

NEWSLETTER

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“EVERYTHING YOU GIVE WILL ONCE SURELY COME YOUR WAY.”

(RAMO HASTOR)



On Saturday, the 14th of July, the seventh meeting of college student scholarship holders in 2018 was held on ASA-Prevent Group’s premises. Despite the fact that the students are used to these monthly meetings since they have been held for several years, the July meeting was indeed a special one. It was marked by great and significant life achievements, both of some of the scholarship holders, but also of the key figure of the Hastor Foundation, the person whose contribution to the evolution of the Foundation is of greatest significance, making it what it stands for today – teacher Ramo Hastor.

The main part of this meeting was, therefore, devoted to the publishing of the book titled “Uci, pisi...” (“Learn, write...”), written by Ramo Hastor, who has been the teacher and volunteer of the Hastor Foundation from its beginnings. Scholarship holders present at the meeting were visibly shocked and pleasantly surprised by this event, and a sense of pride and admiration filled the entire room. Once the teacher had presented his achievement and said a few words about the book and his primary goal in publishing it, he read several excerpts from the book to those who were present, and the elated students then commented on it. It wasn’t difficult to notice, though, that the teacher’s sentence: “I dedicate this book to you” made the greatest impression on the scholarship holders.

The book “Uci, pisi...” is a mosaic made by joining together the pieces from teacher’s life, his childhood and youth, the periods of him growing up and maturing, but also an emotional testimony about the establishment and the enduring and complex path of the development and progress of the Hastor Foundation. By integrating the emotional and rational dimension of life, this book effectively

presents the main points in the evolution of the Foundation itself, which has grown from the number of three hundred scholarship holders to a family of more than 1.800 scholarship holders coming from 110 municipalities across BiH, all of whom are connected by devotion and commitment; and all thanks to this man, primarily, along with many other devoted volunteers.

The scholarship holders delightedly asked the teacher where they can find the book so they could buy and read it, to which he answered as follows: “I didn’t write the book to earn money. I wrote it to leave something behind. I really have it only if I give it as a gift. Everything you give will once surely come your way!”

Although those who were present were still under a strong impression due to this event, significant both for the teacher and the entire Foundation, including its scholarship holders, they proceeded with the meeting, the second part of which was reserved for students Amila Mekic and Belma Gutic. These scholarship holders, together with younger scholarship holders of the Foundation, spent 21 unforgettable days in the Netherlands as a part of the project the Foundation has been carrying out together with the Stichting Kinderhulp Bosnie for many years now. Amila and Belma spoke about their experiences and the impressions of the children they accompanied there. Due to this great project, more than 1.900 children had, over the years, an opportunity to visit the Netherlands. Apart from this, students Dzulisa Otuzbir and Delila Veispahic spent their summer semesters in Portugal and Poland, respectively, participating in the ERASMUS Student Exchange Programme, so they also shared their unforgettable college and life experiences,

describing the potential obstacles and prejudices they encountered at the beginning of their journeys, which in the end proved to be unjustified, and the student exchange programme was a wonderful experience for them.

However, the experiences and successes of the scholarship holders did not stop there. Two college student scholarship holders of the Foundation, Lejla Ramic and Anisa Ruhotina, were chosen for the position of the teaching assistant at the Faculty of Law in Sarajevo. Lejla decided to share her emotions and talk about her long-standing fight and persistence, trying to describe to the scholarship holders the way in which she managed to make the dream she had ever since she enrolled into this faculty come true. These young successful girls have shown that fighting for what truly matters, particularly one’s own dreams, is worthwhile, no matter how unattainable and distant they may seem at times. Our success is solely in our hands, because we are the only ones responsible for it. We are the ones who set the barriers and boundaries for ourselves, but we are also the ones who break them down with a strong will, and lasting and enduring work and devotion.

Amina Vatres

learn,
write...



SUMMER HOLIDAYS IN THE NETHERLANDS

BELMA AND THIRTY-EIGHT KIDS BURSTING WITH ENERGY

Summer Holidays in the Netherlands is a project that has been carried out for eleven years already thanks to the joint efforts of the Hastor Foundation and Stichting Kinderhulp Bosnie, an organization in the Netherlands dedicated to helping children from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Each year, usually in June, forty Bosnian and Herzegovinian children travel to the Netherlands for a three-week holiday. The process of selecting the children who will participate in this project is lead by teacher Ramo himself, with the help of representatives of the aforementioned organization.

