

kronospan foundation

2015 Annual Report

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Letter from our President

April, 2016

As we launch into another exciting year at the Kronospan Foundation, I would like to take some time to celebrate yet another year of giving back. Together with the generous support of our donors we were able to make a positive and life-changing impact on the organizations and people featured in this report.

In the past four years, together we have made a difference to the life of Claudia Ogrezeanu from Romania. Through the support of the Kronospan Foundation, Claudia has been able to receive a world class education at Babson College (Massachusetts, USA), completing her studies with a Bachelor's Degree in May 2016. The first Kronospan scholar to graduate, Claudia will earn a BSc in Business Administration with a concentration in Business Analytics and International Business receiving awards for excellence in both of her specialties. After her graduation, a plethora of opportunities lie ahead of her. Claudia's dream to live and work in France in a competitive and challenging environment will become true when she starts her professional career at Kronospan France this summer.

Together we also made an impact on Kamil Altıntaşoğlu, Lizaveta Litvinava and Hai Péter Pham, three motivated, talented, young individuals from Eastern Europe. All of them have embarked on their journey to become business leaders in their own right at Babson College. Becoming Kronospan scholars has not only allowed them to dream of a bright future, but they will also get all necessary tools to realize those dreams. As Lisa puts it: "I am now convinced that my life is in my own hands, that I am the only creator of my future. I choose to have an impact, become a leader and with that I also want to impact others." In September 2016 our latest Kronospan scholar Daniel Gasperowicz from Poland will be joining our three hopefuls at Babson and we are excited to start his journey together with him. On the following pages I would like to share with you what an impact you have really had on our current four Kronospan scholars and how you have changed their lives for the better, giving them opportunities they might have never imagined.

In 2015, we at the Kronospan Foundation dedicated a large part of our energy and resources towards initiating new projects in supporting educational opportunities across Central and Eastern Europe. While our commitment to Babson is based on finding the next generation of business leaders and supporting young, commercial minds, we also place great value on the importance of a technical education for our youth. In the wood-processing sector specialized talent is sought after more than ever, providing an overabundance of training and job opportunities upon completion of technical studies in this field.





To promote this opportunity to students the Kronospan Foundation has establish partnerships with Koszalin Technical University in Poland as well as the Secondary Vocational School of Wood Processing in Zvolen, Slovakia. In both countries the educational institutions will work closely with local Kronospan plants to provide facilities to learn and practice as well as a place to gain professional experience through internships. What is more, there will be scholarships offered for talented students in Koszalin, while in Zvolen the full class enrolling in 2016 will be entirely sponsored for the next four years by the Kronospan Foundation, even giving cash rewards to those students who excel in their conduct and their grades.

Besides our commitment to educational development, I also want to highlight our engagement to promoting environmental sustainability. 2015 saw us invest into the Tampa Mountain Sanctuary in Brasov, Romania. The Tampa Mountain natural reserve consists of an area of 214 hectares, where, through support of general funds from our 2% Campaign as well as helping hands from over 100 volunteers we were able to install new trails, benches and informational boards while also providing for the general upkeep of the area through cleaning activities.

For the year of 2016 we want to continue improving people's lives by bridging the gap between their needs and their resources. From simple, but important initiatives to comprehensive programs, we want to continue to make a difference. This has been and will continue to only be possible with the support of our partners and our kindhearted donors.

Whether you work at or with Kronospan, or with one of our partners – Thank you! You have been instrumental in helping us fulfill our goals this past year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Oana Bodea
President of the Kronospan Foundation



Environment

2% Campaign

Tampa Mountain

The 2% Campaign encourages people to donate 2% of their income tax towards a good cause, with the Kronospan Foundation doubling the received donations by the end of the year.

In 2015 Kronospan Foundation supported the Metropolitan Agency of Brasov, Romania in the restoration of the infrastructure of the Tampa Mountain Sanctuary. Since 1962 Tampa Mountain has enjoyed the status of a natural reserve, while in 2000 it was declared a reserve of national interest and in 2007 recognized for its importance to the community of Brasov. Brasov, "the city at the foot of the Tampa", is one of the few cities globally which is entirely encompassed by a naturally protected area. The Sanctuary consists of 214 hectares and is part of the Natura 2000 network, a recognized European network of protected areas.

























