

NEWSLETTER

April 2017



ELEVEN YEARS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HASTOR FOUNDATION

NEWS

April is a particularly significant month for every member of our family. Today's date, 18th of April, marks exactly eleven years since the Foundation was established in 2006. With the first scholarship awarded as early as September, the Foundation boldly stepped on the winding road leading towards change and the creation of a better society.

Perhaps not even realizing how large it will become, in the last 11 years the Foundation slowly grew to be the largest in Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing scholarships to the greatest number of students of all generations and levels of education – from primary school to college level. Its unique mission made the Foundation recognizable across all of Bosnia and Herzegovina, because it provided the opportunity for the talented, gifted young people to educate themselves, develop their talents and reach their full potential. By cultivating the power of education, our motto “Education – the choice of winners” managed to bring together over 3000 young people. Starting with just 300 students, after 11 years we are proud to emphasize that right now, the number of scholarship holders of Hastor Foundation has reached 1714. This practice of expansion has been successfully followed for 11 years, and the fact that the ideals of Hastor Foundation continue to live on, is best confirmed by its scholarship holders whose accomplishments in various branches of human

sciences justify its reason for existing, day after day. In the midst of the growing trend of unemployment and the mass exodus of the youth to other, more developed countries, the program of the Hastor Foundation offers a perspective for the youth staying in our country. It also gives them an opportunity to participate in the process of developing local communities, thus simultaneously shaping them to become future leaders and strengthening Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A need for a change is evident in all aspects of our society, and the Hastor Foundation recognizes knowledge and education as values to be nurtured throughout our lives and as universal catalysts to bring about that change. Our mission wouldn't be as successful if not for the support of a great number of donors who have joined the Club of Friends of the Hastor Foundation.

We continue to follow our path steadily, and we believe that, with the support of all those who believe in our mission, our family will keep growing and help us realize many more successful projects with the goal of strengthening Bosnian and Herzegovinian society and creating a brighter future for its youth to live in.

Dzulisa Otuzbir



ECOLOGY: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

On Saturday, 22nd of April, the monthly meeting of college scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation was held. As is always the case, the scholarship holders had an opportunity to actively participate and discuss a range of interesting topics, as well as get to know each other. In addition to all the content which drew our scholarship holders' undivided attention, special emphasis was put on ecology.

This month's tripartite meeting of our Foundation commenced with a dynamic lecture of two our scholarship holders, Belmana Gerin and Amina Satara, who are students of The Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar, department of Ecology and Environmental Management in Agriculture. The two of them delivered a lecture on ecology, its importance in preserving the environment, as well as the dangers of disregarding its role and the necessity of the environmental protection in general. They wrapped up the first part of the meeting with a short workshop during which the scholarship holders were required to suggest their ideas and projects that would help combat the pollution in the cities of Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica. It should be noted that this was the Foundation's way of marking the Earth Day, which was, naturally, done with the friendly support of Lutrija BiH (State Lottery of Bosnia and Herzegovina). Nevertheless, this is by no means the end of the story about ecology, but only an overture to the more concrete actions of our scholarship holders who will join their forces in May and help clean their environment. In addition to the aforementioned actions, two more are announced, namely the cleaning of the riverbeds of Miljacka and Drina. This large project of the Hastor Foundation will also be supported by the Lutrija BiH.

FROM COMMUNICATION TO DIGITALIZATION

The second hour of the April meeting was marked by the speech given by the former scholarship holder Alije Cakic, a third year student of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department of Microbiology. In her speech, she primarily wanted to emphasize how much the support of the Hastor Foundation meant and still means to her and to send out a message to all the current scholarship holders of the Foundation that they should not take for granted the opportunity that they have been given and to use it in the best possible way. Alija stressed the importance of knowing other scholarship holders, as well as making new acquaintances in the Foundation. As an introduction to Alija's speech, the CEO of the Foundation, Seid Fijuljanin, emphasized the significance of communication among the scholarship holders, and particularly among college students whose numbers increase every year. Knowing the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation means having friends in numerous cities and different places, but also means knowing ambitious, intelligent and good young people. Motivation behind Alija's speech was to encourage the students to spend time together and communicate among themselves.

