

LILIES OF HOPE

GALA



A NIGHT WHERE
ALL HEARTS
ALIGNED FOR
HOPE

RAISING FUNDS FOR
CRITICAL MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT

Where Glamour Meets Generosity

NOVEMBER
2025



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SUPPORTING CRITICAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS IN BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



A Message From the Board

This year's Lilies of Hope Gala marked an important step forward in our mission to support access to quality healthcare for children in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, we raised **\$50,214** in one evening. These funds will directly support critical medical equipment for pediatric oncology units in Sarajevo and Tuzla. **We did that together!**

We are honored to be collaborating with Srce za djecu oboljelu od raka, an organization deeply rooted in the fight against childhood cancer. Their dedicated team helped us identify the most urgently needed equipment and will ensure that every item reaches the children and hospitals who rely on it. Their expertise and on-the-ground knowledge have made this project not only possible but purposeful.

The equipment you helped fund, including Volumetric Infusion Pumps, advanced infusion technology, Perfusor Space Syringe Pumps, ECG mobile devices, portable blood pressure monitors, and other essential tools, plays a critical role in both early diagnosis and effective treatment. These devices allow clinicians to deliver precise medication dosing, monitor vital signs accurately, and respond quickly to changes in a child's condition. In pediatric oncology, where every minute and every measurement matters, this equipment can mean earlier detection, safer care, and better outcomes.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our sponsors, donors, incredible volunteers and supporters. Your belief in our mission made this evening and this project possible. The evening wouldn't have felt complete without the incredible **Merak Soul Band** keeping us dancing all night, and **Stage Art Chicago** with the audio and visuals! Together, we were able to complete yet another meaningful project and spread hope across borders.

**With heartfelt appreciation,
The Lilies of Hope Board**

A Beacon of Hope for Children Facing Cancer in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Udruženje Srce za djecu oboljelu od raka (Heart for Children with Cancer) is one of the most impactful nonprofits in Bosnia and Herzegovina dedicated to supporting children diagnosed with cancer and the families who stand beside them. For years, the organization has been a stabilizing force in a healthcare environment where pediatric oncology resources remain limited and families often face overwhelming emotional and financial challenges.

At the heart of their work is the “Parents’ House,” a safe, supportive home where families can stay while their children undergo treatment in Sarajevo and Tuzla

This vital service removes the financial burden of temporary housing and ensures that no child has to fight their battle without a parent nearby. Beyond housing, the organization provides psychosocial support, rehabilitation camps for children in recovery, and a powerful survivors’ network that connects and empowers young people who have overcome cancer.

Srce za djecu also plays a crucial role in advocacy, awareness, and improving treatment conditions across the country. Their close connection with hospital teams allows them to identify urgent needs, supply critical medical equipment, and support improvements that directly affect patient care and outcomes.

Every program is driven by compassion, community, and the belief that children deserve not only medical treatment but emotional support, dignity, and hope. Through their tireless work, Srce za djecu oboljelu od raka continues to change lives and bring strength to families facing the hardest moments of their lives.



SRCE ZA DJECU



Looking Back on the 2024 Gala Project



A Playground Full of Hope

The reconstruction of the Snagovo Elementary School playground, valued at over 75,000 BAM by the time it was completed, stands as one of the most transformative projects supported through the Lilies of Hope Gala. At the 2024 event, held on November 16, supporters came together in a powerful display of unity and purpose, raising the funds needed to bring this long-awaited space to life for the children of Snagovo in the Zvornik region

For the children and families of Snagovo, this playground is far more than just swings and slides. It is a symbol that their small, often overlooked town matters — that their childhood deserves joy, safety, and a place to simply be kids. In a community where public spaces are limited, the new playground provides a reliable, safe, and vibrant gathering place that brings people together.

Since its completion, the playground has become a true hub for the Snagovo community. Children gather after school, families meet on warm afternoons, and the space now serves as a central venue for local sports tournaments and neighborhood events. What began as a construction project has grown into a focal point of connection, pride, and community spirit throughout the Zvornik region.



More than a physical structure, the playground has inspired hope. It shows the next generation that they are supported by a global community that believes in their future. It demonstrates the profound impact that collective generosity can have on a single village. The Snagovo playground stands as a reminder that even one night of giving can create lasting, meaningful change.