Friends of Tampa Mountain

In order for Tampa Mountain to flourish again, funds from the 2% Campaign were used to engage in several activities targeted towards the general valorization of the area. Kronospan Foundation and the Metropolitan Agency of Brasov came together to form the "Friends of Tampa Mountain" and mobilized volunteers in order to engage in cleanup projects and to ensure an intact touristic infrastructure for the community through installation of new trails, benches and informational boards.

Think Green for Our Future

ReTHINK GREEN - Recycle & Reuse

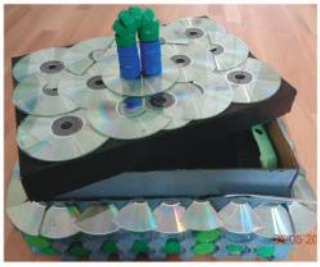
Every year the United Nations celebrates World Environment Day on June 5th, encouraging action and raising awareness towards the environment. This inspires people around the world to become “agents of change”. In 2015 the Kronospan Foundation invited children of Kronospan employees age 6 to 14 years to reTHINK GREEN, encouraging them to use recyclable and/or reusable materials such as cork, glass, cardboard, paper etc. to create a piece of art showcasing their vision on the challenges our earth is facing today.

More than 340 children helped us raise awareness on the effects of unsustainable consumption. By creating artwork that showcased the issues and highlighted possible solutions, children spent time on the topic and were encouraged to act in ways that contribute towards environmental protection.

The contest concluded with the jury selecting 25 first prize winners across Kronospan sites globally, who celebrated their victory together with their families at local award ceremonies on June 5th.



