF BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Executive and Advisory Board for the year 2019 pursued the following activities:

- Monitored the Budget effectively.
- Worked diligently on fundraising efforts.

- Paid 81 scholarships to CSF and Grgich Students. This was done in two installments, fall and spring, using electronic payments via PayPal.
- 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..
- 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 21 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.
 - **Mrs. Mary Jo Spalj** our administrative assistant supported the Board in all fundraising events. She also sent out thank you letters, maintained master mailing list and performed other duties as assigned.
 - **Our Student Liaison, Ms. Veronika Skalar** successfully performed her duties and stayed in regular contact with the students in the program. She monitored students effectively and all scholarship payments were distributed to students on time using PayPal.
 - **Mrs. Slavica Skracic, CSF's Graphic Designer** kept us looking professional and maintained highest standard in printed, electronic and marketing materials. She produced our printed materials, event flyers, announcements, event invitations and our well-known December Newsletters.

The Executive and Advisory Board officers for 2019

Executive Board Members:

Gary Allen ----- President
 Marijana Pavić ----- Vice- President
 Chip Kumparak ----- Secretary
 Barbara Jagiello ----- Treasurer
 Branko Barbir ----- Member At Large
 Nina Jurjević ----- Member At Large
 Marko Buljan ----- Member At Large

Advisory Board Members

Serge Barbir

Vesna Brekalo

Ante Buljan

Liz Buljan

William Cumbelich

Vera Duplančić

Zeljko Pavić

Alan Saračević

Matt Darko Sertić

Marina Sertić

Joe Sterk

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 Vice President, Marijana Pavić - 530 392 2467 or

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

Respectfully submitted

Marijana Pavić,

CSF Vice President