

## Newsletter – 2017

Dear Friends of SAMA,

Welcome to another edition of the SAMA Newsletter. We would like to give you an update on SAMA's activities and financials in 2017.

So far in 2017, SAMA has completed two projects. We donated a pediatric defibrillator (Nihon-Kohden TEC1531) to Užice Hospital, and we financed the installation of an oxygen supply network to the pediatric reception room at Sremska Mitrovica Hospital. We are also very close to finalizing the details to donate a bilirubinometer to the Children's Hospital in Tiršova, Belgrade.



Progress on SAMA's new projects has been slower than expected because we continue to face problems paying the PDV (value added tax) on our humanitarian donations, but we are not giving up. Though we have asked for help and guidance from Serbia's Ministry of Finance, we almost always face these issues when dealing with new equipment distributors. Still, we continue to work hard towards providing the necessary equipment to our Serbian partners, and we have big plans for the rest of 2017.

Moving forward, we have a rich set of events scheduled for May and June. On May 11th in Chicago, SAMA Board Member Branko Palikuća will be hosting a fund raising event again this year at his elegant Ambar restaurant! Our goal is to collect \$20,000 that will go towards the purchase of a new ultrasound system for the Hospital in Užice. This is the 4th largest hospital in Serbia, and is currently operating with only one functional ultrasound system. More information about this initiative can be found on our Project Užice web page.

Following the Chicago fundraiser, we will be hosting the SAMA Fifth Annual Walk in Washington D.C. on May 21st! We will start at Fletcher's Boat House and will, as always, walk along the beautiful C&O Canal. This has definitely become a welcome tradition for SAMA Spring Fundraiser, and is nice opportunity to spend time outside enjoying nature with friends and family.



It has been our desire for some time to expand SAMA activities beyond the Washington D.C. area. Last year, we held our first SAMA fundraiser in Chicago and we hope to continue this success with this year's fundraiser as well. Additionally, SAMA will be organizing our first fundraising event in Toronto, Canada later this year.



Our friends in Canada, led by Aleksandra Savić, started the initiative to register SAMA as a humanitarian organization in Canada late last year. We have confidence that by the mid 2017 SAMA will be fully registered and functional in Canada, allowing all contributions to SAMA from Canada to be tax deductible. Our first event is scheduled for June 3rd, and we encourage our many friends from the Toronto area to join us in walking at the beautiful Erindale Park in Mississauga! We are hopeful that SAMA activities in Canada will significantly increase our ability to fund more health-care projects in Serbia.

Our goal is to collect \$5,000 at each walking event, in Washington D.C. and Toronto. Additionally, we have an anonymous donor who will match the collected amount, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000. The money collected from these events will be used to purchase a new ultrasound system for the department of urology at the Hospital in Pančevo.

As always, SAMA is fully committed to being completely transparent with both our projects and finances, and to ensuring that as much of your donations makes its way to where it is intended. We are very proud to report that our overhead has always been in the range of 3% or less.

Without your support, none of SAMA's projects would be possible, and we ask you to please continue supporting this worthy cause with your time and contributions. We are truly grateful for each and every one of you!

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [board@serbianama.org](mailto:board@serbianama.org) with any questions or suggestions.

Thank you.

SAMA Board