A selection of our winners

























Award winning ceremonies











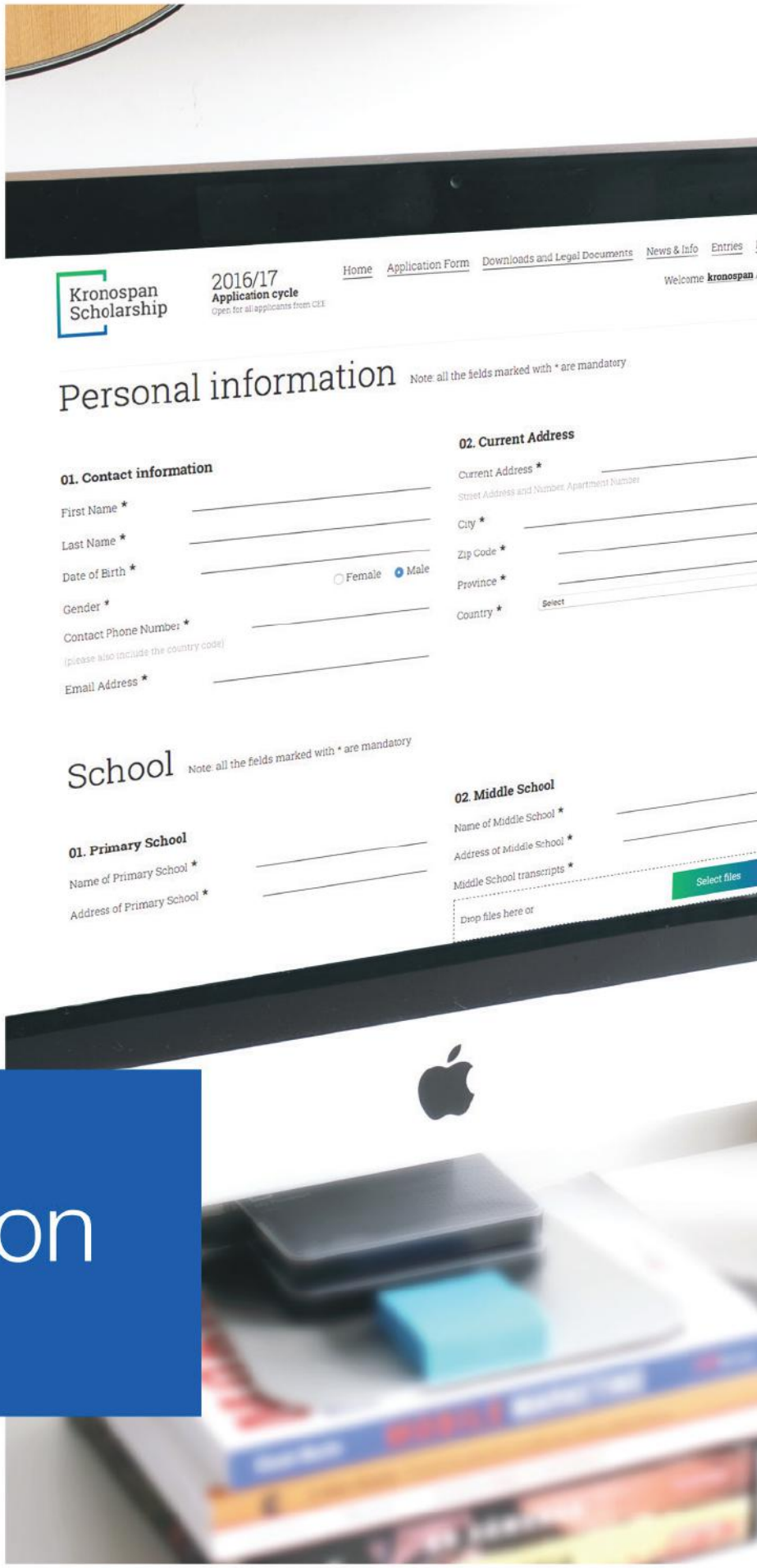


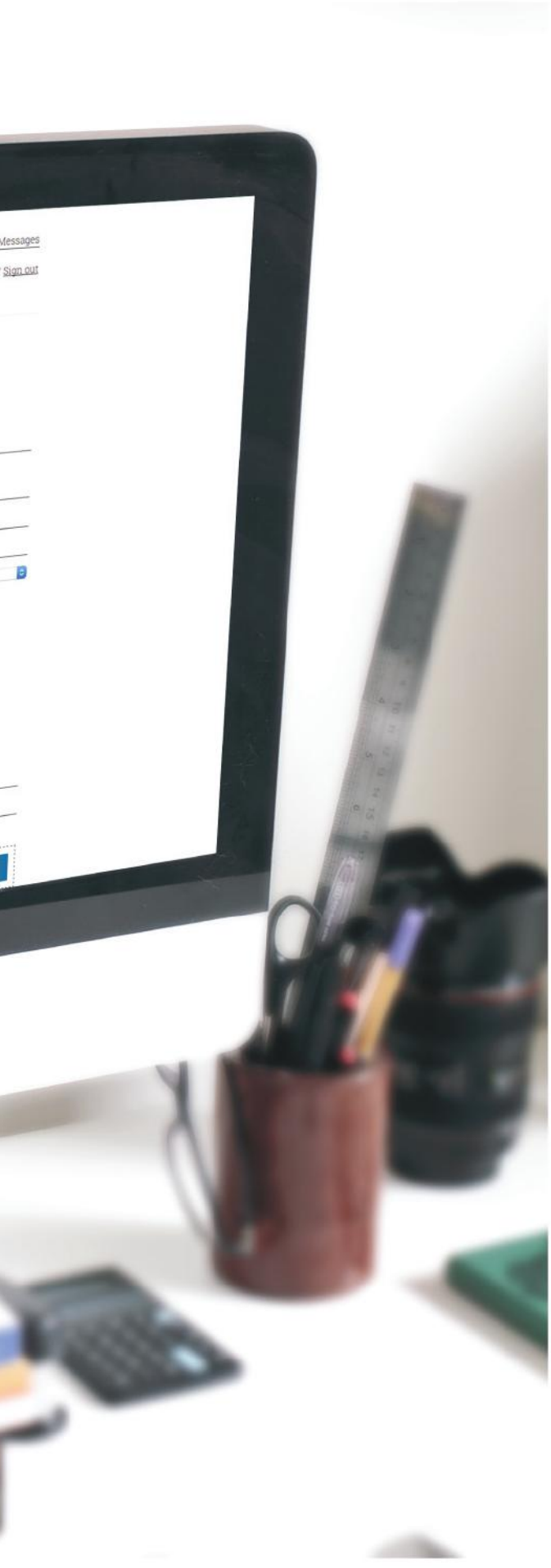







Education


Kronospan Scholarship
2016/17
Application cycle
Open for all applicants from CEE
Home
Application Form
Downloads and Legal Documents
News & Info
Entries
Welcome kronospan
Personal information
Note: all the fields marked with * are mandatory
01. Contact information
First Name *
Last Name *
Date of Birth *
Gender *
Female
Male
Contact Phone Number *
(please also include the country code)
Email Address *
02. Current Address
Current Address *
Street Address and Number, Apartment Number
City *
Zip Code *
Province *
Country *
Select
School
Note: all the fields marked with * are mandatory
01. Primary School
Name of Primary School *
Address of Primary School *
02. Middle School
Name of Middle School *
Address of Middle School *
Middle School transcripts *
Select files
Drop files here or



Kronospan Scholarship

SEARCHING FOR
THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The Kronospan Scholarship

About the Project

The Kronospan Scholarship provides the opportunity for talented young people from disadvantaged families in Central and Eastern Europe to gain a Bachelor's degree, fully funded by the Kronospan Foundation, at the top-ranking entrepreneurial university, Babson College, USA. Throughout their time at Babson, the Kronospan Scholars are not only taught to think entrepreneurially and how to put their thoughts into action, but are also able to apply their knowledge during internships throughout the Kronospan world. After four years, the scholars receive a BSc degree in Business Administration with a concentration of their choosing.

Located near Boston, Massachusetts, Babson College has been acknowledged for the past 15 years as the provider of one of the world's best economic studies programs. Being a private institution, the admission is based on highly rigorous criteria, whereas the students belong to the world's most talented ones. In order to train future leaders, the Kronospan Foundation sponsors one student per year with a full four-year scholarship.

Babson's Director of Admissions Courtney Minden

The Kronospan scholarship has been a highlight of my time at Babson College. In my nearly 4 years at Babson I have had the opportunity to meet Kronospan Scholar candidates in Belarus, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Serbia. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the students and their home regions.



As a school that prides itself on its global reputation and ability to create economic and social change everywhere, I believe that these values hold true for the Kronospan Foundation as well. Our partnership has brought future business leaders from Romania, Belarus and Hungary - all students who have given much to Babson through their engagement in the classrooms, residence halls and student clubs.