At the beginning of June, we bid farewell to the 38 children, 8 to 12 years of age, from the following areas: Sapna, Kalesija and Zivinice. On this unforgettable journey they were accompanied by two college student scholarship holders of our Foundation, Belma Gutlic and Amila Mekic. Upon arriving at the destination, the children were presented

with just one requirement that they needed to fulfill: to enjoy themselves thoroughly and make new friends, or in other words rejoice in each and every moment of their holidays. The plan of activities was made in accordance with this and so in the time span of three weeks, the children had an opportunity to visit amusement parks, try their luck at different games, ride horses, enjoy a picnic and a gondola ride, explore Amsterdam, participate in different workshops, learn more about the culture, tradition and customs of the country they visited and much more. As was the case on all previous occasions, the children returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina with their bags full of presents and minds full of impressions.

An account of this year's holidays, written by our scholarship holder Belma Gutlic, is presented on the following pages in its entirety.

Each year, the Hastor Foundation together with an organization called Kinderhulp Bosnie carries out the "Summer Holidays in the Netherlands" project. As soon as the Foundation announced the call for leaders of the project, we started thinking about applying, the two of us who didn't know each other and who came from two different parts of BiH. Your mind is racing with all the sacrifices you'll have to make, you're thinking of the difficulty of trying to meet these obligations and those related to the studies and this is the main reason why many hesitate to submit a motivational letter to the Foundation. But it seems that for me and Amila it wasn't so difficult because, we thought, if we don't go now, there is no telling whether a new chance will knock on our doors again. Some time passed and then one phone call of teacher Ramo and Mrs. Amela Dedic transformed an ordinary day into an extraordinary one – Amila and I will be this year's leaders of the project "Summer Holidays in the Netherlands". From that moment on, the only thing I could think of was the 9th of June, the day our journey would begin. Amila arrived a day early and met with the people who made all of this possible, while I went through a bus trip from hell: Bihac – Sarajevo – Zivinice. I got a scolding for being late. I arrived in Zivinice at 9 o'clock sharp and I remember these words from Peter Keemers:

- "I'm glad that you're on time, Belma."
- "Huh, it's all good. Smile."

The first week passed with many bumps in the road, 38 cases of homesickness and tears being spilt 24/7. Despite putting in a lot of effort and energy into explaining that this will surely be one of the best holidays they will ever spend little changed. We let time run its course and truly, after about a week the situation improved drastically. With a bit of help from us, the essence of the project came to the surface – spending time together, laughing, seeing a totally new world..., all of it left quite an impression on the youngsters. They got along so nicely – at first. Some shyness was still present and it made kids hesitant to cause any sort of trouble, making it possible for us to enjoy every moment of

the trip. During the first week, besides the program and its activities scheduled for every other day, we spent our days in visiting kids at their foster families and breathing in the air of this lowland country, a country where speed bumps rather than coffee chased away the morning sleepiness. It's perfectly organized! The best way to get to know one country is through its people, the atmosphere in their homes ... Later on while we talked with Amela it was confirmed once again: "These are the most wonderful Dutch people you can meet, girls."

- "Belma, I can't be without my mother!" little Dzenan cried out on the first day.

Two days later, Amila told me:

- "Come with me, you need to hear this."

I came running, thinking that he and his sister were bickering again, but I was in for a surprise:

- "Amila, by God, I'm never leaving this place ever."

We got used to the everyday life in the Netherlands pretty quickly, to the bicycles and brick houses and the vast open spaces... No Igman, Bjelasnica, Trebevic, no Osjecnica, Ostrelja, Klekovaca, but lowlands, fields to which we belong now. But as we ourselves learned, life over there does not move in one straight line.

The two of us stayed at Peter van Laar's house who is an extraordinary gentleman, and I do not say this merely because of the delicious meals he'd set before us (okay, maybe a little), but because of his strong will, generosity and great deeds, as well as his humor and youthful spirit which he kept despite the passage of many years. Els is his better half and her personality shines due to these same traits and virtues.

