



MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BIH
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



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- **IDEAL Workshop**
- **Tote Therapy and Sustainability**

YES Abroad

YES Abroad Participants Visit Trebinje

During March the YES Abroad participants John, Syarra and Analiese traveled from Sarajevo to the sunnier part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Herzegovina. Their journey began with a visit to Tjentiste, where they saw a Socialist-era monument dedicated to World War II and the fight against fascism.



The next day, the group headed to Stolac, a town famous for its large fortress, Vidoški grad, dating back to the Roman Era. It is also home to Mak Dizdar, one of the country's most famous poets. Dizdar's poetry combined influences from the Bosnian Christian culture, Islamic mysticism, and cultural remains of medieval Bosnia, particularly the stećci.

After this, the students toured the southern-most town of the country, Trebinje, with a group of local peers.



The group was given a guided tour of the stećci site in Stolac. These medieval tombstones are now considered a cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The students learned about the history and significance of the stećci and had a memorable experience.

YES Abroad

Symphony Orchestra Concert in Banja Luka

At the beginning of March, YES Abroad participants Kai and Natalia, together with their friends Eva and Bethany visited the National Theatre of Republic of Srpska for a concert! Kai and Natalia were joined by their friends Eva and Bethany as they admired the National Theatre Symphony Orchestra in Banja Luka!



Cleaning Up Suturlija River in Banja Luka

Natalia was invited to attend a community service activity with her class on March 22nd, where they spent the day cleaning up trash from the riverbank "Suturlija".



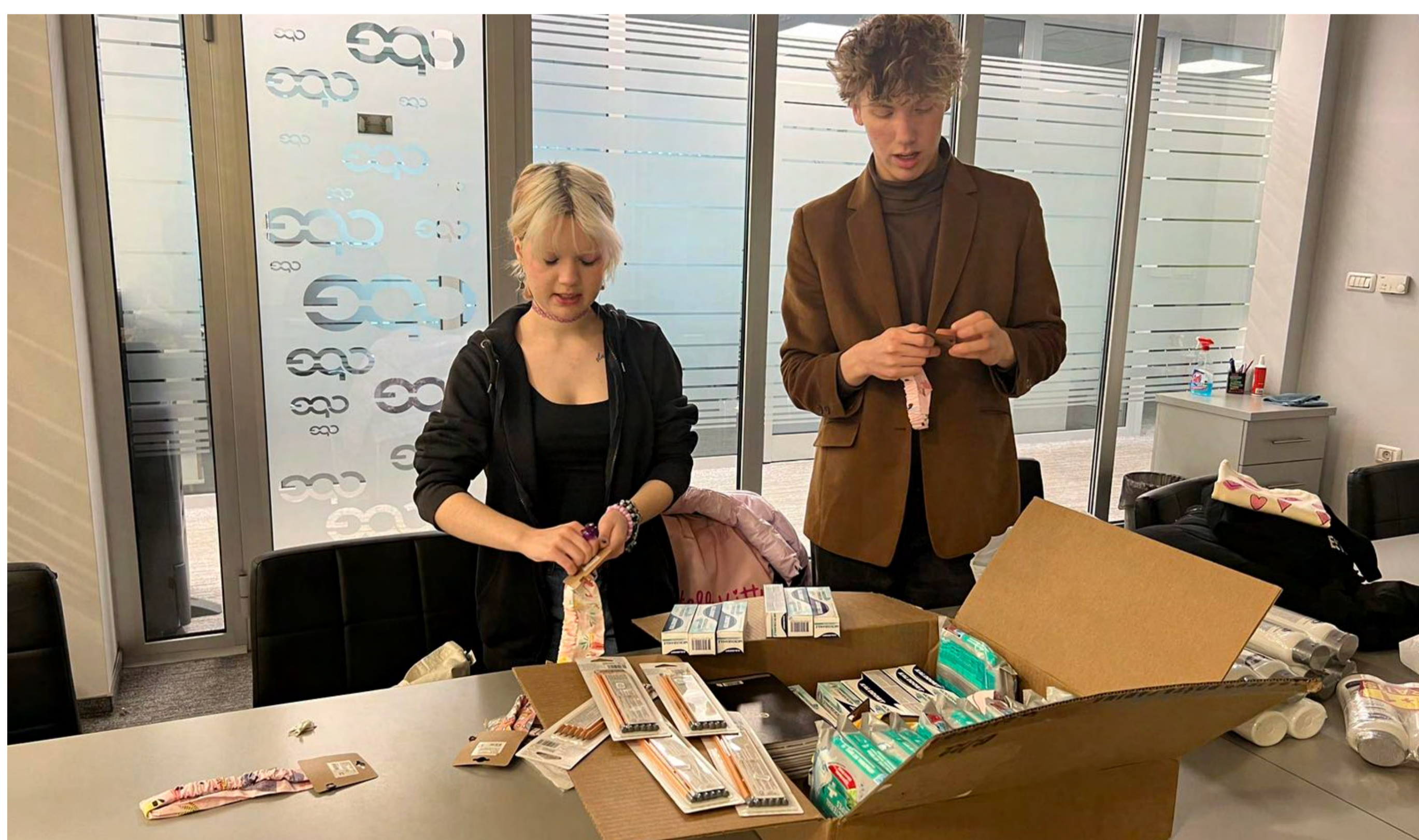
With rivers and nature acting as one of the more important parts of the culture and history within Banja Luka, it allowed Natalia to not only connect with her host community deeper but also make a small impact on the ecological restoration/ preservation of important natural resources.