Diamond Sponsor Spotlight: ScriptCentral - Fedja Temim

Script Central is an innovative pharmacy company dedicated to empowering healthcare providers and expanding access to patient-centered services.

The company owns and operates multiple pharmacies, but what truly sets it apart is its ability to deliver pharmacy ancillaries and healthcare solutions without geographical limits. Their systems help medical practices provide high-quality care while driving meaningful revenue through expanded services.

This year, Script Central chose to support Lilies of Hope because of a strong belief in the organization's foundation, leadership, and mission.

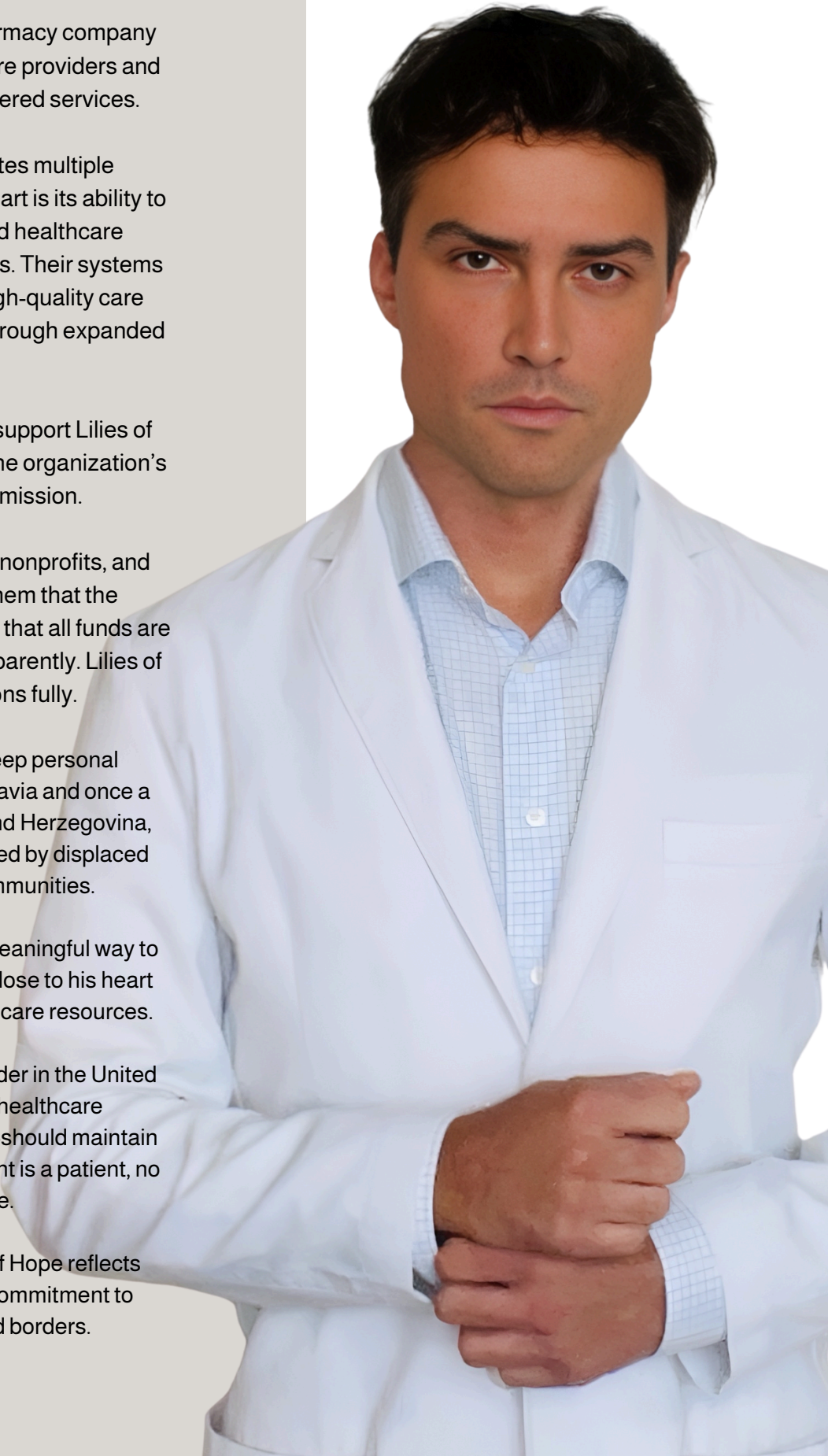
The company rarely partners with nonprofits, and when it does, it is essential to them that the organization is run with integrity and that all funds are distributed appropriately and transparently. Lilies of Hope met those expectations fully.