- "Amila, the neighbors are gonna throw a fit over the loud rock n' roll."
(Amila turns up the volume)



Relaxing after a long day was particularly wonderful and it left room for Amila and I to become closer, have long conversations from time to time, all the while forgetting about the fact that teacher Ramo hasn't received the daily report yet. You get distracted and the night will descend quickly. Go to sleep early because in the morning there are 38 little kids bursting with energy just waiting to be released. Your attention needs to be distributed equally, but even when you manage that you will feel exhausted and will need to use the last vestige of your willpower to make it through – you will, however, be overjoyed that you're a part of something so wonderful and the next day when a whole group of those little ones so full of love and warm hugs comes running to you that feeling will become even stronger. All the exhaustion will simply dissolve.

They'll call for you because a mosquito bit them. They will fight amongst each other, sometimes get hurt. They will act mischievously, be loud and clownish or completely carefree, not listening to you because of all the excitement. You will often be perceived as a killjoy, but in the end their affection towards you won't change.

In the first week that general excitement made us act as kids too, but a day-off, in the form of exams needing to be prepared for when we get back home, came in time to bring us back to reality. The day of Eid came as well but the two of us weren't surrounded by the people we'd normally be with and we weren't back home, eating traditional food, so Amila came up with an idea to make krompiruša, potato pie whose wonderful smell we didn't breathe in for such a long time, or at least it seemed that way to us. We waited for the dinner eagerly and afterwards we concluded that with such cooking skills Amila can immediately get married. On the day of the celebration, the kids were sadder than ever before.

Soon afterwards, we said goodbye to the house in the idyllic countryside, not knowing what to expect next. If we could have stopped the passage of time we'd have done it.

Up until that point, I spoke with Amela only once, briefly exchanging a couple of words and finding out that we're to be her guests during the second week of our stay. On Sunday evening she came with her beautiful daughter Selma to take me and Amila back to their home. First meeting seemed promising, but it turned out more wonderful than we could have imagined. It's difficult to include the details related to this week since the story would go on and on, but stay patient until the end.

Amela is a woman who knows the secret recipe for happiness. The days at her home were filled with hearty laughter. That family which consists of Amela, Miki, Selma and Adin should carry the title of the greatest merrymaking quartet in the world. I'll be honest, it was difficult going back to the open sea when it was so pleasant to enjoy the beautiful life found on this peaceful shore.

When we first came to the Netherlands, Amila and I were given mobile phones which we used extensively in an effort to resolve many emerging situations – we were both overjoyed that we almost didn't use them at all in our second week. Our free time we spent on sweeter concerns such as shopping, night life (Amila less so than I), being Bosnians trying to find our way around a large city in Western Europe, learning interesting historical fact etc.

Oh yes, the ship.

- "So, you take care of them?"

- "We're trying."

- "They're everywhere," the captain said to me (moment when you wait for someone to tell you that breakfast will be served in 10 and that you need to gather all the kids who could eat at any time, and no wonder given how energetic they are).

There were days when you had to do the thinking for 38 little rascals, just like during this day on the ship, and you feel pressured by this great sense of responsibility. Turning

on our Bosnian music was the surest way of luring kids from our group. Little folks are lively, cheerful, always for merriment and shenanigans, like our people are most of the time. We left Bosnia for a short while, but our mentality we couldn't leave behind and it spilled all over the dance floor.

I was interested in art, museums, imposing edifices, while Amila rejoiced at the prospect of seeing new technologies related to her field of studies, nature, or really anything alive and vibrant. We were curious to explore each other's differences which we soon recognized as complementary.

- "Today you're enjoying the water park and the acrobatics that come with it, Amila, and tomorrow we're visiting a museum!"

When it comes to the events of this week, I didn't mention kids much. They were happy and that was our goal, a goal we reached soon. Of course, not everything went smoothly all the time – voices were raised from time to time and tangled up situations had to be untangled. Amusement park Efteling is a good example. Just imagine those little scamps in rollercoasters and all these different exciting rides, imagine the adrenaline and the fears overcome on that infinitely long day. It was a day which brought many challenges to me and Amila, but nevertheless an exceptional day filled with joy.

Christina's little paradise awaited us when we reached the third week of this great adventure. Amsteerdeaaam! What excitement and elation we felt when we heard that we will explore the heart of the country which we grew to love so. Guided tour, Madame Tussauds, Van Gogh Museum, a street lined with shops which sell the most expensive brands and all that history reflected in your eyes... It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Christine and her husband made our dreams come true. Volendam, a city right next to the sea, was our next destination, one which completed the picture of the Netherlands.

End of the journey was just around the corner.