Sanel Delic, a former scholarship holder, wrapped up the meeting by presenting to our scholarship holders an application he and his team created for the Foundation. This application should enable the scholarship holders and the administration to work with greater ease and even greater efficiency, as well as enable the monitoring of volunteering hours that the college students spend with primary school and secondary school students. An application such as this one is a step towards digitalization of the work process and an indicator that technology can be truly useful if used in the right way. A team of scholarship holders was also chosen to test this application in the subsequent period. The director Seid Fijuljanin stressed that the application was created in a very short amount of time which deserves great praise. Such contribution to the Foundation by its current and former members goes to show that all young people who become members of the Hastor Foundation family stay its members forever.

Mirza Okic

TAKT Academy program – a unique project, organized for the second year in a row by the Hastor Foundation in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Embassy of Switzerland in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The program was brought to a close on 13th of April 2017 with certificates being awarded to the most successful participants.



In 2015, due to the absence of adequate resources on the job market, the ASA Prevent Group started an internal training for young graduates and undergraduates. At that time, this was a giant leap for one company. In time, that project gathered other partners as well, and today it has evolved into TAKT Academy, a clearly recognizable program that ensures that the young people are given an opportunity for their first employment.

After the selection process which was headed by the expert committee, 65 participants were chosen from more than 300 potential participants that have applied and the theoretical training could commence, followed by the practical training as well. Young graduates and undergraduates had an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge they acquired through their studies in the practical training that took place on several locations of companies that are a part of the ASA Prevent Group. In addition, the participants could become better acquainted with the production processes of some of the leading Bosnian and Herzegovinian companies. The practical training which lasted for 4 or 5 weeks, depending on the vocation, was held in Visoko, Zenica, Ilijac and Sarajevo, in the companies Prevent Leather, Prevent Interior

and Prevent Fabrics, Ironworks, as well as other companies under the umbrella of the ASA Prevent Group. Each group of participants was assigned a mentor from the company where the practical training was organized and with whom they closely cooperated and also had an opportunity to learn much from.

A majority of the participants pointed out that this was their best experience yet, considering that previously they have not been given an opportunity to experience first-hand the production processes and could not attempt to try and tackle the problems that are encountered in the operations processes of production companies.

Ajna Omerovic, a participant of the second generation of TAKT Academy program says: "TAKT Academy enabled us, the young graduates and undergraduates, to practically apply our acquired theoretical knowledge. For me, a young engineer, it was truly fascinating to see the new technology in action in some of the most dynamic branches of industry." She added that this is a unique example of how to keep the young workforce in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The second cycle of the TAKT Academy program was brought to a close with the award ceremony during which 51 participants who have successfully completed the training and the final examinations were given certificates. It is important to note that more than 20 of them found employment in certain members of the ASA Prevent Group.

Among the people attending the award ceremony was also the vice-president of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Milan Dunovic, who used this opportunity to emphasize the importance of tailoring the educational system in accordance with the needs of the job market.

“A lot of recent discussions revolved around the negative influences of attempting to adjust the educational policies with the needs of the economy, in a way that this adjustment would create better opportunities for the new job

openings. Even though this is the ultimate goal, in the future time, I maintain that we are currently in the situation where the needs of the economy must be regarded as more important, so that in the future the educational system truly increases the chances of finding employment and creating new job openings in various branches of the economy. TAKT Academy shows that the NGO sector is also capable of keeping us one step ahead in order to shape the workforce that has not yet acquired technical expertise in a way which suits our needs. The number of employed in Bosnia and Herzegovina has thus increased, and I think that this is a truly pro-active approach to employment policies. I have recognized the efforts of Hastor Foundation and gave a financial stimulant in order to show that the cooperation between the government and NGO sectors must result in new job openings.”