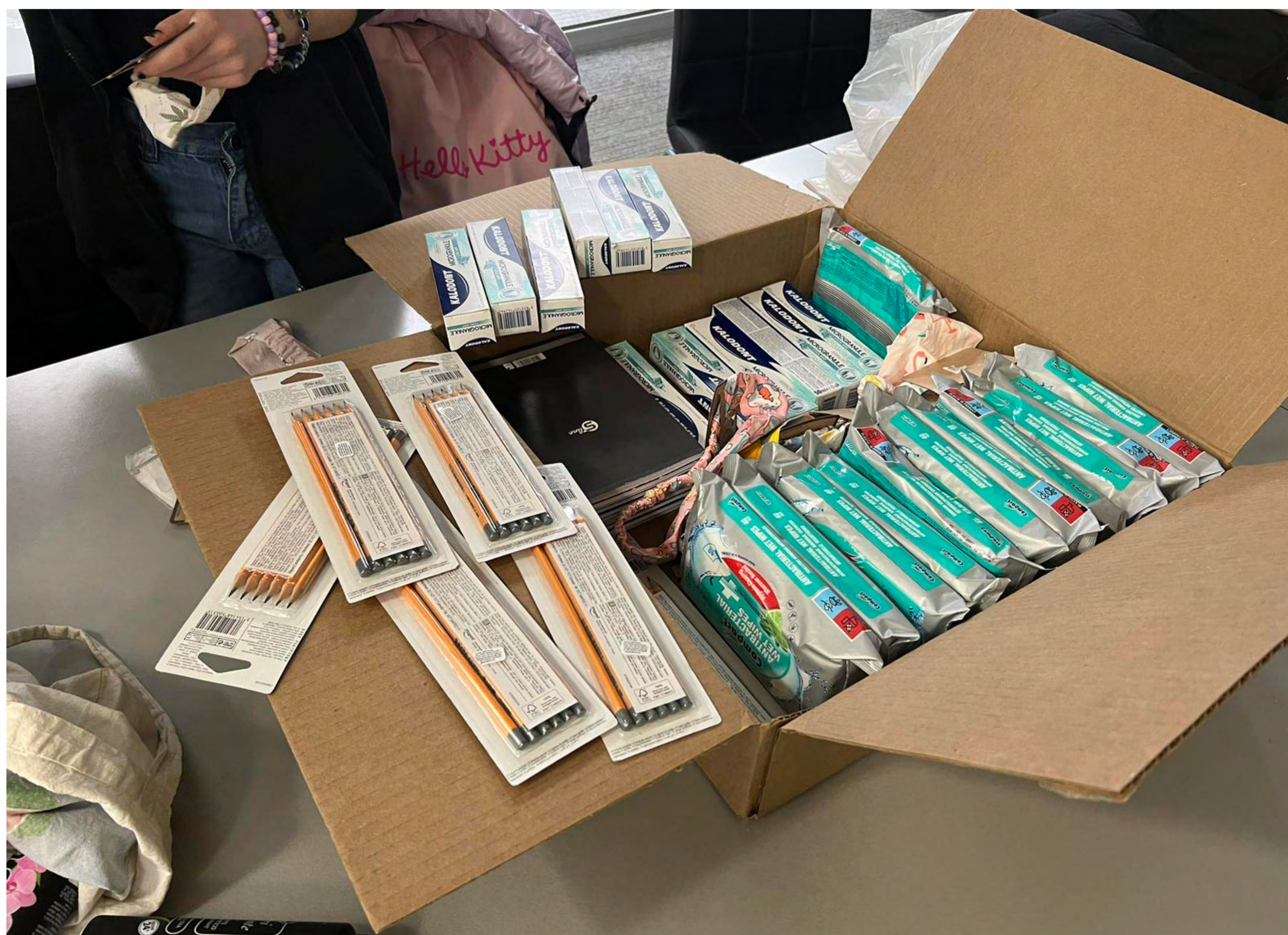
YES Alumni

Flea Market Fundraiser

Most meaningful community service projects take time and require partnerships, and YES Alumna and City Representative, Mia Krcum '22 and her work in the community this year, are proof of this. Over the past month, Mia organized a great project that benefited victims of domestic abuse in the city's only women's safe house.



First, on March 4, Mia together with YES Alumni Coordinator Amina Meric '20 and YES Abroad students Anneliese Galler, John Getzie, and Syarra Goldstein organized a fundraising thrift sale hosted, once again, at the Hub Homework. (Mia did a similar event in December where proceeds from a fundraising event went towards purchasing hygiene packets for socially disadvantaged young women in Sarajevo.



The project was organized in cooperation with the Center for Social Services in Sarajevo). Hub Homework is Bosnia's first university hub that gathers young people around the common goal of education and learning. Hub Homework graciously provided our alumni with space to hold the fundraising thrift sale for free. The thrift sale itself garnered close to \$100 where proceeds of all sales from an array of thrift stores from Sarajevo, went towards the purchase of hygiene and school supplies for the women's shelter.



During March, Mia also contacted a local elementary school—Osnovna škola "Hasan Kikić" where during their after-hours sessions, students wrote Women's Day cards for women at the Safe House to be sent along with the hygiene and school supplies. Mia and YES Abroad student John then went on to purchase hygiene and school supplies from gathered proceeds on April 1, and finally on April 7, they delivered collected donations and (belated) Women's Day cards to the battered women's shelter "Sigurna kuća" in Sarajevo.

We are thankful to Mia for this great initiative, as well as her fellow YES alumni and YES Abroad students, and to the many partners that participated in this project including Hub Homework, Osnovna škola "Hasan Kikić" and various thrift stores.