On the night before we were set to return home, all of us had to do a performance – more wonderful memories were made that night, although these were tinged with a certain melancholy so typical for endings. Amila and I danced a traditional Dutch dance wearing wooden clogs that were made for us – we stood on the stage waiting to be hit with tomatoes. Later on, Peter and Peter walked on the stage dressed as ladies which is probably an event that would inspire people to join the project next year the most (if you were to miss all the other things I mentioned it wouldn't matter if you have seen the two of them).

Tears and hugs. Big, packed suitcases. Kids who are both sad and happy. The bus arrives and with it this journey comes to an end.

Belma Gutlic



Scholarship Holders of Srebrenica Visit Sarajevo

As a part of the regular volunteer meetings, the Hastor Foundation's secondary school and university level scholarship holders from Srebrenica visited Sarajevo. They visited Sarajevo's historical sites and cultural landmarks, as well as several cultural events which had an educational purpose. The first place they visited was the City Hall and two photographic exhibitions hosted inside of it.

The first exhibition titled "Na marginama" is dedicated to the experience of Roma people living in Bosnia and Herzegovina and numerous prejudices with which this minority group is faced daily, while the second exhibition "Sjena sjecanja", authored by the world renowned photojournalist Ron Haviv, features never before published photographs depicting tragedies of the most recent war in BiH.

"We used this opportunity to get more familiar with the rich historical, cultural and architectural legacy of Sarajevo. While walking the streets of Sarajevo, the stories of the House of Spite, Fountain Sebilj, the Yellow Fortress, the heart of the Old Town – Bascarsija and its merchants and shops all came to life. Some of us also enjoyed a breath-taking view

which encompasses all of Sarajevo by using the cable car to reach Trebevic mountain. It was a wonderful experience being able to share this time and place with these curious, merry, amiable, well-meaning people who are all unique in their own right. All things considered, visiting Sarajevo was a priceless experience because the values of togetherness and of forging unbreakable bonds between people were put in the foreground. It was also important because of everything that we will bring back with us to Srebrenica. What we have learned will always be somewhere in the back of our minds, just like the immense gratitude we feel towards people who understand and support us won't ever go away," say the scholarship holders from Srebrenica.



THE HASTOR FOUNDATION FAMILY RICHER FOR A NEW DOCTOR OF MEDICINE!

Last month, Armina Djugum, a student at the Medical Faculty and a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder of many years, officially earned the title of a doctor of medicine! On the 18th of July, in the great hall at the Department of Pharmacology, our Armina had a successful oral defense of her BA thesis titled "Razvoj srca i klinicki znacaj najcescih razvojnih anomalija" ("Heart Development and the Clinical Significance of the Most Common Types of Developmental Anomalies"). Besides the committee members, Armina's parents, relatives, colleagues, as well as representatives of the Hastor Foundation, attended this oral defense.

We are beyond proud of our Armina and wish her much success in her professional career, and since the Foundation knows her to be an exceptionally reliable scholarship holder, we have no doubts that she will be an excellent doctor!



TIPS AND TRICKS

MAKING A DECISION ABOUT YOUR FUTURE PROFESSION

Upon completing secondary education we have to make a decision about our future profession and the field of our interest, a decision which can be very stressful. For this reason, we dedicate this month's "Tips and Tricks" section to secondary school students who will soon find themselves at the crossroads at which the choice of a certain road drastically alters their future.

News website "Studentski.hr" offers excellent advice that can greatly aid the students in this process of choosing a future profession, and we bring you their article in its entirety.

In order to choose your future profession, you need to complete several important steps. For starters, it is important to have a clear picture about where your interests lie and also be well-informed. Although many different things influence our path in life, we can influence it to an extent since it is us who decide on certain things. Our career is something that concerns only us, not our parents, siblings, friends, neighbors... In order for you to pass these obstacles as painlessly as possible, we offer the following advice.



1. DEFINE PRECISELY WHAT IS IT YOU WANT

You are extremely fond of math and you are good with numbers and with kids, so you want to be a professor. Ask yourself how lasting that love is and try to imagine yourself some thirty years from now. It is important to know the difference between a passing fancy and a real passion for doing something. You also need to be completely honest with yourself about how good you really are in this field. (Will you ever be able to act as an authority for students and impart your immense knowledge to them?) Try imagining the future as you want it to be.