Amra Imamovic



ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

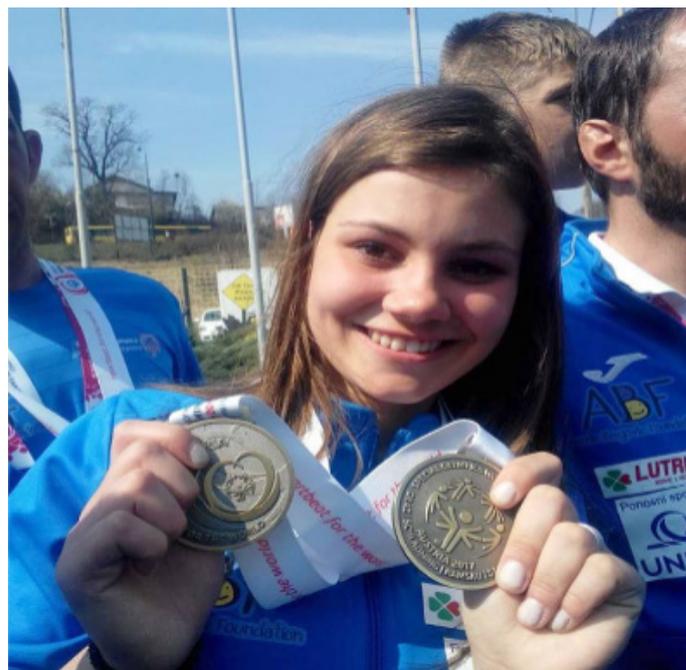
Merima Osmanovic, a student of second grade of Secondary School of Mechanical Engineering in Kalesija, represented Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Special Olympic World Winter Games in Austria where she won two bronze medals in slalom and giant slalom disciplines. The Winter Games began on the 14th of March, 2017 and ended on the 25th.

She points out that for her this competition was a truly lovely experience that enabled her to meet plenty of new friends and coaches from all over the world and experience the richness of different cultures and languages.

She ascribes her success to her coach, parents, friends, professors, the Hastor Foundation and all the others who have given her their support and thus enabled her to reach the podium and succeed in such a way as she did.

Merima's success and the success of her team were particularly recognized upon her return to Bosnia and Herzegovina where numerous special receptions were held in their honor.

“It was a great honor for me that, upon returning from Austria, my friends and I were guests of honor at the game of our national team of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



During our honorary run we've also received a great applause from the audience. It was a lovely and a delightful experience, I have seen so much and met new friends, learned so much too and it is something you remember your whole life. “

We wish our Merima lots of luck and we hope that her string of greatest possible successes will continue in the future.

Hanka Mujkic



A SILVER MEDAL FOR ADISA BOLIC



Our scholarship holder Adisa Bolic who is already well-known for her extraordinary accomplishments in the field of mathematics, represented Bosnia and Herzegovina at the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad held at Zürich.

Each participating country sends its best team which is comprised of four secondary school students, and our Adisa, as well as three other girls, qualified after the competition which was recently held at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Afterwards, all four of them headed for Zürich and the competition as the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Olympiad was held on the 7th of April and among 168 mathletes from 44 different countries Adisa won with a silver medal.

Our sincerest congratulations go to Adisa!

Dzulisa Otuzbir

“The last competition I participated in was the European Girls’ Mathematical Olympiad. This year it was held in Switzerland, or at Zürich to be more precise. Besides the European countries, many guest countries outside of Europe take part in this competition as well. The competition lasts for two days, and each day 3 problems, ordered in the level of difficulty need to be solved before the 4.5 hour limit expires. Last year, when Bosnia and Herzegovina competed here for the first time, we had remarkable success with one gold, one silver and two bronze medals, as well as the 4th place in the category of teams. This year we weren’t really able to repeat the last year’s success, but it is still a very good result. Tijana Babic won a gold medal, Elma Nuhanovic and Lejla Skelic won honorable mentions and I won a silver medal. That was a little disappointment for me, because I won a gold medal last year, but I am still satisfied nevertheless,” said Adisa Bolic.

After the Call for the Scholarship Applications for college students, the Hastor Foundation is richer for twenty one new scholarship holders.

We are honored to be introducing our new college student scholarship holders in this issue of our newsletter, as well as in the following one.



ADI BEBANIC
Faculty of Humanities in Mostar, Third Year

“The Hastor Foundation is a “place” I wanted to become a part of for years. Even as a secondary school student, and later a college student, I strove to reach the Foundation. Once I finally accomplished my dream or goal, I saw that it was a place where ordinary people come to listen to and learn from extraordinary people, so that they would one day become exactly like that, extraordinary. Today the scholarship from the Foundation means very much to me, because it is my financing source and safe funds for me to rely on. But truly, without any pretense, financial support is only a part of what I have gotten by joining the Foundation. I am new to all of this, but in a space of just a few months I met new people from my city and people from other cities and towns in my country. I encountered different cultures and enjoyed our time together. I look forward to the future and I always emphasize unpredictability as a virtue, because we students never know what to expect tomorrow, whose life story, whose path to success or a new activity that comes up will shine the brightest.

