



2025

Annual Report



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Letter from the President

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends of SAMA,

The past year once again demonstrated the strength of our community and the impact that collective effort can achieve. Through the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors, the Serbian American Medical Association continues to expand its mission of improving healthcare access where it is most needed.

This year we reached an important milestone: SAMA has now surpassed **\$1.5 million in total humanitarian donations** since the launch of our initiatives. This achievement reflects the extraordinary generosity of our community and the commitment of volunteers who continue to make these projects possible.

In 2025, the generosity of our community once again translated directly into tangible improvements in healthcare infrastructure and patient care.

Support from the **SAMA Tennis Open events in Washington and Chicago, the Chicago Topaz Annual Fundraiser, and generous community donations** directly enabled renovation and support projects at **Health Stations Ušće (Kraljevo), Belušić (Rekovac), Rabrovo (Kučevo), Aleksandrovo (Srpska Crnja), and Stapani (Užice)**, as well as the **Psychiatric Hospital in Vršac**—improving healthcare access for thousands of patients in underserved communities.

These projects strengthen working conditions for healthcare professionals while expanding access to essential medical services for rural populations. They also reflect SAMA's long-standing commitment to practical, community-driven initiatives that produce measurable results.

Looking ahead, SAMA will continue to focus on projects that deliver meaningful and sustainable impact. Our priorities include **children's health, newborn and neonatology care, women's health, and continued investment in healthcare infrastructure and medical equipment**, particularly in underserved communities.

SAMA's success would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. I would like to extend special thanks to **Tanya Radaković** for her exceptional contributions and welcome her as a member of the SAMA Board of Directors. I would also like to recognize **Jovan Parlić**, whose leadership in organizing the Chicago SAMA Tennis Tournament has had a remarkable impact. Thanks to his efforts and the support of the Chicago community, the tournament has become an important fundraiser supporting children's health initiatives.

We remain deeply grateful to all of our donors, partners, and supporters whose generosity continues to make these projects possible. Together we are strengthening healthcare services and improving the lives of patients and families across Serbia and the region.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

With respect and gratitude,
Ivan Aksentijevich
President



Our Story



In the late 1990s, during the Balkan conflicts, physicians from the Serbian diaspora organized shipments of essential medications and medical supplies to support healthcare institutions in the region. These early humanitarian efforts gradually evolved into a structured initiative connecting healthcare professionals in North America with hospitals and clinics across the Balkans.

The Serbian American Medical Association (SAMA) was established in Maryland in 2009 and received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in 2010. Supported by donations and grants, SAMA works through volunteer dedication, community fundraising, and philanthropic partnerships to improve healthcare access.

To date, SAMA has donated more than **\$1.5 million** in medical equipment, education, and infrastructure improvements to communities in Serbia, Kosovo & Metohija, Republic of Srpska, and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Today, SAMA is a volunteer-driven network of physicians and community leaders committed to strengthening healthcare in underserved communities. Through targeted fundraising, facility renovation, and donations of critical medical equipment, SAMA partners with local health institutions to deliver sustainable and measurable improvements in patient care.





Vision And Mission

Vision

- Built on grassroots principles, our transparent and focused model ensures people-helping-people without hierarchy or hidden agendas.
- We openly document every step, carefully assessing projects for maximum impact on healthcare throughout the Balkans.
- Together, we minimize costs, build strong relationships, and create an inclusive force for positive change.

Mission

The Serbian American Medical Association (SAMA) works to improve healthcare access and support medical professionals in Serbia and the region.

With the support of many generous partners and friends, SAMA strengthens healthcare infrastructure, assists vulnerable populations, and promotes high standards of patient care.



A Year in Review

In 2025, SAMA raised more than \$183,000 in support of our mission. This achievement was made possible through several key fundraising initiatives, including the SAMA Tennis Open in Washington, the newly launched SAMA Tennis Open in Chicago, the Chicago Topaz Annual Fundraiser, and generous Slava-based community giving. Chicago-based events proved particularly effective, generating both significant financial support and direct, project-specific impact. The expansion of our fundraising footprint reflects growing engagement within our community and a shared commitment to improving healthcare access where it is needed most.