In case you are striving for a more luxurious lifestyle, a professor's salary won't be enough for your appetites. In your age, it is difficult to have a clear-cut vision of the future, but you should set your priorities straight and act in accordance with them. Question your core values and if, for example, you place justice above everything else never choose the career of a lawyer since you may find yourself in a position where you have to defend somebody who is not innocent of the crime they are charged with.

4. MAKE A DECISION

There are some additional steps you can make before reaching a final decision. Try to do some volunteer work at the place where you would like to work one day. That way you'll be able to see if that's what you had in mind and you'll grow bolder when it comes to making decisions. It's also possible that you'll chance upon a person who can act as your mentor. A mentor will show you the ropes and objectively assess whether you are suitable for a certain position. And once more, check whether this suits the lifestyle you have in mind – do that and you've taken an important step on your path.

Difficulties lie ahead, but you needn't be afraid. You can always change your decision and start over. Giving up on what you want to do isn't the point, the point is determining whether you really wish to do something or not.

(Studentski.hr)

2. STAY INFORMED

As the old saying goes, better to ask the way than go astray. Every piece of information can prove valuable. The more you know, the easier it is to reach a decision. When it comes to certain professions, education lasts for a long period of time. Effort and time you need to put in if you wish to be a surgeon, for example, is considerable, so it would be unwise to pursue this career if you are not genuinely interested in it or if it doesn't quite suit you. Long years of studying, finishing additional courses or furthering your knowledge in certain branches of medicine is also quite costly, so make sure that your parents' budget can cover it. Ask for firsthand information.

In other words, ask for advice those people who have some relation to the profession which interests you and whose information will thus be relevant in real life, not just theory.

3. MAKE A PLAN

Do not underestimate the importance of your career, but rather start acting quickly so that you can make use of your capacities and abilities to the fullest. Note the importance of flexibility. You wish to be a politologist, but out of a hundred graduates in the country, the market absorbs only about fifty of them. Think of another profession which will be fulfilling too, or prepare for a laborious job seeking in the years to come – only other option it to be really good at what you do and that will make a potential employer notice you. But if being a politologist isn't so important to you, it is better that you adapt or pursue a similar profession.

Both you and the society will profit from it. Be sure to set a goal for yourself, but don't forget that the situation today will probably be vastly different in a couple of years. Whatever you end up doing one day, you will have to sacrifice something. Take care that the chosen profession doesn't threaten what you hold closest to your heart. If you wish to start a family and you value togetherness, you should avoid professions which require a lot of travels. Seamen rarely spend holidays with their families or are present at birthdays or other memorable occasions such as their child taking its first steps. In the end, it is up to you to make calculations (even if you're bad at math). You'll inevitably reach some sort of conclusion.

I WOULD GO BACK NOW!

Ever since 2007, the Hastor Foundation and the Stichting Kinderhulp Bosnie (Netherlands Aid for Children of BH) have organized an annual three-week-long trip to the Netherlands for approximately 40 children. Belma Gutlic and Amila Mekic, hardworking scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, were given the opportunity to accompany 38 children from Sapna, Kalesija and Zivinice for the 2018 trip to the Netherlands. This year, on the 9th of June, at 11 o'clock, the bus left Kalesija with 38 pupils travelling to the Netherlands. Belma and Amila promised the parents to take good care of the children so that they remain safe and return joyful. Holding handbags with the most basic accessories in one hand, the children entered the bus and waved their parents goodbye.

Some children laughed, and some cried, as is common during partings. They had 21 unforgettable days and on the 1st of July they came back to Kalesija and into their parents' embrace, joyful and well, and with no incidents at all. The time spent on this trip went by fast, but not in vain. When the children were leaving, they carried small handbags, and when they returned, each child brought a large travel bag, and some of them even two, of gifts for themselves, their parents, brothers and sisters, given to them by their foster families from the Netherlands. The girls who accompanied the children were treated in much the same way.

When I offered Belma and Amila a lift to Sarajevo, they told me: "Teacher Ramo, we have so many things, and even half of those couldn't fit into your car." If we were to compare knowledge to things, the difference between the knowledge they brought back with them and the knowledge they had at the start would be much greater than the difference between the amount of things they brought back and the amount of things they had at the beginning. The children learned about some customs which are highly different from theirs. They defeated the fear from the unknown, realized they can be without their parents' protection and learned many things.