“Being a part of the Hastor Foundation is a privilege for all of us, in part because the scholarship plays a significant part in our education, but even more so due to the benefits of having opportunities that we can make true. Volunteering means much to me as well, because we can see our worth when we are helping others and realize that the material things in life can never compare to a child breaking out in a smile because of us. Even though I have not been a member of this not-so-small community for a long time, I have made new and unique friendships during our monthly meetings. These friendships are more peculiar and significant because you are always ready to help your colleagues from various parts of our country and you never doubt that they are equally prepared to stand by your side whenever it is needed.



DELILA VEISPAHIC
International University of Sarajevo, Second Year



LARISA HORIC
Sarajevo Music Academy, Second Year

“The Foundation recognizes ones work and effort and truly rewards it. By volunteering I am acquiring valuable work experience without being afraid of making mistakes, and thus I can adequately prepare for future occupations which I consider to be an additional reward from the Foundation that already provides financial support for its scholarship holders. I will do my best to show through my results that the trust placed in me was not undeserved and I hope to see an even greater number of successful scholarship holders and similar programs in the near future.”

“I learned about the Hastor Foundation via social networks and decided to apply to the call for scholarships. Even though I am not a scholarship holder of this foundation for a long time, I already perceive it not only as being supportive financially, but that it also provides a certain moral support. In addition, through volunteer activities we are developing and improving in every imaginable way. Besides the personal improvement, the Hastor Foundation offers me a chance to meet new people and make new friends through both volunteering and monthly meetings. I hope that I will remain a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation until the end of the studies, because it already serves as a wind pushing my sails and I am certain that it will continue to be.”



MAIDA HUSNIC
Faculty of Humanities in Mostar, Second Year



MIA BABIC
Faculty of Philosophy, Third Year

“I have become a part of the Hastor Foundation only recently, and thus I believe that it would be insincere of me to say anything more than that I perceive the Foundation as something overwhelmingly positive and that for me it simply represents support and opportunities. Regardless, I can say with certainty that this positive feeling will only grow more pronounced and complex, and that, in the future, the Hastor Foundation will represent unconditional support, but also an opportunity to learn more about myself, meet wonderful people and become a better person who helps others.”

**JOSIP REZIC**

Faculty of Information Technology, Second Year

“The Hastor Foundation is the wind in my sails, my launching pad. It provides me with enormous support in every conceivable way. It encourages me to work continuously, to study, to volunteer and improve and motivates me enormously which is a key to success. In addition, volunteering with the students and the monthly meeting are for me, in a way, a school of life. The topics we deal with and the lectures we attend are never without a message, they are interesting and motivating. We make new friendships and we gain experience. No school can offer us such experience like the one offered by our Hastor Foundation, and that is why I am enormously proud to be its member.”

“It is a pleasure to be a part of the great Hastor Foundation community which provides us with an enormous financial support. In a relatively short amount of time I met a lot of people who are also scholarship holders, and who aim to be and stay one large family. Considering this, it makes me happy to be surrounded by those people, people who are there for each other and prepared to offer help whenever it is needed.”

**BESIDA HODŽIĆ**

Faculty of Forestry, Third Year

“For a person such as I am who is versatile and actively engaged in all the fields of knowledge, education and volunteering, the Hastor Foundation became another chance and opportunity for my new successes and plans in life. It motivated me to continue fighting for my place under the sun and never give up. As a person who has a hearing impairment, I am given an opportunity to show the society that my impairment need not be weakness and an obstacle to achieving my goals in life, but rather my source of strength. Similarly, this network of contacts gives me an opportunity to use all the knowledge I gained to teach young people all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is an understatement to say that I am ecstatic to be a part of such a large family that is helping me to become a member of the society without prejudices.”