General Donations	\$35,459.90
SAMA Tennis Open - Washington	\$11,410.00
SAMA Tennis Open - Chicago	\$20,770.00
Chicago Fundraiser 2025 (Stapari Health Station)	\$85,250.00
Holiday Fundraiser	\$7,085.65
Aksentijevich Slava	\$7,500.00
SAMA Operations Fund	\$11,356.00
Other (Slavas, In memory of David Vuich etc)	\$4,720.00
Total	\$183,551.55

2025

Fundraising

Washington DC Tennis Open



We had a wonderful turnout, great matches, and beautiful weather—making it a fantastic day for everyone involved. Congratulations to Singles Champion Nima Mosasavari and Runner-Up Milan Trajkovic for their excellent play and sportsmanship. In doubles, Nenad Mercec, together with Luka Dragacevac, once again captured the title. We also applaud Lorena Peranovic and Cassidy Campbell for their strong debut performances.

The event raised \$6,410.07, with donations still coming in, all of which will go directly toward helping people in need.



2025

Fundraising

Chicago Tennis Open

We are grateful to **Jovan Parlic**, Head Tennis Coach at University of Illinois Chicago, whose dedication and enthusiasm made our first tennis tournament in Chicago possible. Jovan generously invested his time and effort to organize the event, bringing together a wonderful community of players and supporters. Blessed with beautiful weather and a full roster of participants, the tournament was a tremendous success and a truly enjoyable day for everyone involved. The event not only showcased great tennis but also strengthened our community while supporting the mission of the Serbian American Medical Association. The event raised 20K.



Serbian American Medical Association

2025

Fundraising

Last October, the Serbian American Medical Association hosted a successful fundraising event at Topaz Café, generously sponsored by Branko Palikuća (far left), who provided the venue and warm hospitality for the evening. The event brought together supporters united by a shared commitment to improving healthcare access in Užice.



Funds raised during the event supported the complete renovation of the outpatient clinic in Stepara. The aging facility was restored from floor to roof, transforming it into a modern and functional health center that now provides reliable access to essential medical services for residents of Stepara and surrounding villages. This project highlights the powerful impact of community support and diaspora engagement.

2025

Fundraising



Slava

Slava celebrations provide a meaningful opportunity to preserve Serbian tradition while bringing family and community together. When paired with charitable giving, these gatherings become even more powerful—honoring heritage while supporting those in need and strengthening our shared commitment to helping others.

2025 Notable Projects

As we reflect on 2025, we are pleased to report that the funds deployed toward our targeted projects were both substantial and deeply impactful. The scale and effectiveness of the contributions made place 2025 among the most consequential in our organization's history in terms of real-world impact.

Through the collective generosity of our donors, partners, and supporters, SAMA advanced meaningful healthcare initiatives and critical infrastructure improvements across Serbia Health Centers and hospitals. Your continued support empowers us to grow our impact and bring much-needed resources to the communities we serve.

SAMA successfully completed the following Projects:

- Health Station Ušće – Health Center Kraljevo
- Health Station Stapari – Health Center Užice
- Health Station Belušić – Health Center Rekovac
- Health Station Rabrovo – Health Center Kučevo
- Health Station Aleksandrovo – Health Center Srpska Crnja
- Psychiatric Hospital Vršac
- Student Polyclinic in Belgrade (SAMA Canada)

These health center renovations were made possible through the generosity and dedication of an incredible team of construction professionals. Many of them donated not only their expertise, but also their time, effort, and resources to support the SAMA mission. Their commitment played a vital role in transforming these facilities into improved healthcare spaces.





2025 Notable Projects

HC Kraljevo, Serbia

Renovation of Health Station in Ušće

Installing new lowered ceiling (~320m²) with insulation (~10cm), install 40 new lights, replace windows (various dimensions, total of 19) and doors (total of 21), prepare and paint ceilings (~320m²) and walls (~600m²), prepare and install new PVC flooring (~320m²), replace all horizontal and vertical gutters, new façade (~278m²)

Total Cost: \$89,884.29



This renovation gives me hope. I have two sons. I want to believe that they'll have better – that they'll come here and get care they can count on.

-Patient, Health Center Ušće

For more details or pictures, scan the QR code





2025 Notable Projects

HC Užice, Serbia

Renovation of Health Station in Stapari

Complete reconstruction of water and electric installations, roof reconstruction (~145m²), install new gutters (~70m), new façade (~100m²), replace windows (various dimensions, total of 4) and doors (9), replace entrance door, install new lights (10) and radiators (6), renovate toilets (~40m² ceramics, 2 toilet, 5 sinks, 1 hot water boiler), new ceramic floor (~56m²), lowered ceiling (80m²), paint walls and ceilings (~220m²), new fence around the yard, new medical furniture

Total Cost: \$87,084.67



For more details
or pictures, scan
QR code





2025 Notable Projects

HC Srpska Crnja, Serbia

Renovation of Health Station in Aleksandrovo

Replacing doors (total 14) and windows (total 9), fixing and painting walls around windows and doors, fixing the staircase in front of the entrance (20m2 ceramics), new reception desk.