Once she hugged and kissed her mother and brother, Esma told me: "Teacher Ramo, I would go back to the Netherlands right now because I had a great time at Hellena's. I really missed my mother and brother, but I would go back right now and on this same bus. It was so wonderful."

As Hamed was putting the bags in the car, Safet was pulling his sleeve and then said to him: "Dad, dad, you should see how many cows Simon has. I asked him if we could come and help him, and he said something, but I didn't understand him. But he wrote it here in English

and teacher Belma translated it to me and it says: I will come to you on the 20th of September this year." I have not seen such a happy face of a child in a long time.

Esma and Safet were not the only ones who showed great joy and happiness, these emotions were noticeable on the faces of each and every child I saw during this short meeting following the arrival of children and them going home with their parents. That joy and those smiles really make me want to participate in the selection of the children that will go to the Netherlands next year as well. Belma and Amila were full of impressions, stories about their experiences with the children and the Dutch parents. They asked for the opportunity to tell the students at the monthly meeting about their stay in the Netherlands. Belma explained how they visited towns such as Amsterdam, Volendam, Niemegeen.

"The boat trip along the Amsterdam channels was especially beautiful to me, as well as visiting the museum where Amila and I looked at Van Gogh's works in awe."

Amila claims: "I learned English during these 20 days more than during an entire year at faculty. I would like to put special emphasis on the encounter with the people whose culture is very different from ours, and how welcoming they were to us whom they met for the first time." During the entire presentation, Belma and Amila tried to describe what they experienced in the best way possible, wanting to show how much knowledge they gained during their stay in the Netherlands, both as companions of the children and thanks to the time spent with the Dutch people they met there, and there were certainly many of them. They concluded by saying that they will go to the Netherlands again as soon as an opportunity for that arises.

Ramo Hastor



A CONSTANT MEMBER OF THE HASTOR FOUNDATION

On the 19th of July 2018, I decided to visit Serifa Pasic and Nerma Sisic, who scheduled a volunteering meeting with 5 secondary school pupils at the premises of the Faculty of Economics in Zenica, from 8am to 1pm. Once I was ready to go, my daughter-in-law Jasmina asked to come with me to see what is happening there. We arrived in front of the faculty building and I called Serifa who answered and said that they were on the second floor and then came downstairs quickly. She invited us into a classroom on the second floor. We entered a large classroom in which Nerma and the secondary school pupils were reading the book "Uci, pisi" ("Learn, write"). In addition to the open book, there was a laptop in front of them, set up so that they can watch the TV coverage of the Hastor Foundation's work, as well as the list of topics for the current meeting written on the blackboard:

- Do It Yourself – Newsletter
- Being a guest on a TV show
- The significance and power of education
- Who am I?
- "Uci, pisi" ("Learn, write"), Ramo Hastor
- Pedestrians in BH respect and follow traffic signs and rules

As I was talking with the students about their exams, and with the pupils about their plans for the future, professor Alem Merdic entered the classroom, carrying juices and cakes in his hands. He was noticeably surprised to see me, because he wasn't expecting me to be there.

He said: "I found out that the Hastor Foundation scholarship holders are volunteering here and that the mentors are my students, and since today is my birthday I wanted to share that joy with them."

I greeted him and wished him a happy birthday, giving him my book as a gift. We then sat down to talk a little bit about the Hastor Foundation. Jasmina and I as volunteers, Alem, formerly a scholarship holder and now a great friend, students Nerma and Serifa as mentors, and of course, the secondary school pupils: the whole structure of the Foundation.

Alem told me that he came intentionally, so that he can introduce to the pupils the possibility of enrolling at the faculty and explain the very process of choosing a faculty, but also to give advice to the students on how to be well prepared, both for their exams but also for the volunteering meetings, and he said: "I am no longer a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, but I will always be a constant member of this family."

Since the mentors had already completed part of the program for the day, we had more than enough time to talk about the ways and possibilities to improve the work of the Foundation. Serifa was happy to say that she had passed all her exams in the second year of studies, and we congratulated her for that. Nerma said that she has three more exams for the September term, and Alem and I asked her to make an effort to pass them, and to truly understand what she is to lose if she doesn't pass them. We explained to each pupil what would be the best for them to study and why. In such a cheerful atmosphere we barely even noticed the time passing. Professor Alem, the mentors and the pupils stayed there to complete what was left from the meeting's program, and Jasmina and I left for Vogosca.