For Fedja, this project carries deep personal significance. Born in former Yugoslavia and once a refugee from what is now Bosnia and Herzegovina, he understands the challenges faced by displaced children and underserved communities.

Supporting this initiative felt like a meaningful way to give back to a region that remains close to his heart and continues to face limited healthcare resources.

As a pharmacist and healthcare leader in the United States, Fedja believes that all healthcare organizations—regardless of size—should maintain a global perspective. To him, a patient is a patient, no matter where they live.

Script Central's support of Lilies of Hope reflects that philosophy, extending their commitment to compassion and care beyond borders.



A Heart to Heart With Atifa



Atifa Buldić Bešić & Vedran Bešić

Can you briefly introduce “Srce za djecu” and the mission behind your work?

Srce za djecu oboljelu od raka was founded in 2003. We support children with cancer and their families by providing accommodation, meals, psychosocial care, rehabilitation camps, and assistance with medications and medical equipment. Our mission is to offer continuous and complete support, and our vision is for every child in Bosnia and Herzegovina to have an equal chance at a healthy childhood.

How did you experience the collaboration between Srce za djecu and Lilies of Hope?

Our partnership with Lilies of Hope felt positive, warm, and inspiring. From the start, there was trust, enthusiasm, and a shared desire to help children battling cancer. Lilies of Hope brought professionalism, empathy, and creativity, and together we created an event that united generosity, elegance, and a strong message of solidarity.



What does being part of this effort mean to you personally?

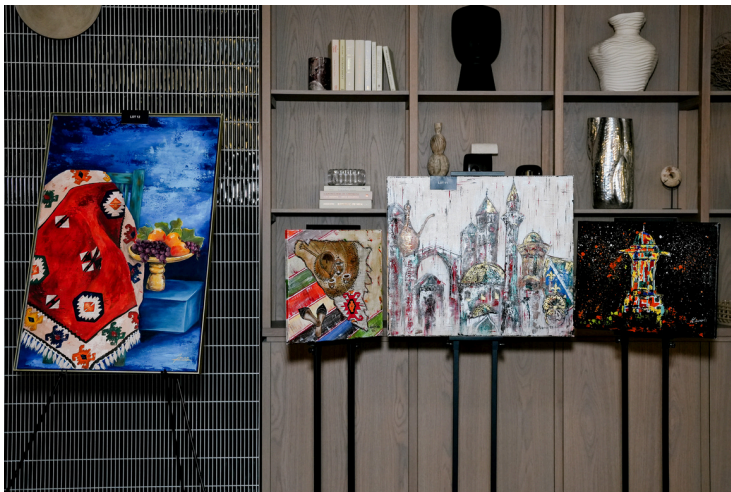
As a PR Manager and as a mother of a child who overcame cancer, this project is deeply personal. I know the fear and hope families experience. Helping secure critical medical equipment for Sarajevo and Tuzla is my way of giving back and helping other children receive timely care. Every improvement in treatment feels like a victory for these families.

How important is the role of the Bosnian diaspora in projects like this?

The diaspora is our bridge to the world, but also our support at home. Through organizations like Lilies of Hope, they show that love for home remains strong no matter where they live. Their support brings not only financial help but also hope and encouragement. They are a bridge to the world and a key partner in creating a healthier future for children in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



THE SILENT AUCTION CORNER



A Silent Auction That Made a Lasting Impact

This year's Lilies of Hope Gala was elevated by an exceptional silent auction that brought energy, excitement, and generosity to the evening. Guests enthusiastically bid on a wide range of curated items and experiences, turning friendly competition into meaningful support for our mission. The auction not only enriched the overall gala experience, but also played a vital role in boosting our fundraising efforts.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed their time, products, and services to make this year's auction such a success. A special thank-you goes to **NBA star Jusuf Nurkić** for donating a personally signed jersey, a standout piece that drew significant attention. We are also deeply grateful to the beloved teams of Bosnia—**FK Sarajevo** and **FK Željezničar**—whose teams-signed jerseys brought pride, nostalgia, and spirited bidding from our community.

This year's auction truly showcased the generosity within our community. We are grateful to Fulcrum Aesthetics for their elite beauty package, Nuna Cimic-Bević for the impressive Logitech tech bundle, Iman Dzombic for her stunning artwork, Belma Tvico for her exquisite silk dress, and Hrapovic Hats for their unique designs. A special thank-you to Dr. Haris Dzubur for donating the Gold Vision Package, Greg & Katie Cooney for contributing the Chicago Bears signed jerseys, and Dino Jakupovic for providing the comprehensive Academic Evaluation.

We also thank Pendry Hotel and Prime & Provisions for contributing to the exclusive Chicago Date Night package, a guest favorite. Additional gratitude goes to Almerisa Halilagic Art, Srce za Djecu, and Amela Smajlovic & Ilda Hasanovic for their traditional Bosnian baskets that beautifully celebrated our heritage. We further extend thanks to Ademir Smajlovic, Jasar Zvizdic, and Muhamed Karic for their contributions, including the highly sought-after Nintendo Switch 2 Edition package.

Each donor and supporter played a meaningful role in creating an unforgettable night of philanthropy, pride, and community spirit.



Leading With Heart:

Lejla Šunje



Lejla Šunje
Chief Executive Officer at Chicago Vein Institute

Lejla, you are an inspiration in our community in so many ways.

What is your driving force when it comes to leading the Chicago Vein Institute and the work you do there every day?

Thank you! My driving force is commitment to excellence. It is important not to become complacent and always strive to do better in anything one does. I also believe it is crucial to develop strong and confident teams that feel both supported and challenged.

Running a successful practice takes a lot of leadership and heart. What's the best piece of advice someone has ever given you in the office—something that has stayed with you over the years?

There is no ego in leadership, and the patient (client, customer) is at the center.

Beyond your professional success, you're also known for being a strong advocate for human rights. If you ruled the world for a day, what's the very first thing you would do?

The very first would be world peace! And then we go from there.

As a proud member of the Bosnian American community, your influence extends far beyond your business. What advice would you share with the Bosnian American community, especially the younger generation striving to make their mark?

Find something you care about and dedicate yourself to it. A big difference can be made on a small level. Be unafraid, don't be overly concerned with the opinion of others, and work hard! Everything else will fall into place.

The 2025 Golden Lily Award Winner: Munira Džabija

This year's Golden Lily Award honors a woman whose dedication to humanitarian work has shaped communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina for more than a decade. Munira Džabija embodies the very spirit of service: quiet, persistent and unwavering.

Munira played a central role in bringing last year's Snagovo project to life. From the earliest planning stages to the final touches, she led the construction phase with exceptional professionalism and heart. She personally coordinated local contractors, organized daily work on site and kept every detail on schedule and up to standard. Many days began and ended with a nearly two hour drive each way from Sarajevo to Snagovo, yet she never wavered. Her presence on the ground, her insistence on quality and her constant follow through were essential in transforming vision into reality.

But Munira's impact extends far beyond a single project. Born in Sarajevo in 1966, she has spent her life demonstrating resilience and generosity. Although her formal education was interrupted by illness, she carved her own path defined by humanitarian service and advocacy. Her work has earned international recognition, including being named the European Humanist of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2011 and serving as an Ambassador for HO Nova Nada in Norway the year prior.

Munira is also the founder of Istinatv, a platform dedicated to truth, community stories and social awareness. Through this work, she has amplified voices that are often overlooked and brought attention to urgent needs across the country.

For Lilies of Hope, Munira is more than a partner. She is our trusted presence on the ground and helps identify, verify and assess critical situations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, ensuring that support reaches those who need it the most. Her intuition, integrity and compassion guide our efforts and strengthen our mission.

The Golden Lily Award celebrates individuals whose contributions uplift others and create lasting change. Munira Džabija does exactly that. Lilies of Hope is honored to recognize her extraordinary service, her resilience and the love for community that defines her life's work.



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DONATION HELPS
SOMEONE IN NEED!
NO MATTER THE AMOUNT
YOU COMMIT TO.**

**NO MATTER
THE
AMOUNT!**



LILIES OF HOPE

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PEOPLE OF BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

[LILIESOFHOPE.ORG/DONATE](https://liliesofhope.org/donate)

Meet the 2025 Lily Award Recipients

The Lily Award is an honorable recognition presented by the Lilies of Hope board, celebrating individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. Recipients are chosen for their dedication and impactful involvement, particularly in enhancing the lives of Bosnian Americans here and supporting those in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The award symbolizes hope, resilience, and the spirit of giving back, honoring those who inspire positive change within their communities.



Dr. Mensur Šunje & Lejla Šunje

Dr. Mensur Sunje and his daughter, Lejla Šunje, are a father-daughter team whose generosity and service span continents. Dr. Sunje, a respected physician, has dedicated his career to healing with compassion, humility, and steadfast commitment to community well-being. His outreach has strengthened both the Bosnian and Chicago communities. Lejla continues his legacy through her leadership, volunteerism, and humanitarian work, helping connect the diaspora with families in Bosnia and bringing hope and dignity to those in need. Together, they exemplify the spirit of the Lily Award—uplifting, inspiring, and healing communities at home and abroad.



Faruk Daudbašić

Faruk Daudbasic is a dedicated community leader whose impact extends well beyond his role as Senior Vice President at First Eagle Bank. His work has strengthened neighborhoods, expanded community development, and uplifted families across Chicago. Through his service to BECCA, he has also championed cultural preservation, unity, and faith within the Bosnian-American community. Faruk's leadership, compassion, and commitment to creating opportunity make him a powerful force for good.



Dr. Sijana Džinić

Dr. Sijana Dzinic is an accomplished cancer researcher and professor whose life story is defined by resilience and purpose. Arriving in the U.S. as a refugee, she rebuilt her life through perseverance and academic excellence, becoming a respected scientist and mentor at Wayne State University. Her dedication extends beyond her profession—she tirelessly supports students, leads community health efforts, and advocates for truth and remembrance of Srebrenica. Her journey reflects courage, service, and deep love for her community.

Special Thank You to Our Title Sponsor: IMS

With our deepest appreciation, thank you, IMS, for providing the support needed to bring our vision and projects to life.



Lilies of Hope is proud to recognize IMS as the Title Sponsor of the 2025 Gala and a driving force behind this year's success. Their support has been absolutely critical to our efforts to provide life-saving medical equipment to hospitals across Bosnia and Herzegovina. IMS's commitment reflects a deep dedication to uplifting the very communities where their employees live, work, and build their futures.

What began in 2017 as a small pilot office has grown into one of Bosnia's standout success stories. From an initial team of four, IMS now employs more than 100 people in Tuzla and an additional 50 in its new Živinice office. A five-story building currently under construction will soon expand capacity to over 200 employees, further solidifying IMS's investment in the region.

For founder Jason Whiteside, the heart of IMS has always been its people. The Bosnia-based team powers the company's work in medical operations and Revenue Cycle Management, bringing the talent, resilience, and work ethic that have become the company's hallmark. "The engine that runs IMS is built on the Bosnia office," Jason often says, underscoring both gratitude and admiration.

IMS's impact extends far beyond job creation. Since 2018, they have provided consistent monthly support to local families in need, offering food, clothing, and essential assistance. Their partnership with Lilies of Hope is a natural continuation of this mission to give back.

By standing with us and investing in critical healthcare infrastructure, IMS is helping create lasting, meaningful change in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their generosity not only fuels our projects but honors the communities that have helped their company thrive.

Lilies of Hope extends our deepest thanks to IMS and Jason Whiteside for their trust, leadership, and enduring commitment to building opportunity and hope.

Thank You to All 2025 Sponsors

None of this would have been possible without your generous support. You are the true magic behind the scenes of the 2025 Lilies of Hope Gala.



**Emina & Matt
Kudla**



**Nuna & Edis
Becic**

**Senka & Kenan
Hadzic**

**Dr. Sanda Vujnic
Buchcic**



**Faja & Edvin
Dedic**

**Joseph
Radochonski**



A look inside *a Magical Evening*





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CHAMPION
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Joseph
Radochonski

NURKIĆ

J. Nurkić

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EPBiH



Jusuf Nurkić
Signed 2011 Jersey
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1014





Bites & Sips





BEST DRESSED AWARD

THE STUNNING KARIC SISTERS: DR. BERINA KARIC-ATIC
& DALILA KARIC



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Thank you for an unforgettable
2025 LOH gala!

GALA 26'

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