Total Cost: \$22,596.71



For more details or picture, scan QR code



2025 Notable Projects

HC Rekovac, Serbia

Renovation of Health Station in Belušić

Installing new lowered ceilings (~273m²), 27 new ceiling lights, preparation and painting ceiling and walls (~300m²).

Total Cost: \$15,091.41



For more details or pictures scan QR code



2025 Notable Projects

HC Kučevo, Serbia

Renovation of Health Station in Rabrovo

Replacing windows (various dimensions, total 16), replacing door (1), fixing and painting walls around windows and doors.

Total Cost: \$11,214.53



Scan to see more pictures of the updates completed Health Station in Rabrovo.





2025 Notable Projects

Psychiatric Hospital in Vršac, Serbia

Donation of 50 anti-decubitus mattresses with bed covers.

Total Cost: \$9,275.35



Scan to see
more in on
Health Station
in Vrsac.





2025 Notable Projects

Student Polyclinic Belgrade, Serbia

SAMA Canada helped upgrade the ultrasound system donated by SAMA in 2024 with cardiologic examination capability. The donation included an additional board (CW Doppler) plus a new probe (2 Phase Array).

Total Cost: \$5,800.00



Scan to learn more about the Student Polyclinic.

2025 Financial Report

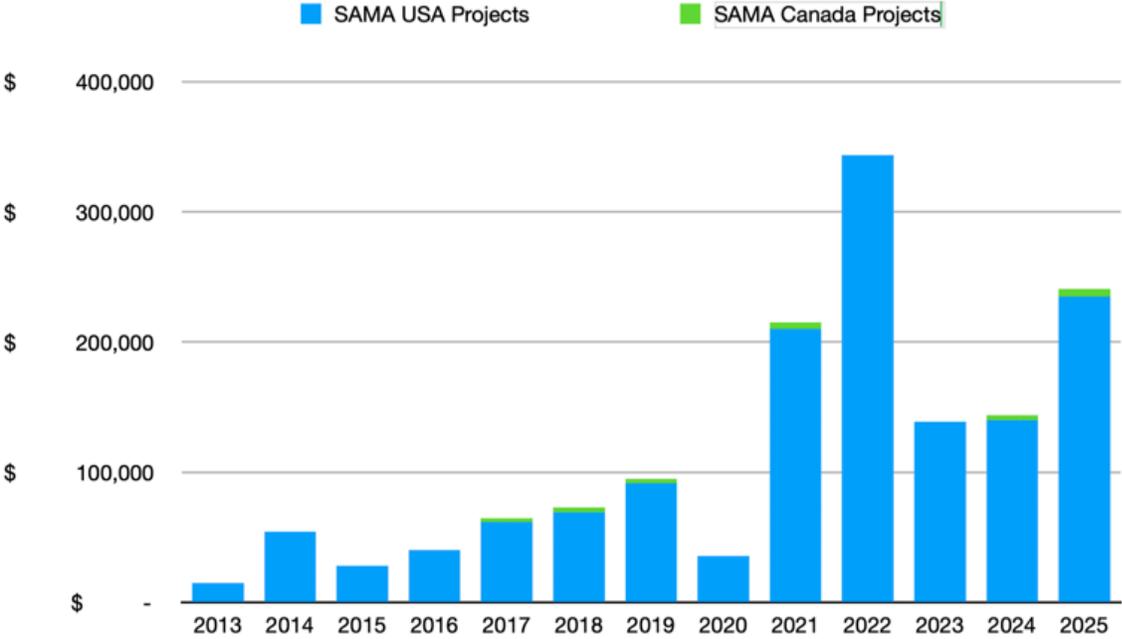
Top Level Summary	
Beginning Balance (Bank Account)	\$169,970.13
Beginning Balance (PayPal Account)	\$1,807.90
Beginning Balance (To_Be_Deposited)	\$0.00
Beginning Balance SAMA Serbia USD Account	\$0.00
Beginning Balance SAMA Serbia RSD Account	\$1,083.78
Total funds raised	\$183,551.55
Total funds spent on projects and overhead	\$(250,028.02)
Adjustment (e.g. interest, exch. rate corrections etc.)	\$733.22
Balance	\$107,118.56

For a detailed review of SAMA's 2025 financial documents visit our website or scan the QR Code:



Our Growing Footprint of Care

SAMA's investment in health care related projects in Serbia and the Balkans has been steadily growing over the years, thanks to ever expanding donor base.



