



CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND END OF YEAR ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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. Due to Corona Virus, CSF was unable to conduct any in person fundraising events. However we successfully raised funds through direct mail and GoFundMe fundraising campaign so that we can continue to fund scholarships to students currently in the program.

We are proud to celebrate 31 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 31 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 student’s academic progress very closely. Prior to receiving funds, student must submit a transcript at the completion of each semester and show 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 Master’s program in two years. 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 2020

CSF Program:

- **Graduated** – 13
- **Accepted** into program ----- 18
- **Continuing** students ----- 58

- **Extended** students ----- 3
Total number in the program ----- 79

CSF-Grgich Endowment Fund Program:

- Students accepted for internship ---- 3 **Due to Corona virus, students were not allowed to enter United States for the internship experience, thus no funds were spent.*
- Scholarships funder -- 5 (3 first year & 2 second year students)
- Total number ----- 5 --**Total expenditure for 2020 = \$10,000**

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 2020

1. **Due to Corona virus** - CSF was unable to hold its annual fundraising events which includes the well-known **Gala Dinner in Sacramento** and the **Bay Area Golf Tournament**. Mr. Zlatko Vasilj also cancelled the annual Golf Tournaments. Vasilj’s tournament proceeds are donated to CSF for scholarships that are awarded in memory of his son Marko. Even though he did not hold the tournament this year, CSF received a generous donation of \$10,000 from Mr. Vasilj so that we can continue funding scholarships for his students.
2. **Fundraising Campaign** – Due to inability to hold in person fundraising events, CSF launched a GoFundMe and mail in campaign. This effort generated close to \$40,000. We are grateful to the generous donors and want to thank them for their contributed no matter how small. The funds raised ensures CSF’s financial security and administrative operation for the upcoming year.
3. **Generous Endowment Donation** – This year we were sad to hear the passing of Mr. Jozo Bajurin. He was a long-time CSF supporter and sponsored students over many years. Mr. Bajurin, in his trust, left CSF some stocks in value of approximately \$30,000. We are grateful for this donation and CSF plans to establish a memorial scholarship in Jozo Bajurin’s name.
3. **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 new and current students as well as the success of some of our graduates. With the CSF newsletter our goal is to reach out to the Croatian community, inform them about our work, ask for financial support and hopefully recruit new student sponsors.
4. **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.
5. **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. This year we lost three great CSF supporters, Ms. Tatjana Grgich, Mr. Steve Music and Mrs. Joan Kumparak. Ms. Grgich sponsored students close to 30 years, Mr. Music for 15 years and Mrs. Kumparak was a sponsor for close to 10 years and was a wife of former CSF President. We are grateful to their families for selecting CSF for memorial donations. These donations are welcomed and greatly 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 2020 pursued the following activities:

- Monitored the Budget effectively.
- Worked diligently on fundraising efforts.
- Paid out 84 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 100 applications and ensured that student selection process was accomplished fairly, efficiently and on time.
- Ensured funding and accepted 18 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 mourned the loss of one of our founders Mr. Tony Ujdur. Tony was proud of CSF and it's accomplishments. He was generous. Loved Croatian people and wanted to give back to his homeland. We will miss Tony very much.
- CSF's support staff was very busy performing their assigned tasks.
 - **Our Student Liaison, Ms. Veronika Skalar** successfully performed her duties and stayed in regular contact with the students. She closely monitored student's academic work and all scholarship payments were distributed to students on time using PayPal.
 - **Mrs. Slavica Skracic, CSF's Graphic Designer** continues to keep CSF looking professional and maintains a highest standard in printed, electronic and marketing materials. She produced our printed our well-known December Newsletters.
 - **Mrs. Mary Jo Spalj** sends out thank you letters, maintained master mailing list and performed other duties as assigned.

The Executive and Advisory Board officers for 2020

Executive Board Members:

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

Advisory Board Members

Serge Barbir	Alan Saračević
Vesna Brekalo	Matt Darko Sertić
Ante Buljan	Marina Sertić
Liz Buljan	Joe Sterk
William Cumbelich	Robert Wilson
Vera Duplančić	
Cecilia Miskiće	
Zeljko Pavić	

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 Pavic - 530 392 2467 or

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

Respectfully submitted

Marijana Pavić,
CSF Vice President