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CFC Supporter Story: The Power of Education

Almost 25 years ago, the International Rescue Committee brought Mirela Bruk to the United States as a refugee from war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina, where a civil war had made it dangerous to stay in the country.

Within a few years, Bruk started work as an international broadcaster at the Voice of America – a job she says she wouldn't have gotten without her undergraduate degree. "I viewed it as highly meaningful work for a good cause where my skills, knowledge and language expertise could reach full potential," she says.

In 2010, Bruk completed her master's degree at American University's School of International Service in Washington, D.C.

She undoubtedly recognizes the importance of education and how it helped her get to where she is today: a regional strategic analyst at the Broadcasting Board of Governors. That's why Bruk has continually supported charitable organizations through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) that focus on education.

"If I did not have a proper education, I would not be where I stand right now," she says. "Helping others opens doors and provides an opportunity to those who would like to contribute to their community but just do not have the means to do it."

Bruk shares her motivation behind her continuous support of education-focused charities and how others can select a cause to support through the CFC.

Your charitable cause is education. Why have you chosen to give to that cause?

Education is a tool for success, but not necessarily available to everyone. I want to make it available at least to some, so they can improve their lives, their family's lives and the lives of others as well, locally and internationally.

What keeps you motivated to continue donating?

I view motivation as an engine to change yourself and then the world around you in a positive way. Being educated means you enlighten yourself with knowledge that enables you to better understand others in a diverse environment. Education gives you tools to be compassionate, more understanding and a better person. Education gives you power to be collaborative, work with others and apply your knowledge in a way that will help society and people in need.

How did you get involved with the CFC?

I got involved with the CFC during my first years at work, and I immediately loved the concept. It's easy to select a desired

cause and whom you want to donate to. The ease of payroll deduction just worked for me in a way that I knew money continuously supports the cause I decided to support.

What advice would you give to someone who isn't sure which cause to support?

If you want to donate but are wondering which cause, just look at the world around you. Do you see a child in need? A homeless person on the street? A sick child on TV? Someone close to you struggling with a disease? Do something about it! You might not understand the impact of your compassion, but those receiving a gift will.

Story by Tara Shubbuck



MIRELA BRUK
Broadcasting Board of
Governors

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