

THE STORY OF INNOSCHOOL IN SERBIA

INSPIRED BY INNOSCHOOL

"A hero is any person who wants to make this world a better place for all people"

"f you asked students from Technical School in Železnik to tell you



what makes someone a hero, that would have been the answer. But in October of 2020 little did they know or think about heroes, let alone becoming ones. This is when the school – as the first one out of ten in Serbia – started piloting the InnoSchool Innovative Learning System (the ILS). Supported by the Principal, Olivera Babić, three enthusiastic and dedicated teachers – Ivana Mihajlović, Jelena Ćirković and Aleksandra Stanojević took over the responsibility of introducing social entrepreneurship to their students and testing how the interactive InnoSchool Serious Game would affect the learning curve.

The school is known for being active in promoting youth entrepreneurship and often participates in national and international programs that focus on the topic. Its interest to take part in the InnoSchool Pilot was thus not surprising. But their experience took a positive turn that no one could expect.

"No matter who you are or what you do, opportunities to be a hero are everywhere"



As the ILS progressed, Ivana Mihajlović, teacher and school's psychologist, got to the point in the Game when she introduced six social challenges to her class. And that is when two of her students, Svetlana Lazarević and Dragana Petković, members of the "DC" student team knew: child welfare would be their topic of choice. Both students remembered that on October 08, 2020 a daily newspaper reported that the Belgrade's Drop-in Center for street children recorded 112 instead of usual 60 to 65 daily visits. It was more than enough to spark an idea.

True heroes constantly think how they can act and help others. This is exactly what Svetlana and Dragana did: they acted. In parallel with learning about social entrepreneurship, their idea was to initiate a humanitarian action to collect winter clothes and basic school supplies for street children of the Drop-in Center.



With Ivana's help and Jelena Ćirković's assistance, they designed a poster with a slogan:

"Be a Hero of Someone's Heart" prompting people to donate sweaters, warm jackets, shirts, shoes, scarfs and gloves, notebooks, pencils, crayons, and whatever they could. The initial idea was to spread the word and posters around the neighboring elementary schools and the community but the situation with the pandemic worsened and schools closed. However, that did not discourage the two students and their teachers who moved their campaign online.

They sent emails to different organizations and schools, asked other teachers, colleagues, friends and parents to get involved and put posters up at their workplaces. The Principal promised to support collection of boxes with clothing from various places scattered around the city as well as transport of everything that has been collected to the children's Drop-in Center.

The entire campaign lasted only few weeks since cold weather already took its turn and children needed the donation fast. To everyone's surprise, the turnout was such that the school had to use its library premises as the largest room in the building to store all collected boxes! Imagine the surprise when the boxes got delivered to the Center.

Being a hero isn't just about solving all the bad things in life; it is also about volunteering your time to work on promoting and advancing good things like kindness, charity, gratitude and love. Svetlana and Dragana thought about positive things instead of negative ones. And they would certainly tell you that promoting the good and performing random acts of kindness is what social entrepreneurs do.

The students and the school agreed to keep the initiative going. They already know that putting others before yourself and being ready to act when others don't is what makes a true social entrepreneur and a true hero. Their InnoSchool message to everyone is: **You can be a hero of someone's heart, too!**