



February 2024 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



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BLI, YES Abroad and YES Alumni

Cultural Excursion to Žepče and Maglaj

What an eventful day we had on February 10!

First, the YES Abroad cohort, YES alumni and Ryan, a participant of the Balkan Language Initiative program, and office staff visited Srednja Mješovita škola Žepče! We presented to high school students and participants of the LEAD program, sharing information about the YES Program, the United States, and cultural exchanges!



BLI, YES Abroad and YES Alumni

Cultural Excursion to Žepče and Maglaj

Later, YES Abroad students and Ryan shared insights about their home states in the USA with local students, followed by a delightful coffee session, embracing Bosnian customs!

Our day continued with a captivating visit to the town of Maglaj. With a local guide we explored the 14th-century medieval fortress and the Sukijja Mosque, dating back about 500 years. Such enriching experiences!



BLI and YES Abroad Programs

War Childhood Museum

In February, YES Abroad students and Balkan Language Initiative program participant Ryan explored the profound stories at the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo, immersing themselves in the narratives of children who endured the 1990s war in Bosnia. The visit was organized as part of their cultural enrichment activities.



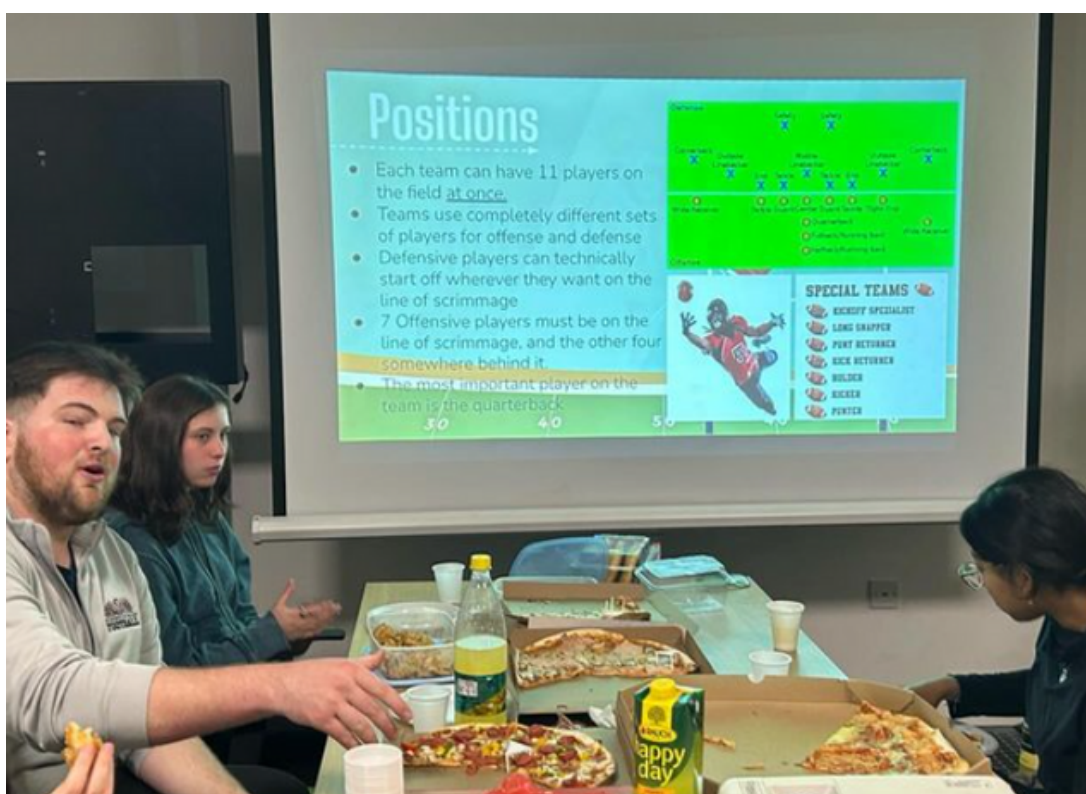
BLI, YES Abroad and YES Alumni

Super Bowl Celebration Event

For a Super Bowl Celebration, on February 22, we gathered YES Abroad students and Balkan Language Initiative program participant Ryan, along with staff members for a Super Bowl experience!

Epic game highlights, pizza, and snacks were followed by a special presentation about the game rules by Benji and Ryan. Thanks to them, we are all set to tackle game day like pros!

Who needs halftime shows when you've got good food and great company?



