



## **CROATIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND END OF YEAR ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

### **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 36 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 36 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 Master's 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. In 2023 the CSF Executive Board voted and approved to increase scholarships for all students from \$2,000 to \$2,500. The Board also approved for scholarship payments to be issued once per year instead of two instalments. The Board gave our sponsors an option to either pay the regular \$2,000 or increase their sponsorship donation to \$2,500 per year, otherwise CSF would pay the additional \$500 out of the general fund. We are extremely grateful and pleased to announce that all sponsors opted to pay the increased amount of \$2,500. Therefore effective in the fall of 2023, all regular students, Grgich and Rados Endowments programs are receiving scholarships in the sum of \$2,500 and the scholarships are issued once per year. Students are still required to submit their grades to CSF once a year, after completion of winter and summer semester, so that CSF can monitor their academic progress.

**Student Numbers:**

The CSF supported a record number of students in 2024

**Effective fall 2023 scholarships amounts for all students were increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per year and full payments are now issued once per year.**

**Regular Students:**

- Graduated ----- -13
- Accepted into program ----- 40
- Continuing ----- 82
- Total number in the program ----- **122**

**Grgich Endowment Program,:**

- Graduated ----- - 4
- Internship ----- 4
- Scholarships ----- 4
- Total -----**8**

**Rados Endowment Program**

- Excellence PhD Program-----1
- Scholarships
  - Music Academy -----14
  - Theatre Academy ----- 0
- Total ----- **15**

**Total students supported in all programs for Academic Year 2024/25 = 145**

**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND EVENTS HELD IN 2023:**

**1. 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.

**2. CSF Student Sponsors** – We had 35 sponsors supporting our students by providing a full scholarships of \$2,500 per year and many support more than one student. Sponsors stay in close contact with their students and often serve as their mentors. CSF is grateful to our sponsors for their overwhelming generosity and support.

**3. Donations** - CSF attempts to reach out to individuals, businesses and organizations for donations. This is done through newsletters, web site and other electronic media. We continue to look for ways to reach out to potential donors.

**4. 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.

**CSF BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Executive and Advisory Board for the year 2023 pursued the following activities:

- Monitored the Budget effectively.
- Paid out 141 scholarships and funded 4 internships

- Submitted IRS and State reporting, met all guidelines, and continue to maintain 501c(3) non-profit status.
- 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.
- Monitored student academic records and cleared them for scholarship payments.
- Monitored Sponsor Master list, payments 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
- Effectively recruited student applicants and selected high caliber students into our programs and ensured that the selection process was accomplished fairly, efficiently and on time.
- Ensured funding and accepted 25 new students into the program.
- Effectively recruited student applicants and selected high caliber students into our programs
- Continues to oversee the administration of CSF Grgich and Rados Endowment Programs and collaborate with the faculty at the University of Zagreb Viticulture and Enology Department, Theatre Arts and Music Academy Programs to help with recruitment and ensure smooth selection process.
- CSF's support staff was very busy performing their assigned tasks.
  - **Mrs. Josipa Verkic** is CSF's Administrative Assistant and Student Liaison. She is in direct contact with our student and. in coordination with the Board, monitors student academic work.
  - **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 and well received by the Croatian Community the December Newsletters.

**In March 2024 at its Annual Board Meeting , the Following CSF Board of Directors were elected and Advisory Board Members appointed:**

**Board Of Directors:**

Barbara Jagiello ----- President  
 William Cumbelich ----- Vice-President  
 Serge Barbir ----- Secretary  
 Vera Duplančić ----- Treasurer  
 Mary Ann Pavić ----- Student Coordinator  
 Nina Jurjevic ----- Member At Large  
 Chip Kumparak ----- Member At Large

**Advisory Board Members:**

Gary Allen	Zeljko Pavić
Antonia Bagoje	Matt Darko Sertić
Vesna Brekalo	Marina Sertić
Liz Buljan	

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 - 530 392 2467

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

Respectfully submitted

Barbara Jagiello,

CSF President