



**Speechless**  
Reconciliation

# NEWS #12



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Speechless Reconciliation newsletter! We are thrilled to bring you the latest updates and stories from our journey. We're delighted to share some compelling stories and updates that have unfolded in recent months.

In this edition, dive into an interview with Aksenija Belova, a participant from our 2023 program. Aksenija's journey is not only inspiring but a testament to the transformative power of our initiatives. Hear firsthand about the impact and experiences that shape the lives of those involved in Speechless Reconciliation.

Our globetrotters, Tim and Matej, recently embarked on an enriching journey to visit our partners in the Western Balkans. Their experiences on the road highlight the importance of personal engagement in fostering understanding and reconciliation.

We also shine a spotlight on the invaluable contributions of our partners, with a special feature on Rotary Club Ljubljana International and Ivana Zdravković from the Rotary Club Belgrade International. Their dedication to our shared goals has significantly contributed to the success of our programs.

As we navigate the challenges and triumphs of our work, this edition serves as a celebration of the individuals and organizations that make Speechless Reconciliation a force for positive change. Together, we are breaking barriers, fostering understanding, and creating a world where dialogue triumphs over division.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Speechless Reconciliation family. Let's continue this journey of positive change together.

Best regards,

The Speechless Reconciliation Program Team.



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## Meet our Alumni

# Aksenija Belova

**Who is Aksenija Belova? Tell us something about yourself.**

The main fact about me is that I am an actress. I have been involved in theater for 9 years. I like to spend time with friends and read books.

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

I was in Speechless Reconciliation for the first time this summer, as a camp participant.

**What is your best memory of this program so far?**

I have so many memories of this camp. Horses, cycling, teamwork and interacting with wonderful people were an amazing part of this camp.



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

For people who want to be part of this incredible community, I want to say, just be yourself, don't be afraid to show your emotions and feelings, be open with people and enjoy time there. ❤️

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

Speechless Reconciliation - a place where you can be yourself and find people who will be a big part of your life. ❤️





## Focus on



## Meeting in Lithuania

In a recent adventure, Tim and Matej, members of the Speechless Reconciliation program, ventured to Lithuania with a mission to strengthen connections with alumni and with SOS Children's Villages representatives. This journey unfolded as a pivotal moment for the program, bringing forth exciting changes and developments.

The trip was also about the reunion with the vibrant community of alumni who have been an integral part of the Speechless Reconciliation family. Through offline sessions filled with shared stories and reflections, the bonds formed within the program deepened, creating a sense of unity and camaraderie that transcends geographical boundaries.



One of the highlights of the journey was the opportunity to meet with group leaders and friends of the Speechless Reconciliation program. These interactions provided a platform to discuss ideas, share experiences, and brainstorm innovative ways to further enhance the impact of the program.

The visit also included meaningful discussions with SOS Children's Villages representatives, marking a significant step in aligning efforts to support the welfare of children and families. Exciting changes were introduced during these discussions, setting the stage for a new chapter in the program's evolution.





## Focus on

# Journeys of the Speechless Reconciliation: Matej and Tim on their annual trip to the partner organizations in Western Balkans



In a remarkable journey spanning across Serbia, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and concluding in Croatia, Matej and Tim embarked on a mission to strengthen ties with partner organizations SOS Children's Villages and Dječji dom v Zagrebu.

The trip was a dynamic blend of professional collaborations and personal exploration as Matej and Tim engaged in discussions with representatives from partner organizations. The focus was on fostering meaningful connections and discussing the future trajectory of the program.

One of the highlights of the journey was the opportunity to meet with youngsters from the alumni network. These face-to-face interactions provided valuable insights into the impact of the Speechless Reconciliation program on the lives of these young people. The exchange of stories and experiences served as a powerful reminder of the program's positive influence.

As they navigated through diverse landscapes and cultures, Matej and Tim not only discussed the program's future with partners but also took the time to discover the rich history and beauty of the places they visited. From the vibrant streets of Belgrade to the picturesque landscapes of Bosnia and Herzegovina, every stop on the journey became a source of inspiration.

The discussions with partner organizations focused on further program developments, emphasizing collaboration and shared goals. The commitment to empowering young individuals and building bridges of understanding across communities was evident in every meeting.



## Focus on

During their travel they also got the opportunity to meet with their friends and partners from the network of the Rotary International. Namely with Ivana Zdravković from the Rotary Club Belgrade International as well as Evita Ivanova and her fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club Skopje International. They discussed further possible opportunities of collaboration within the network of Rotary International.

While traveling to Tuzla, they stopped in Belgrade, where Matej got the opportunity to meet the director of the local chapter of the Konrad Adenaur Stiftung, Jakov Devčić who was very positive about the program and offered his support for a future developments of the program in the region.

On the way to Zagreb, Tim and Matej, stopped on the farm Ramarin, where they met with Marin Samardžić who is managing the farm with a lot of emphasis on the values and sustainable development. They have discussed many topics and it was obvious that the values of the program and Marin's values are very much overlapping.

As the journey concluded in Croatia in the form of the meeting with our Croatian alumni as well as one of our wonderful group leaders, the echoes of the discussions and the shared moments of discovery lingered, marking this trip as a pivotal chapter in the ongoing story of the Speechless Reconciliation program. Stay tuned for more updates as the program continues to forge meaningful partnerships and empower the next generation across borders. 🌍💙

We would also like to thank Ajla Karadžić, Ljupco Trifunovski, Ora Bytyci and Mirna Pavlaković who apart from being a great supporters of our program were also very kind while hosting our team in their countries.





## Focus on



### The visit of the Rotary Club Ljubljana International to the partner organization in Slovenia

Recently our friends and partners in the Speechless Reconciliation from Rotary Club Ljubljana International, Peter Ilgo and Janez Podobnik have met with Anita Oguljin and her team from the ZPM Ljubljana Moste-Polje, that already 67 years supports youth in Slovenia including youngsters without proper parental care.

### Launch of the Alumni Engager.



The AE aims to maintain year-round engagement, inspiring the community by spotlighting an outstanding alumni each month, organizing monthly online events, and connecting them with tailored opportunities through our extensive partner network.

In our ongoing commitment to supporting our alumni beyond the developmental camps, we're thrilled to introduce the "Alumni Engager," a dynamic tool marking a significant step in the program's second phase.

Currently, we are building channels of communication for interested alumni, and our inaugural online meeting will introduce this alumni-driven initiative in the upcoming weeks.

## Upcoming Events and Plans for the future

### November 2023

### Launch of the Alumni Engager initiative



**March 2024 - Annual Fundraiser in Belgium  
in collaboration with one of our partners DAB**



### 20th of April 2024

**Annual Fundraiser in the Czech Republic  
in collaboration with one of our partners C9  
International**



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our activities**



<https://www.speechlessreconciliation.org/>  
Ideas, questions, suggestions, contact us at  
[hello@speechlessreconciliation.org](mailto:hello@speechlessreconciliation.org)



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