YES Alumni

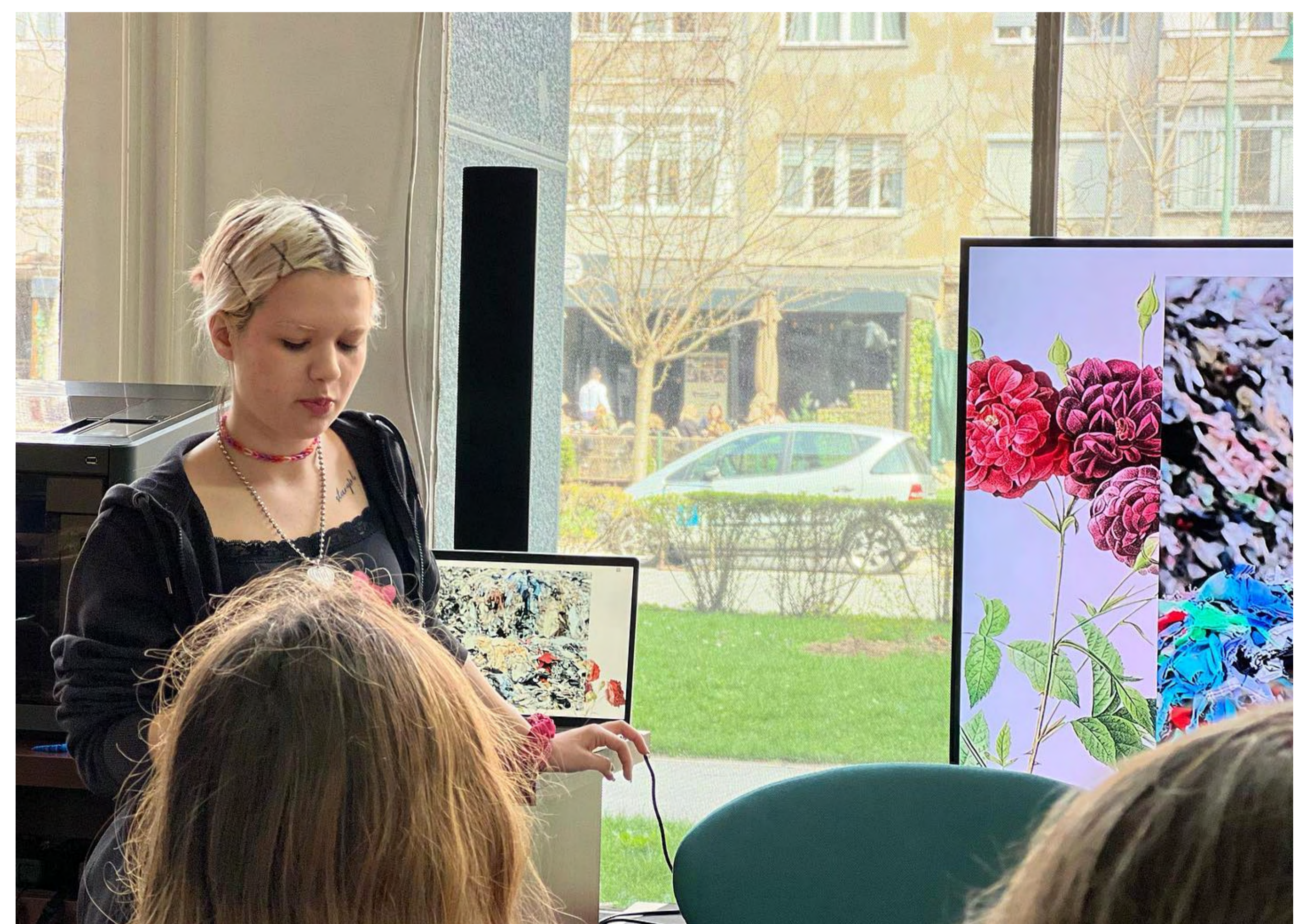
Trivia Presentation for International Women's Day

YES alumnae Silma and Farisa organized an event in honor of International Women's Day that was both educational and fun. Attendees, including YES Alumni, YES Abroad, and their friends, participated in a presentation and trivia quiz, and left feeling empowered and motivated to make a difference in their communities. Congratulations to Silma and Farisa on a successful event!



Tote Therapy and Sustainability

Exciting news! At the end of March, YES Alumna Mia organized a fantastic project in honor of the upcoming Global Youth Service Day, called "Tote Therapy and Sustainability" at the American Corner Sarajevo. Mia led an interactive session on recycling, sustainability, and protecting the environment, which was both informative and engaging.



Participants then got to decorate their own tote bags, which they can reuse later, promoting sustainability and reducing waste. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to learn something new while having fun and doing their part to support the environment. We extend our gratitude to American Corner Sarajevo for hosting Mia and the project, making it a great success.



