



# BHeart Foundation: Annual Report (2019)

January 2020

## A Message from the Board

Dear BHeart Friends & Supporters,

BHeart had a wonderful year! We hope for an even better 2020 with your continued support! As 2019 comes to a close, we wanted to share a few words about the projects and events that marked this year for BHeart.

### BHeart Talks and Events Series

In furtherance of our mission to promote Bosnian-Herzegovinian heritage in the U.S. and to strengthen our local diaspora community, we launched *BHeart Talks and Events Series*. Our inaugural event took place in May--a presentation by Dr. Alexander Lupis, a clinical psychologist, entitled *Opportunities and Challenges in Raising Multilingual Children*. The well-attended event, held at the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided many helpful tips to promote and encourage multilingualism at home.



## Concert Merima Kljuco & Jelena Milusic

In October, we organized a concert by the Bosnian-Herzegovinian acclaimed musical duo, Merima Kljuco, accordionist, and Jelena Milusic, vocalist, at Sidwell Friends School. Amazingly talented and engaging, Kljuco and Milusic performed love songs from their album Lume, inspired by Sephardic, Croatian, Serbian, Romanian, Kosovar, and Cuban melodies. The turnout was great, as was the energy and interaction between the musicians and the audience in the packed, intimate setting.



## BHeart School of Language and Cultural Heritage

Our school continues being delightfully diverse with participation from parents and children from all over the Balkans and the world. Children, divided into three groups according to their age and knowledge level, enjoyed our project-based curriculum, including field trips to the Zoo and Rock Creek Park, and development of their own theater production.

Especially significant was the partnership we established with Creativus, an educational center in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our connection with Creativus enriched our school's program and



encouraged communication between our Washington-based students and their peers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Children sent video-messages to each other each week discussing topics such as their surroundings, their school, and their families.

Our School ended its fall semester with a unique show in which children and parents discussed their childhoods and growing up, each from their own perspectives. The event ended with a big surprise – a visit from Santa Claus!



In addition to the children's program, we started classes for adults this fall! We quickly filled the class to capacity, and received very positive feedback from attendees. We will continue to offer beginner and intermediate level adult Bosnian

language classes in the coming year.

[Registration](#) is currently open for both youth and adult students.

## Thank you!

We hope you have joyous winter holidays and wish you a wonderful 2020! BHeart is a volunteer organization and your help at the end of the year would be greatly appreciated!

Warm wishes from all of us!

BHeart

## About the BHeart Foundation

### Our Mission

BHeart is a volunteer organization that focuses on issues and supports projects that are important to Bosnian women and their families. BHeart garners the talents, experiences, and abilities of Bosnians and Herzegovinians and their friends living outside Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Working in partnership with people in the country, we aim to

- Foster educational, social, cultural, environmental and other positive changes
- Help disadvantaged segments of the Bosnian society
- Support projects that help create a progressive and forward-looking BiH
- Preserve connections with BiH: sustain heritage, culture, and the identity of Bosnians and Herzegovinians in the diaspora; promote BiH in the US; encourage the Bosnian diaspora youth to reconnect with BiH

### Get Involved or Donate

We would like to inspire friends of BiH to join our BHeart community and share their time and talents as volunteers and supporters. We are always looking for new ways to support our mission, so if you have a great idea for a project that you would like to share with us, please let us know by contacting us at [bheartdc@gmail.com](mailto:bheartdc@gmail.com).

You can make a difference! Your contributions will help change lives and give momentum for a better future in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[Donate here.](#)