The time that they spend at Babson allows them to learn not only about what the world of business is, but what it should be. The financial assistance provided by Kronospan has brought to us some of the best and brightest students from Eastern Europe-students who are then able to take our philosophy and apply it towards economic prosperity and innovation in their home countries. I look forward to our continued partnership that will only make our international student body stronger and more diverse.

Sincerely,



Courtney Minden
Director of Admissions at Babson College

BABSON

Letters
from Kronospan Scholars to Donors



Letter from Hai Péter Pham, Hungary
Sophomore at Babson College

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you to once again to express my gratitude for the Kronospan Scholarship. This opportunity has fundamentally changed my life: I am sending this message to you from Babson College, from the United States. A country that I have previously never been to, and would probably never even go to, were it not for your generous donation. Words will never be able to describe how much this opportunity means to me, and I owe it all to you.

I come from a small village in Hungary and getting this far in the world was only a part of my imagination, never reality. During my interviews in the selection process I said that I wanted to study business and economics, but coming to a prestigious college like Babson only crossed my mind when I was dreaming. My family is extremely proud that I made it this far and even if some time has passed by now, people still stop my mother on the streets of Szombathely to congratulate her and ask about my well-being.

What I really like about the Kronospan Scholarship is that it is not just money, it is a lot more than that. I had a lot of fun at Kronospan LLC in Chirk, it was a great experience and I am looking forward to many more of those internships, I cannot wait to get to know the company better. I really appreciate that I have a personal connection with the Kronospan Foundation team and that they took trouble over helping me move in to campus, getting to know me better and taking me out for dinner multiple times. The fact that I can reach out whenever I need something and expect a reply also means a lot to me. Every day at Babson is something new, I have learned so much since I came here, I have met dozens of wonderful people all over the world, and I have friends from Serbia, Greece, Morocco, Georgia and Thailand. I even found a Hungarian student on campus and we already cooked Hungarian meals together. Every class that I am attending is interesting and fun, my professors are all very helpful and the resources on campus provide me everything I need to learn as much as I can and become a successful entrepreneurial leader.

