

High school girls started the action

Girls to girls

"By generosity we do not take away from ourselves, but we multiply everything."

2020 - a year of great change, uncertainty and fear. We want to skip it in our memories and forget it. It began with a fight with an invisible enemy - a virus, and ended with the loss of warm family homes, buildings and human lives.

It was Tuesday, Dec. 29, a little after noon. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck the Sisak-Moslavina County with its epicenter 3 km southwest of the town of Petrinja. It was an earthquake whose consequences many people will remember and feel for a long time.

Until that moment, I had not seen heroes on the street, I thought that they only existed in movies and books. But they exist! They are among us! These are people who, hearing the cries of those whose homes were destroyed, left everything and went to the wounded area of help. In those days, we were able to witness numerous humanitarian actions by people from all over Croatia. They did not care about the possibility of shaking the ground again, demolishing buildings, houses. Their heart wanted only one thing, and that was to help the unfortunate.

Each of us, in his own way, hides the hero within himself. You just need to activate it. Four high school girls pressed the activation button. Their idea delighted many. Why? Because they have shown solidarity and togetherness, and we need that more than we need in these times. They decided to help. They are Rea Kovačević, Tena Korov, Hana Ledić and Helena Makarević.

How did it all start?

Rea Kovačević, a third-grade high school student, was shocked by the situation caused by the earthquakes in the Banija area. She kept thinking about how she could help the victims. And then, she says, she remembered the "Woman to Woman" initiative launched during the 2014 floods that hit Gunja. She came up with the idea to do a similar thing for the girls, her peers from the quake-hit areas.

"Anyone who would like to participate would prepare a box of hygiene supplies, a piece of clothing that is dear to that person and that they would like to give to someone along with a message of support. Every box would be personalized in some way, every girl who would get it would feel that it was just for her. I introduced the idea to my family, then to my friends Tena, Helena and Hana who immediately supported me and decided to help me realize the imagined idea. That's how the "Girls to Girls" action actually came about, the very beginning of the action is described by Rea.



The news spread very quickly. Within minutes, many other girls shared their posts on social media to get as many young people as possible to learn about the action. Many students and teachers of our school immediately joined the action. Nika Drežnjak, a first-grade student at the Mathematical Gymnasium, wrote about the action itself: "I was motivated to participate by the desire to help high school students in Petrinja and the surrounding area. I know how much the help of a completely foreign person would mean to me if I were in such a situation. I really like this action because the girls will really need these things and they will be very happy. This action shows unity when it is most difficult. "

The girls would meet at Rea's and accept packages that arrived first from Požega, and later from Velika, Pakrac, Lipik and Slavonski Brod. They joined one of the organized transports that drove donations from Požega. There is also the inevitable parental support.



Parental support

Rea's mother, Mrs. Jasmina Kovačević, after the initial fear and sense of responsibility according to all participants in the action, he was overwhelmed with a sense of satisfaction and pride at Reina's reaction to human suffering. Together, they started the realization, they managed on all sides managing to reach people who needed help. So the first shipment of the package went to high school in Sisak, and the other in high school in Petrinja. The second shipment is parents and girls personally drove and witnessed the positive reactions of Petrinja high school girls.

"How did we find two families from Glina, whom we had a great desire to visit, after school in Petrinja, we went there. Glina is a place that, in my opinion, has gone through the worst, and even before the earthquake was a forgotten end. Somehow we decided together that we should act now here and help the girls and boys in Glina ", Rea's mother tells us about the further course actions.



After two shipments of the package, I wonder if the action is over or continues?

"We are satisfied and grateful to everyone who responded. We plan to collect packages as long as the girls are responding because we think that young people from the area affected by the

earthquakes will need support and help in a month as well as in a few months ", says Tena Korov, a third grade student general grammar schools.

They did not imagine that the action would expand this much. A really large number of girls respond and they are overjoyed about it. Although they get a lot of inquiries for reports and interviews, they don't want media attention. They initiated this action from the heart and out of a desire to help their peers guided by sincere intentions because "after this life, it is not what we have collected that remains, but what we have given."

Terezija Tomić, 1.a, member of the Journalism Group