

SEPTEMBER 2023



**Speechless
Reconciliation**

NEWS #11



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 11th edition of the Speechless Reconciliation newsletter! We are thrilled to bring you the latest updates and stories from our journey towards our mission of connecting successful individuals with youth hoping and believing in a better future.

This edition contains two great and exciting events that filled us all with joy and helped us grow. First of them was 1st Reunion for Speechless Reconciliation alumni, where we got to see youngsters from previous years live again and they got to meet each other. It took place in Slovenia, from 4. to 7.8. 2023. This event deepened and expanded connections within the Speechless Reconciliation program for sure and we are very grateful that it happened.

You have also opportunity to get to know one of our alumni on pages of this newsletter!

Right after Reunion, 6.-13.8.2023 Speechless Reconciliation European Developmental Camp took place in a Czech city called Písek, this time on a beautiful farm called Rodinná farma Hůrka. It was a week full of new experiences, team work, self development, fun and friendship. It touches our hearts, that we can spend this time with amazing youngsters we meet every year and give them something they may use on their way.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support and involvement in our mission. Each step we take brings us closer to a more peaceful world. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you for being part of the Speechless Reconciliation story. We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and find inspiration in the stories we share.

Kind regards,

The Speechless Reconciliation Program Team.



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Meet our Alumni

Gabrijela Trbuščić



Who is Gabrijela Trbuščić ? Tell us something about yourself.

Hi everyone, My name is Gabriela Trbuščić and I am 22 years old. I am from Croatia, and I am student of preschool education.

How long have you been part of the Speechless Reconciliation community and in what way?

August 2023 was so special for me cause I was a part of beautiful camp called Speechless Reconciliation as participant for the first time.

It is so hard to describe the meaning of that camp to you, because you definitely must be part of it, to realize how much it meant to me and I didn't expect it all, to be honest.

What I felt there, was so special - meeting new people, new friends, that have similar backgrounds and people who understand you, without explaining yourself to them.

What is your best memory of this program so far?

My best memory, that definitely took my heart is our first arrival at the farm, where we were given such a special welcoming from the team leaders of Speechless. Beautiful family spirit, that I felt since we made first step to the farm.

Do you have any advice for people interested in volunteering or otherwise contributing to the Speechless Reconciliation?

If you wanna be part of this adventure, you don't have to think twice. Just go for it and I promise you, that you will feel one of the best experiences of your life. Don't be scared!

If you could describe Speechless Reconciliation in one sentence, what would that be?

If I need to describe Speechless in one sentence, that would be: Speechless reconciliation is an opportunity to know yourself better, and the moment you realize that you found another family that will always be there for you.



Focus on



Speechless Reconciliation Alumni Reunion in Slovenia, 4.-7.8.2023

We are thrilled to share that for the first time ever, we, together with the Rotary Club Ljubljana International, have organized a special reunion to celebrate our incredible journey of the Speechless Reconciliation program and to be able to reconnect with the participants from our last 3 camps.

The anticipation was high as 24 participants from 6 different countries came together in the beautiful setting of Slovenia in the northern part of Slovenia in the beautiful mountainous Pohorje. With the generous support of Rotary Club Ljubljana International, this reunion became yet another unforgettable experience.

Over the course of this gathering, we rekindled old friendships and create new memories. Activities designed to promote unity, empathy, and personal growth were at the heart of this momentous occasion. Among the activities was our newly developed value-based leadership workshop by Matěj Keka but also very exciting workshop conducted by Bojana Košnik Čuk, the president of Rotary Club Ljubljana International, dedicated to etiquette for young audience.

Our mission remains strong—together with Rotarians from all over the world to foster understanding and forge connections that transcend borders. As we came together once again, we managed to reinforce the importance of dialogue and mutual respect in our ever-changing world and also support of youngsters without proper parental care.

A huge thank you to Rotary Club Ljubljana International for making this reunion possible. Their support and commitment to our cause are invaluable.

This special reunion marked the beginning of new adventures and lifelong friendships for many of us. For more information click [here](#).



Focus on



Speechless Reconciliation European Developmental Camp 2023 in Písek, 6.-13.8.2023

The original edition of the Speechless Reconciliation developmental camp was created as the project of Rotary Club Prague International with the goal of providing a space where young people from homes for children without proper parental care can come together, regardless of their background, to build relationships and share experiences.

The unique aspect of the camp is that it emphasizes values of an individual and community, active work with horses, equipment of young people with relevant experiences and encouraging participants to connect with each other through activities that promote empathy and understanding. But most importantly it aims to connect successful individuals including Rotarians with those hoping and believing in better future.

With the theme of "Breaking Down Barriers, Building Bridges," the Speechless Reconciliation European Developmental Camp 2023 offered a safe and supportive environment for 20 young people from homes for children without proper parental care from 5 different countries including Czech Republic to learn and grow.



Focus on



Participants engaged in a range of activities designed to promote teamwork, communication skills, future planning, skills and talent identification and leadership abilities, as well as cultural exchange and personal development.



The camp provided an opportunity for young people from different countries and cultures to come together and form lifelong connections. With a focus on fostering understanding and promoting intercultural connections, the Speechless Reconciliation developmental camp was a unique and valuable experience for participants.

This year's edition of the camp was just as exciting and impactful as previous ones. We welcomed all 20 young participants and created new relationships and perspectives that were formed during this special week.

As in the previous cases, youngsters became members of the Speechless Reconciliation alumni network that currently accounts for almost 90 young individuals, that are receiving various opportunities through collaboration of the partners including Rotary clubs from various countries in the scope of the 2nd phase of the program, that is as important as the 1st phase.

If you want to get more information about the camp, click on this [link](#).



Always in motion...

Take a look behind the scenes of the program team and immerse yourself in the world of Speechless Reconciliation.

In the week of 4th of September Matej went on his first after camp travels to Slovenia and Croatia.

"He went there to meet with our partner Rotary club in Ljubljana. He met with three Rotarians, Peter Ilgo, Janez Podobnik and Peter.

Togehter, they discussed further development of the collaboration between Speechless Reconciliation program and their club. The meeting was full of enthusiasm about further collaboration and they agreed to bring on board a new organization from Slovenia.

He then continued to Zagreb, Croatia, where he got to celebrate his birthday with youngsters from all 3 editions of the Speechless Reconciliation camp but also group leader from the last year Mirna Pavlaković.



Picture with Alumni of SR program from Croatia

Do you want to know more about the role of our newest partner at the Speechless Reconciliation program Jaroslav Chroňák? Then click on the picture below.



Alumni activities

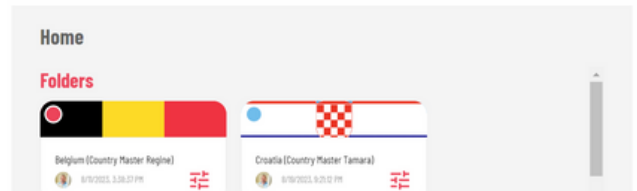
Take a look into what our alumni were up to recently

Exploring heroes Initiative

"Exploring Heroes" is a captivating alumni-driven initiative that sprouted from the vibrant energy of our camp. Conceived by enthusiastic SR alumni, this project envisions a unique way for representatives of the alumni group to become heroes of exploration, showcasing their cities and countries to fellow alumni.

This initiative not only celebrates the spirit of adventure but also reinforces the bonds formed during our transformative camp experiences.

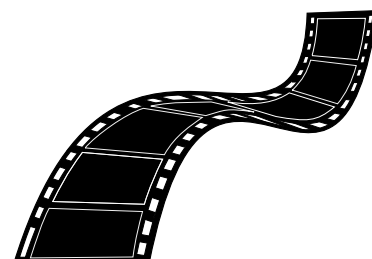
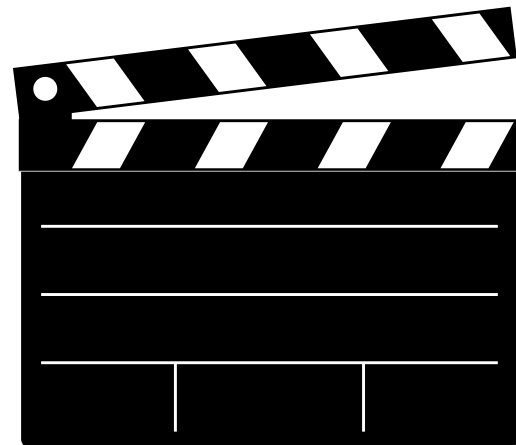
#exploringheroes



Speechless Reconciliation Movie Club

Gabi from Lithuania has ignited a compelling initiative within Speechless Reconciliation—The Movie Club. This dynamic endeavor, set to be organized for our esteemed alumni group, is generously supported by one of our longstanding external supporters. Gabi's vision for Movie Club envisions a cultural exchange through the lens of cinema, providing a unique space for our alumni to delve into diverse perspectives and narratives.

This initiative, backed by the unwavering support of our dedicated external partner, promises to be a captivating journey, fostering dialogue and understanding among our alumni community.



Upcoming Events



Annual gathering of the program team in Lithuania

The Speechless Reconciliation program team is planning on organizing its annual mini-summit in our partner country, Lithuania. Apart of meeting with the local partners from SOS Children's Villages, the team is planning on discussing the outcomes of the 2023 and its program's further development but also to meet with our wonderful alumni.



Annual trip of the founders of the program to the Balkan countries

Tim and Matej, fueled by a passion for fostering positive change will set out on their annual journey across the Balkans, weaving through partner organizations of Speechless Reconciliation. They will embark on a journey to reconnect with our partners in the region, assess ongoing projects, and discuss the collaboration for the upcoming year. Tim and Matej aim to strengthen the bonds between Speechless Reconciliation and its partners, fostering a sense of unity and shared vision across the diverse landscapes of the Balkans.

Stay connected and follow our activities



<https://www.speechlessreconciliation.org/>
Ideas, questions, suggestions, contact us at
hello@speechlessreconciliation.org



If you like what we do and you would like to support our cause do not hesitate to donate on the link below

Donate here!
possible in CZK or EUR

Special thanks to our partners who are creating opportunities together with us...