2025 was one of the most impactful years for SAMA. We have invested over \$230k (only in 2022 we have invested more in a single year!) in various projects.

For a detailed review of SAMA's 2025 financial documents visit our website or scan the QR Code:



Message from our Vice President

Dear SAMA Supporters,

As you can see from SAMA 2025 Financial report, last year was one of the most impactful years for SAMA.

Staying true to our focus to improve Primary Health Care, we have completed renovations of 5 rural Health Stations across Serbia. With these projects we have impacted lives of thousands of people by improving quality and accessibility of their health care.

To put this in broader perspective, on one side accessibility of health care is one of the major reasons rural population is leaving their villages and moving to cities. This is not specific only to Serbia. We hope that with all the other improvements (e.g. better roads and other services, including health care) more people will decide to stay.

On the other side, Serbia ranks among the countries in Europe with the lowest life expectancy. We as SAMA believe that the life expectancy could be significantly improved by preventive health care and in particular regular screening of the population.

I should also say that how we identified these projects and analyzed their impact shows path for future work of SAMA. In general identifying the right projects is one of the major challenges we face. This time, we distributed invitations to almost all health centers in Serbia, described what we wanted to do, and asked them share their needs supported by data with us. We received over 40 applications and selected 5 that we believe would be the most impactful.

We are planning to repeat this model in the near future. As I am writing this, we are preparing similar project(s) for delivery/maternity wards across Serbia! Stay tuned!

I would like to thank all our supporters and volunteers! Without your support, nothing that we do would be possible. We are committed as always to continue improving health care in Serbia in the most impactful and transparent way possible!

Zoran Mladenovic
Vice President and Treasurer
Serbian American Medical Association



Meet Our Team

The strength of the Serbian American Medical Association lies in the dedication, expertise, and compassion of the people behind it. Our team is composed of physicians, professionals, and volunteers who share a common commitment to improving healthcare access and supporting medical education in Serbia and the broader Balkan region. United by a shared purpose, they bring their time, knowledge, and passion together to create meaningful and lasting impact.

We believe that access to quality healthcare should be available to everyone. Guided by this principle, our team works collaboratively and with a strong sense of responsibility to support initiatives that improve health outcomes and promote well-being for people of all ages. With transparency and a shared vision at the core of our work, our volunteers and leaders work together with purpose—ensuring that every effort, partnership, and contribution drives meaningful and sustainable change in the communities we serve. If you share these values and are interested in getting involved, we welcome you to join us—please reach out at board@serbianama.org.



**DR. IVAN
AKSESTIJEVICH**



**ZORAN
MLADENOVIĆ**



**DR. MILENA
AKSESTIJEVICH**



**BRANKO
PALIKUĆA**



**TANYA
RADAKOVIĆ**



**ALEKSANDRA
SAVIĆ**



**VERA BLAZENCIĆ
-MLADENOVIĆ**



**TINA
PANTELIC**



**JASMINA
ASSANIN**



**NEVENKA
TOMIC**



**MIA
MARTICH**



**ANA
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AS WE LOOK BACK ON THE PAST YEAR, WE ARE DEEPLY THANKFUL FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT THAT MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE. THE GENEROSITY, TIME, AND DEDICATION OF OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTERS HAVE HELPED TURN IDEAS INTO ACTION AND ALLOWED US TO EXPAND OUR IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

EVERY CONTRIBUTION, LARGE OR SMALL, PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ADVANCING THE MISSION OF THE SERBIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

LOOKING AHEAD, WE INVITE YOU TO REMAIN PART OF THIS JOURNEY WITH US. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK, WHETHER BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME, CONTRIBUTING TO OUR INITIATIVES, JOINING OUR NEWSLETTER, OR HELPING US RAISE AWARENESS BY SHARING OUR MISSION WITH OTHERS. EACH STEP HELPS US CONTINUE STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN THE REGIONS WE SUPPORT.

WITH YOUR PARTNERSHIP, WE CAN CONTINUE BUILDING ON THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE AND EXPAND THE REACH OF OUR EFFORTS IN THE YEARS TO COME. THANK YOU FOR BEING AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY AND FOR HELPING US MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE.