



## **CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND END OF YEAR ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

### **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 are proud to celebrate 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 32 years CSF has helped hundreds of students earned college degrees from various universities in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. They 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**

After a rigorous selection and admission into the CSF program, student's academic progress is monitored closely by our Student Liaison. Prior to receiving funds, student must submit a transcript at the completion of each semester and show successful academic progress before scholarship payments are issued to them.

Croatia adopted a Bologna system of Higher Education 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.

#### **Student Numbers:**

The CSF supported a record number of students in 2021

##### **Regular Program:**

- **Graduated** – 13
- **Accepted** into program ----- 24
- **Continuing** students ----- 57

- **Extended** students ----- 3
- Total** number in the program ----- 84

**CSF-Grgich Endowment Program:**

- **Internship** ----- 4
- **Scholarships** ----- 8 (5 first year & 3 second year students)
- **Total** ----- 12

**Total number for 2021 (Regular and Grgich) = 96**

**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND EVENTS HELD IN 2021:**

1. **Due to Corona virus** - CSF was unable to hold its annual **Gala Dinner in Sacramento** and the **Bay Area Golf Tournament Events**. Mr. Zlatko Vasilj also cancelled the annual Golf Tournament. Vasilj’s tournament proceeds are donated to CSF for scholarships in memory of his son Marko.

2. **Endowment Donations.** –CSF received two Endowments.

(1). **Tony Ujdur Endowment** will provide scholarships for students in our regular program. Mr. Ujdur was one of the Founders and generous CSF supporter during his lifetime. It was always his wish to continue with his legacy and provide scholarships to students after his death. CSF is committed to honor Tony’s wishes and is deeply grateful for his generosity.

(2). **Mr. Damir Rados Endowment** is in memory of his mother “Dragica Krog Rados Scholarship Fund”. This Endowment will provide scholarships to students majoring in Theatre Arts and Music Academy. CSF is honored and grateful to Mr. Rados for his generous donation.

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** – Currently we have over 35 sponsors that pay full scholarships of \$2,000 per year for their students and many support more than one student. They stay in close contact with them and often serve as their mentors. CSF is grateful to each of our sponsors for their commitment and generosity.

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. We are grateful to the families for selecting CSF for memorial donations. 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 2021 pursued the following activities:

- Monitored the Budget effectively.
- Paid out 90 scholarships to CSF and Grgich Students. This was done in two installments, fall and spring semester, 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.
- The Investment Committee and the Board oversaw the CSF budget, including the Endowment funds and adjusted the portfolio following the guidelines of prudent management to ensure that the funds are invested in the most prudent and secure way.
- Established a mechanism for Student Liaison to reach out and maintain contact with student sponsors.
- Created Sponsor Master list and sponsor tracking.
- 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 24 new students into the program.
- Continues to oversee the administration of 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.
  - **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.
  - 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 designed and published 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 Members for 2021**

#### **Executive Board:**

Mary Ann Pavic----- President  
 Nina Jurjevic ----- Vice-President  
 Chip Kumparak----- Secretary  
 Barbara Jagiello----- Treasurer  
 Branko Barbir ----- Member At Large  
 Marko Buljan (resigned)---- Member At Large

#### **Advisory Board:**

Serge Barbir	Zeljko Pavić
Vesna Brekalo	Matt Darko Sertić
Ante Buljan	Marina Sertić
Liz Buljan	Joe Sterk
William Cumbelich	Robert Wilson
Vera Duplančić	
Bobby Kumparak	
Cecilia Miskić	

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

For more information:

Please visit CSF web site: [croatianscholarship.org](http://croatianscholarship.org)

Send us an email at: [info@croatianscholarship.org](mailto:info@croatianscholarship.org)

Call CSF President, Marijana Pavic - 530 392 2467 or Secretary Chip Kumparak – 408 499 4538

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

Respectfully submitted

Marijana Pavić,

CSF President