



news from Novi Most winter 2024 New Bridge

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A couple of weeks before Winter Camp we wondered if there would be enough snow!

@novimost   

Novi Most has been running regular winter camps now for probably ten years. These have usually been a five-day camp, with the middle three days spent on a mountain, learning to snowboard. Last year we decided to try something new: to run two camps, a shorter one specifically for teenagers and the normal camp for students and those just out of education. Both camps went well so we decided to repeat the experiment this year. The Teen Winter Camp happened at the beginning of January, the second Winter Camp will take place in the first full week of February.

Our Director Beki gives you his thoughts on this year's first Winter Camp.

"This winter, we had the privilege of organising a snowboarding and skiing camp for 21 teenagers from four different cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Witnessing these young individuals form lasting friendships while experiencing personal growth, outdoor adventures, and spiritual development was truly gratifying. As they honed their snowboarding and skiing skills, the joy of seeing them overcome fears and push their limits created unforgettable memories.

Unfortunately, due to limited space, we had to decline numerous parents' requests for their kids to join. Despite the challenge, it presents an opportunity for future restructuring and expansion, highlighting Novi Most as a trusted partner in fostering essential youth development."



Being on top of the mountain...feeling on top of the world!



Time to follow the leader!

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON WINTER!

When we say "Bosnia and Herzegovina" the country name is also a description of two different bits of geography. Put simply, Bosnia is the north of the country which has forested mountains and snowy winters; Herzegovina is the south of the country, with bare, rocky mountains and very hot summers. While it's normal for children in Bosnia to grow up sledging or skiing every year, young people who have grown up in Herzegovina may not have had the chance to play in the snow very often.

Indira is our Novi Most worker in Mostar, which is in Herzegovina. She explains what Winter Camp meant to the young people who she brought.

"We brought eight young people from Mostar who were very excited about the camp and about something new they would learn, because they had not had the opportunity to learn snowboarding before. Of the eight, two learned to snowboard and were surprised and happy that they had mastered a new skill.

While we were at the camp, the young people enjoyed socialising and the snow. It was encouraging to see them step out of their comfort zone into something new. And the whole camp was an unforgettable experience for them, and they can't wait for the winter camp next year."

Respect to the young people who kept riding until the end of the day!



Enjoying a social stroll through a winter wonderland!





Mike didn't take selfies but he did photograph some of the team!

MIKE'S BIH WHIRLWIND

Mike Elliot, one of our trustee board members, kicked off this year with five days catching up with the team in all our locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He tells us how it went.

My flying visit to the team in early January started with bumping into Claire Gingell on the flight into Sarajevo, an unexpected bonus. It was a joy to spend time with each member of the team, be reminded of their deep passion for their work and the quality of that work. I even managed to get interviewed by the Stari Most for local television! Some things that really jumped out to me from this trip were:

- ▶ Our commitment to local leadership elevates Novi Most compared to other international, faith-based organisations in BiH.
- ▶ The depth of the integration between our teams and the churches they are part of has never been greater. This is exciting as it makes the transition from Novi Most inclusion to church inclusion smoother for our young people.
- ▶ The work that the Herzegovina team is doing is fantastic, with Indira leading the charge in Royal Rangers and cookery classes in Mostar.
- ▶ The scholarship scheme we are running could be helping raise not only the next generation of local Novi Most workers, but maybe the next generation of pastors and church leaders in the Evangelical Church in BiH. This is something as an organisation we should be investing in deeply.
- ▶ The quality of the work by the Jajce team remains exceptional. I felt I caught a little of the vision to inspire young people to song writing, recording and worship leading, and it left me wanting to catch a lot more!



Indira and Becca as tourist guides in Mostar

Budo and his wife Senka after lunch in Jajce



Budo plays in a band. Their latest single was just declared "Rock Song of the Year" by the TV show *Good Morning BiH*. Matt does all the audio and video production for the band. He says: It's great this song got recognised. It adds value to our work and helps young people see we have experience they can really learn from.

WELCOMING PHILL HOLLIS TO THE TEAM

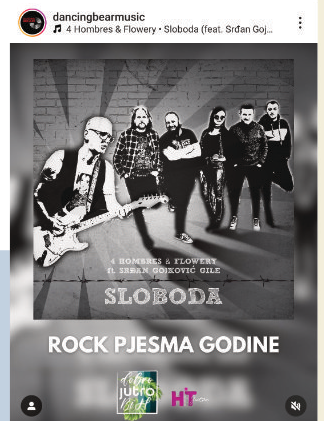
Phill Hollis has recently joined the UK team as Supporter Development Manager, it's fantastic to have him on board. Phill has extensive experience in youth work, supporter engagement and various forms of fundraising. He brings infectious energy, enthusiasm and expertise while his heart for BiH, our team and the wider work is immediately obvious. He recently visited BiH, met the team and saw all the locations, a great start to life with Novi Most.

Phill would love to hear from any of our supporters and if your church would like a visit from the Novi Most team then he would be delighted to arrange that!

You can contact Phill via email: phill@novimost.org



Phill did take a selfie with the Stari Most!



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