Let me thank you again for your generosity, and I am looking forward to continuing my improvement both at Babson and at Kronospan.

Sincerely,

Hai Péter Pham
Class of 2019







Letter from Lizaveta Litvinava, Belarus
Junior at Babson College



Dear Supporters,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your generous support towards my education at Babson College. I am very blessed to have been selected as a Kronospan Scholar for the Babson Class of 2018. This scholarship has irrevocably changed my life, allowed me to discover my hidden talents and explore the amazing opportunities of studying in the United States. Furthermore, at Babson's diverse community, I was able to build very strong friendships with students, faculty, and staff members from all over the world.

Now, I am a sophomore at Babson, and I still cannot believe I have just two more years left to get as much knowledge as I can. I have thoroughly enjoyed taking marketing, finance, and entrepreneurship courses. On the other hand, my outside-of-classroom experiences include many activities like Babson Dance Ensemble, Babson Free Press, and various multicultural organizations. This year I have also started working in the new Global Scholars Office at the College. It is responsible for the Babson Global Scholarship program for students from emerging countries. Each year we are getting more and more students from countries like Rwanda, Vietnam, Hungary, Kosovo, Brazil, Pakistan, etc. My heart is so warm that I can contribute to the adaptation process of these talented young individuals, see their growth throughout their Babson career, and learn from them.

Looking back at what I have done at Babson I realize that none of this would have been possible without your support. By awarding me the Kronospan Scholarship, you have given me an opportunity to receive a great education and have a brighter future. Your generosity made me believe that dreams do come true if you are ready to work really hard to achieve them!

All the best,

Lizaveta Litvinava
Class of 2018







Letter from Kamil Altıntaşoğlu, Romania
Senior at Babson College



Dear Friends,

I am writing to thank you for the generous scholarship that you have offered me. I am very happy and appreciative of the effort you have made and I wanted you to understand how big of a difference it makes for me.

As I reach the end of three years at Babson, I have come to a much greater understanding of the opportunities that my schooling is providing me with. The next year or so will define what trajectory I will follow after my graduation. Though this is by no means clear yet, your generous help will have provided me with the best skillset to tackle future challenges.

By awarding me such a comprehensive scholarship, you have not only given me the opportunity to study at a world class school but to study free of any financial worries. Throughout my studies I have been able to pursue single-mindedly the most important aspect of school: learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Before ending, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you!

Best regards,

Kamil Altıntaşoğlu
Class of 2017







Letter from Claudia Ogrezeanu, Romania
BSc in Business Adminstration with a concentration in Business Analytics and International Business



Dear Donors,

I am writing to thank you and express my gratitude for your generous financial support towards my college education. I am honored to have been named a Kronospan Scholar at Babson College almost four years ago and to be graduating in May 2016. I have started my last year at Babson in September and I continue to enjoy the unique and outstanding opportunities I have found at Babson, both academic and extra-curricular, as well as the diversity present here.

I have decided to concentrate on Business Analytics and International Business, and this semester I have taken more courses in these areas. All my courses proved to be interesting, but challenging, so far; I am especially enjoying International Finance. This semester, I also participated in a Spanish Case Competition at BYU in Utah and my team won first place. On campus, I have been working in the Economics Division doing research.

By awarding me the Kronospan Scholarship, I am able to concentrate on what is important for me - education. Your financial generosity enabled me to be one step closer to my goal because Babson is the place that will prepare me for my future career (my interest would be to work in an international environment). I am most grateful and thank you for your support because without the scholarship, I would not have been able to fulfill my academic aspirations.

Yours sincerely,

Claudia Ogrezeanu
Class of 2016





Letter from Daniel Gasperowicz, Poland
Freshman at Babson College

Dear Friends,

I feel extremely honored to have been chosen as the next Kronospan Scholar. The moment when I received the admission decision from Babson College was an immense breakthrough in my life and a beginning of the dream I still can't realize I'm now living.