BLI, YES Abroad and YES Alumni

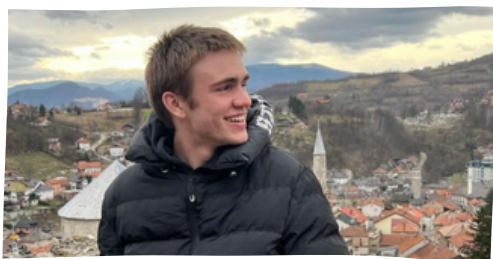
Promoting YES in Travnik

On February 23, YES Abroad students Benji and Savannah, Balkan Language Initiative participant Ryan, YES alumna Silma ('22), and program staff visited Travnik.

Besides immersing ourselves in Travnik's rich history, we enjoyed a coffee break at "Lutvina Kahva" and savored some ćevapi at Hari's.

Our journey also took us to Mješovita srednja škola Travnik, where we introduced the YES Program to a group of 100 students. Benji, Savannah, and Ryan shared insights into their lives in the U.S., followed by a fun hangout with local students!

Special thank you goes out to Mješovita srednja škola Travnik for hosting us, and special appreciation to professors Alisa and Marija for coordinating this wonderful visit!



BLI and YES Abroad Programs

National Theater Concert

Balkan Language Initiative Participant Ryan, with YES Abroad students and staff, had the chance to attend a classical music concert at the National Theater with program staff.

Besides enjoying excellent performances by the Sarajevo Philharmonic and talented students from the Sarajevo Music Academy, YES Abroad students Benji and Delaney also got the chance to meet the UK Ambassador to BiH, H.E. Julian Reilly!



YES Program

Off the Court Encounters at a Wizards vs Suns Game

On February 26, the official YES Program page published an article by Amer Mahmutovic, a current participant of the YES program from Tuzla hosted by AFS in Maryland.

Read the whole article at: <https://www.yesprograms.org/stories/off-the-court-encounters-at-a-wizards-vs-suns-game>

Amer had the opportunity to meet Jusuf Nurkić, a native of Bosnia and the center for the Phoenix Suns at a recent NBA game.

Fun fact: Jusuf is married to an alumna of the YES program, Emina Durić Nurkić ('11).

OFF THE COURT ENCOUNTERS AT A WIZARDS VS SUNS GAME

February 26, 2024



By Amer Mahmutovic (YES 2023-2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina, placed by AFS in Silver Spring, MD)

I always dreamed of coming to America and now that dream was going to become reality. From the day when I received the acceptance letter for the YES program, I was aware of all the great experiences that I would have during my exchange year. One of the things on my bucket list was to watch an NBA game live.

Humanitarian Bazaar in Bihać

On February 9 at Radnja Dobre Volje (a goodwill store) in Bihać, YES Alumna Ines Hasanagić ('23) organized a humanitarian bazaar! All proceeds were used to help a local family in need, and people were able to enjoy a free cup of tea as they shopped and made contributions. Great initiative, Ines!



YES Alumni

Fostering Change

Ines Hasanagic's unwavering dedication to making a positive impact in her community shines through her heartfelt initiatives as a City Representative. In a society where stigma exists, Ines took it upon herself to break down the barriers surrounding those in need. Through her diverse projects, she not only addressed immediate needs but also fostered a sense of joy, connection, and community.

On February 12, the official YES Programs page published 'Fostering Change' an article on our YES alumna and City Representative for Bihać, Ines Hasanagic ('23).

Read more about Ines and her amazing work at the following link: <https://www.yesprograms.org/stories/fostering-change>

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FOSTERING CHANGE
February 12, 2024



In a community where the government does little to help those in need, people in need of help are being frowned upon and overshadowed by stigma. YES Alumna and City Representative Ines Hasanagic decided to change this in her small town of Bihać through her various projects as a City Representative.

YES Alumni

Workshop at the Hospital



'On February 16, YES Alumna Katarina Pasic '23, organized a workshop in the pediatrics department at a hospital in Prijedor, along with five of her classmates. They spent the day with eight children in the department, sang some English and traditional children's songs with them, danced, and colored pictures together. The two nurses and children told Katarina that she and her friends made their day better, which was the goal of the project.



YES Alumni

Charity Bazaar

On February 13, YES alumnus, Besnik Dacaj ('23) and Richmond Park School of Tuzla organized a charity bazaar for the children of UKC Tuzla (Tuzla University Clinical Center). Besnik and his peers successfully raised over 300 BAM (170 USD).

Besnik, together with everyone who helped organize this great project, stated that he was particularly grateful for everyone who decided to contribute to the goal and is proud of the project's outcome.



YES Alumni

Movie Night and Debate

On February 2, Alumni Coordinator Mia Krcum ('22) held a Movie Night and Debate in Tershouse Event space in Sarajevo, where American Councils office is located, for 35 students of a local English School Helen Doron.



**Thank You for Reading Our
Monthly Newsletter!**

