

*Our Mission:
Supporting improved
educational opportunities for
the children and youth of the
isolated Malesia e Madhe
region of Northern Albania*

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AAI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Meet Arjeta Curaj, one of AAI's university scholarship recipients. Arjeta was educated in the village of Zagore and went on to Koplík to finish high school. It is very difficult for students who come from these small villages to attend college, but Arjeta has finished her bachelor's degree at University of Tirana and is now working on her masters. She has had to work incredibly hard, and we are very proud to be helping her in this endeavor. Her Masters degree is in teaching mathematics and she hopes to teach high school in Tirana when she is finished.

"I chose mathematics, because I feel capable, and it has always been my favourite subject. Also, I find teaching is very generous work, you are always in touch with pupils and teenager's minds. I am to be a good teacher so that the students trust me and feel free to ask me everything." Good luck to you, Arjeta!

AAI Supported Kindergartens

We have provided kindergarten supplies for several years in the village schools; however the government stopped funding kindergarten classes in Vrithe and Boga two years ago. AAI stepped up to fund two kindergarten classes, as well as two preschool classes each two days a week. We are lucky to have two wonderful teachers, in Regina Gocaj in Vrithe and Vitore Leshaj in Boga who are doing a great job with the children.



Statistics for 2018-19 School Year:

- 12 university scholarships
- 2 kindergartens and 2 preschools
- Monthly budget to five schools for library book purchases
- Incentive program for students at Dedaj High School
- Repairs to the Boga School

Program expenses for the 2017-18 school year - \$19,500. Administration fees were 3.2% of total program expenses.



Letter from AAI President, Steve Cook

On my annual trips, I reconnect with friends, colleagues, students, and the mountains. The highlight of the trip was our Dedaj art competition organized by Viki Leshaj. Students from Boga, Xhaj, Dedaj, Vrithe, and Zagore submitted an awesome array of paintings, drawings, karaoke, modern and traditional dance, songs and skits. There were over a hundred students and many teachers and family members in attendance. Santiljan Markvukaj and Rregjina Rakaj, AAI university scholarship students, judged the artwork. Santiljan took photos.

I taught some conversational English in both Boga and Vrithe. It is always a pleasure to mess around with the kids, playing games especially. School Director Gac Purashaj in Vrithe talked me into some new playground equipment. He is serious about students getting exercise. And I worked with my friends, Cola and Alban, to do repairs to the Boga school. Without AAI funding, the school in Boga would go into disrepair.

When Terri, Marash, and I started AAI in 2003, we said we were in it for the long term, perhaps 10 years. But our dedicated and generous donors have given Shkreli students a better education for fifteen years. Our success is due to you, and I thank you for your confidence in us.



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