I am a very determined person who never avoids undertaking new challenges. Both at school and within the local community, I prefer being active to remaining passive. That is why I did not hesitate at all to take the first step and apply for the Scholarship. The selection process was really inspiring. Never before had I taken part in a Micro Lab as interesting and engaging as the one organized by Kronospan in Szczecinek. The overview of both production and design which I got there makes me really excited about my upcoming internship in Chirk.

I also can't wait to enroll at Babson. I am sure that my interest in numbers and an analytical mind will be my key to success. Even as a young boy, I would solve Math problems and logic puzzles found in newspapers and science magazines. It has been my huge passion. What's more, I have always enjoyed analyzing probabilities and statistics which play such an important role in business.

I dream of bringing ideas and entrepreneurial thought I will learn at Babson back to Poland. And I can achieve that only thanks to the Kronospan Scholarship. That's why there are literally no words which can express my gratitude to the Foundation for having selected me as the next Scholar. I will do my best to seize this opportunity and prove that it has been a right choice.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gasperowicz
Class of 2020





Vocational Education in Slovakia

About the Project

Vocational education is an important part of any educational system. It provides young individuals with the opportunity to specialize in a field where they see that they have natural potential and gives them the tools to develop, practice and perfect their skills to learn a specific trade. More than ever, today there is a great demand in the labor market for practical specialists, providing a variety of job opportunities upon successful completion of a vocational education.

The Kronospan Foundation has committed to develop and support secondary education in the field of wood processing and furniture manufacturing in Central and Eastern Europe. This commitment initially involves financial support to the Secondary Vocational School of Wood Processing in Zvolen, Slovakia through covering the full costs of a 4-year education for an entire class.

Costs that are covered include accommodation and full board for the students as well as free English or German classes. For good grades students of the class will additionally receive cash rewards.

Due to the proximity of Kronospan Bucina DDD to the school, free practical classes and opportunities for internships will be offered to all students of the school.





Letter from the Headmaster

By supporting the Vocational School of Wood Processing in Zvolen, the Kronospan Foundation is not only helping us in promoting the advantages of technical study programs to our youth, but also opening up the possibility for students from all over Slovakia to realize the opportunity of coming to Zvolen to study.

Our increasingly diverse student body will additionally have the benefit of being in close cooperation with a potential employer already during their studies.

This will enable our students to develop in-depth knowledge and practical experience on topics they have learnt in theory classes at school, placing them at the forefront for future employers through their unmatched hands-on experience already received during their education.

The Secondary Vocational School of Wood Processing would like to express its thanks to the Kronospan Foundation for the generosity, partnership and support of the education of young people in Slovakia.

Kind regards,

Ing. Pavel Laššák,
Headmaster at the Secondary Vocation School of Wood Processing Zvolen





Community

Open Your Heart Gala

Vocational Education in Romania



The fifth edition of the "Open Your Heart!" Charity Gala, a fundraising event hosted annually by the Kronospan Foundation, took place on 6th of November 2015 in Sebes, Romania. This year's event set out to promote vocational education in Romania, specifically supporting the Technological High School in Sebes with general refurbishment of the school's workshops.

The Technological High School of Sebes is currently attended by 1,200 students of which 870 attend higher vocational classes. The students have access to a broad array of theoretical as well as practical specializations in fields such as electromechanics, manufacturing of wood-based products, industrial chemistry and textile work, just to name a few.

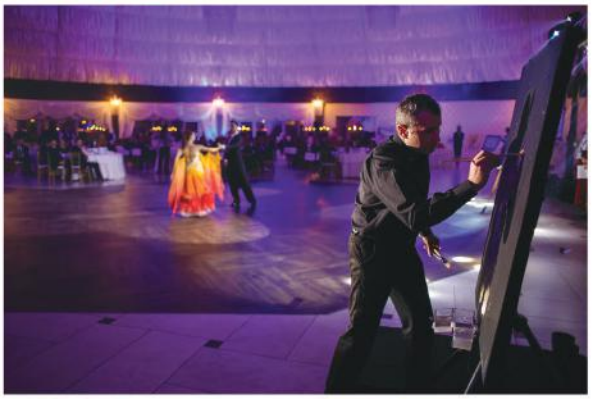
As part of the evening's program attendees of the Charity Gala were able to show their support for the school by bidding in an auction of products produced by local artists with all proceeds going towards the cause of the event. Many of the over 200 guests also chose to enjoy the night's musical performances by talented young violinist Octavian Ioan Pirlea and "Haydn Deane and His Big Band", while contributing to the good cause with general donations.