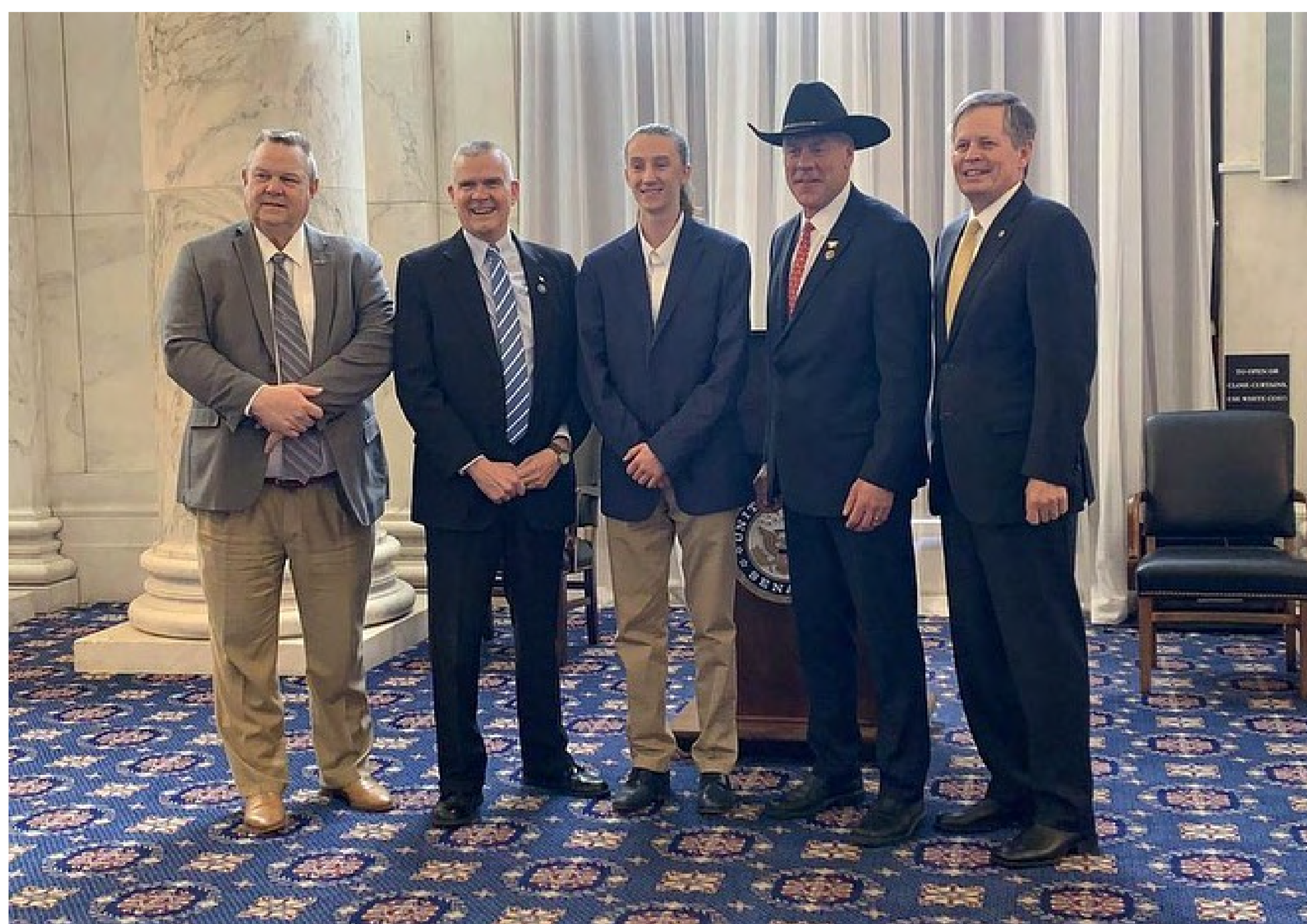
YES

Civic Education Workshop in Washington

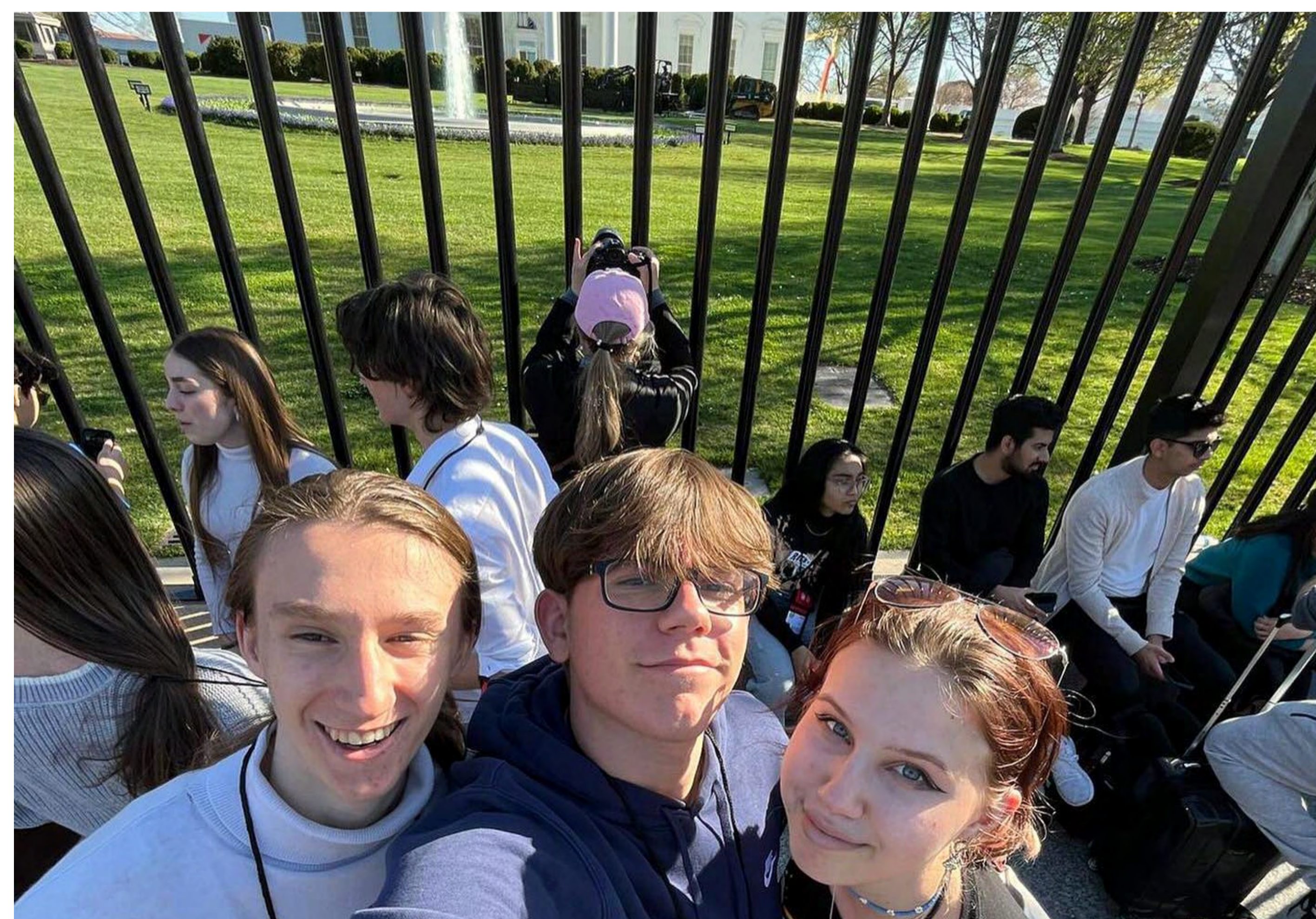
Three talented YES Program participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Amar, Besnik, and Selma, attended the Civic Education Workshop in Washington, D.C. in March, along with dozens of KLYES participants from around the world.



During the workshop, they learned about democracy, civic engagement, and meeting with state representatives from their host states in the USA. This is an incredible opportunity for them to expand their knowledge and gain valuable insights about democracy and civic engagement.



We applaud their efforts and commitment to this workshop, and we look forward to hearing more about their experiences and the knowledge they gained from this workshop. Congratulations to Amar, Besnik, and Selma on this amazing opportunity!



Thanks for reading American Councils March Newsletter, see you next month!