Ramo Hastor



Based on his work, effort, and contribution to the work of the Hastor Foundation, this month's scholarship holder of the month is Zeljko Simeunic.



Zeljko Simeunic

Zeljko Simeunic was born on the 29th of July 1995 in Teslic and is 23 years old. He completed his secondary education in Teslic, his profession being a salesman. During his secondary education he was an excellent pupil and one of the candidates for the best pupil of that generation. Thanks to the influence of Aleksa Radisic, his History professor at the time, he completed the fourth year of secondary school as well and became a sales technician. "After finishing my secondary education, I enrolled into the Faculty of Political Science in Banja Luka, with the help and support from the Hastor Foundation as well as many other people. The Foundation, however, is significant for me when it comes to my growth and all the successes I've achieved so far and its members are a source of inspiration for me. This academic year I am completing my second year of studies at the Department of Social Work", says Zeljko. "The reason why I enrolled at this faculty is first and foremost the high poverty rate present in our country, meaning that many people need the help of other good people. I deemed that I should study this humane science, because as a social worker I could help people in overcoming their hardships in life," says Zeljko.

In his leisure time he volunteers for the Municipal organization for the blind and visually impaired persons in Teslic, whose member he has been since 2011. He helps the blind and visually impaired people to overcome their difficulties, because he himself has problems with his vision which cause him to have certain obstacles in his work, but he overcomes them successfully. He is the PR manager of the project "Imamo pravo na rad, sport i kulturu" ("We have the right to have work, sport, and culture") within the same organization, which is financed by the UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Zeljko's visual impairment did not prevent him in completing his faculty obligations on time and becoming a great student who passes all his exams during the first terms, and when it comes to the Foundation, he is a rather hardworking scholarship holder and volunteer and he constantly proves this by doing everything he's required to on time. What is definitely important to emphasize that he comes to every monthly meeting of the college student scholarship holders in Sarajevo, although he lives in Teslic.

He also likes bowling and he won a bronze medal in one bowling competition. He used to play basketball. He occasionally volunteers for the Teslic Municipality Dystrophy Association, and is a member of the Association for children with special needs "Dobro srce", also in Teslic. One of his hobbies is singing, for which he has had an interest and showed great talent ever since his childhood.

"My activities within the local community lie in helping others, if they need the help, and in volunteering for the Municipal organization for the blind and visually impaired persons in Teslic. I am also a member of the local committee in my local community of Cecava, where I try to help all those who are in need, cooperating with the municipal government", says Zeljko. His plans for the future consist of enrolling into the MA studies at the Faculty of political science in Banja Luka. His wish is to be a candidate for the position of a Member of the Parliamentary Assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or to be the mayor of the Teslic municipality. That way he wants to contribute to the development of both his local community and the entire country of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Last but not least, Zeljko wants to send a message to the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation: help those who need it, but also do your best and be persistent and successful in overcoming all the obstacles, because persistency, work, effort and commitment always pay off.

Razim Medic



Photos of the summer trip to the Netherlands

The database showed that the scholarship holders and volunteers of the Hastor Foundation reached the number of 14.670 volunteering hours during the previous month. As usual, most of these hours were spent on our scholarship holders' volunteer meetings – students, primary and secondary school pupils in 258 volunteer meetings in 57 municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our students who volunteer with the Administration team and Editorial Board of the Hastor Foundation contributed greatly to this number, as well as students who work on developing the Hastor Foundation app and are in charge of web page maintenance. The compulsory theme that our scholarship holders discussed during volunteer meetings during the previous month was “Self-confidence as the greatest weapon of a successful person”. Besides the compulsory theme, the scholarship holders discussed other interesting topics as well, and our students also spent some volunteering hours helping our younger scholarship holders in understanding the school material better.



Some of the most interesting themes:

- “ Child upbringing and creation of positive characteristics “
- Let's recycle together – turning trash into something useful “
- “ Natural treasures of BH “
- Physical activities and health
- My Bugojno has many stories to tell “
- The Internet and its significance in everyday life of a contemporary person
- “ Once you start changing yourself, you start changing the world as well “
- Literature hour “
- Learning basic traffic signs for protection and prevention “
- The significance of literature and art “
- The influence of parents on a child's development
- “ Seven Wonders of the World “
- The art of speech “

The municipalities in which the volunteering workshops were held during the previous month:



Nejla Dedic, Medresah „Osman ef. Redzovic“, Visoko

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