"I wish to thank the organisers of the "Open Your Heart!" Charity Gala for joining us once again and for giving the vocational education in Sebes a chance, transforming a Cinderella – the school's workshops – into a ball queen. The students' professional training is provided by a group of engineer teachers and skilled trainers, which form a competent team concerning the theoretical part. But a full professional training includes the practical part too. The school's mission is to train teenagers to facilitate their integration into the job market; to make them acquainted with the technology, so that they should find it easy to get the future jobs. Therefore, the fitting of our school's workshops becomes a necessity and the results will benefit over 300 students from the vocational education system in Sebes. Trade is a jewel which will never grow out of fashion!", stated Cristina Câmpean, Principal of the Technological High School Sebes.

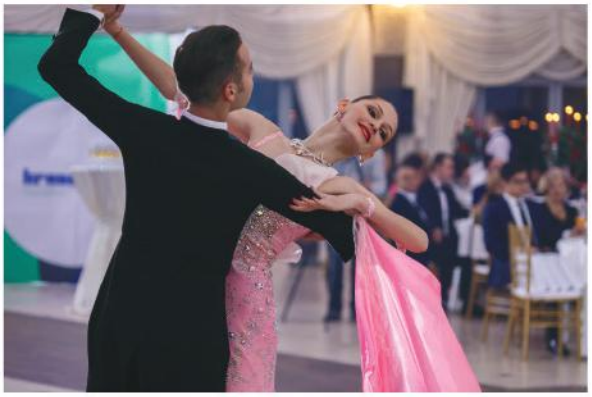














The Crystal Children Sensory Room

Starting out with the Open Your Heart Gala back in 2014, the Kronospan Foundation together with the Crystal Children Association, engaged in several projects raising awareness towards neurological disorders, placing a special focus on children affected with autism.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder which affects the individual in three areas: communication, interaction and adaption of the senses to the environment. It is considered to be one of the most severe neuropsychiatric childhood disorders. A child with autism is different and needs the help of those around him in order to be able to grow as anybody else.

If autism was considered a rare disorder in the past, the disease has now shown an alarming increase worldwide (autism is more frequent than the Down syndrome or cerebral palsy). Worldwide 5 out of 10,000 people have "classical autism" and nearly 20 of 10,000 have disorders which are considered part of the whole autism spectrum. Recent research in the United Stated has shown that 1 of 68 children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

To support those affected in an area where treatment facilities are scarce, the Kronospan Foundation donated a new sensory room to the Crystal Children Association in Brasov, Romania. This room is an environment in which stimulating activities and experiences are used in order to raise the consciousness and the positive behavior of persons with severe sensorial injuries or neurological disorders. The therapists perform activities which stimulate the patients' senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch etc.).

Gabriela Plopeanu, the Chair of Association says: "We have been dreaming of the sensory room for lots of years. I had the opportunity to see such rooms first of all abroad, in documentaries and then in centers in our country. I could see how much can be achieved with proper equipment concerning the sensorial stimulation or desensitization, not only at children with autism, but in the case of other neuropsychiatric disorders as well. Today our dream has come true. And for this we wish to thank the Kronospan Foundation and all those who made contributions with their donations to the furnishing and fitting of the sensory room."






Our Sponsors

We are very grateful to all our donors and sponsors who have made gifts to support our causes. We are honored to acknowledge our major donors of 2015 of the Oak Sponsorship category (over €10.000).

Our Sponsors

From €1 to €10.000 – we are deeply thankful for the willingness of all our donors to support the activities of the Kronospan Foundation in 2015.

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Please support us!

Every donation counts.



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Register of Foundations
and Associations 85/2011

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USD account
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RON account
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BIC: BACX