**ALMA MUŠANOVIĆ**

Faculty of Health Sciences, Third Year

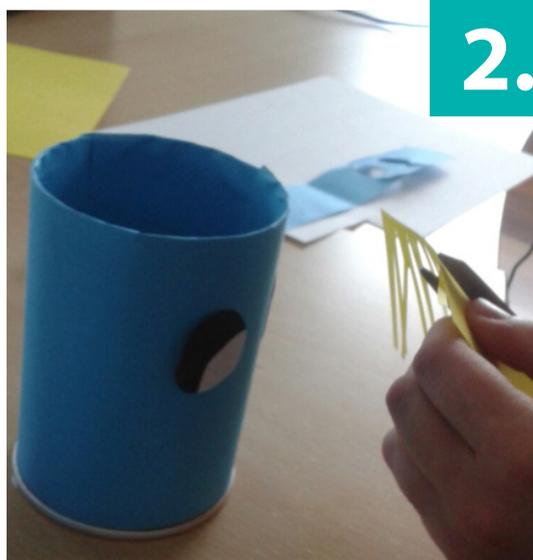
The suggestion for the section “Do it Yourself” was sent by the scholarship holder Dina Osmanovic who used her volunteering hours to show the students how to create something useful out of garbage and other used items. Dina showed her students how to make a unique pencil holder out of the tin cans of Pringles chips, and what is needed for this creative process is plenty of imagination and willingness to have a good time.

Needed materials: cans of Pringles or other chips, scissors, highlighter and color pens, glue, sellotape.



1.

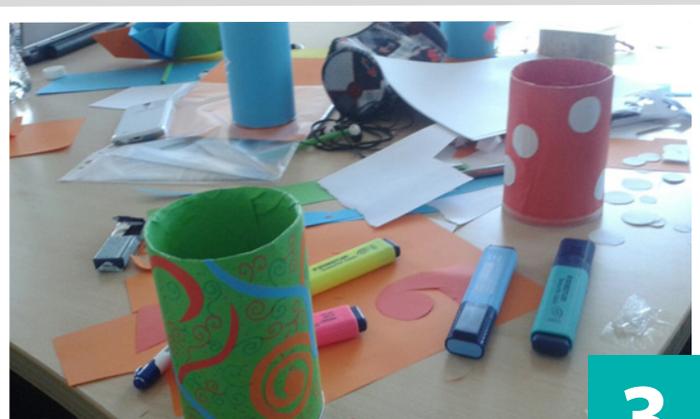
The making process:



2.

Cut the can of chips in half using the scissors. You may cover the jagged edges with tape so that you do not get hurt.

Using the liquid glue or some other type of glue cover the inner and outer surface of the can with colored paper or paper with decorative patterns.



3.

The holders are ready for use. This is the picture of the end products. Two of the holders were given to the administration of the Hastor Foundation as a gift.

Dzulisa Otuzbir



4.

For the dates of 25th and 26th of March, 2017, 195 students scheduled their volunteering hours that would take place at 71 different locations in 40 different municipalities. I decided to visit 5 college students, 20 secondary school students and 8 primary school students in Tuzla and 2 college students and 15 secondary school students in Kalesija; altogether 50 scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation. At 10 o'clock in the classroom of the Faculty of Philosophy, Razim Medicin is talking with primary school students about the Hastor Foundation. He prepared a video projector as well and so he showcases the work of the administration of Hastor Foundation.



Razim told me: "By using the equipment it is much easier for me to explain to the primary school students the primary aims and goals of the Hastor Foundation, as well as how to reach and accomplish them."

I see that he is well-prepared so I leave him to enjoy his time with these primary school students and I head for the cafe "White" to visit others. There I saw Zerina Mujacic, Tijana Popovic, Murisa Ibric and Armin Kovacic who were working hard in a diligent atmosphere. Armin was so absorbed in his explanations regarding certain math problems that he didn't notice that I came in, took a couple of photographs and joined this math class. Zerina proudly said that she too is ready to explain everything from her field and that she does it often. Satisfied with the work of this group of college students and their secondary school students, I headed for Kalesija. At the City Library in Kalesija, Ramić Nermina, Sljivak Emina and Imamovic Nermina, who graduated three years ago, yet still volunteers with 15 students (they are debating), are talking about actions to be taken in particular situations. This was very interesting to me so I joined the discussion too. Once this debated ended, Nermina Imamovic suggested that I talk to the director of the library and I eagerly accepted. I used this meeting with the library director to thank him in mine and the Foundation's name for having recognized the value of this gathering and allowed our scholarship holders to use the library's premises.



The director also praised our scholarship holders: "They enter quietly, spend five hours in the library without screaming or shouting and then leave. You can't even notice that they were here, they leave everything so clean and tidy!" I had to express my thanks, because such praise is rarely heard. We bid our goodbyes and Fadila and I headed for Vogosca.

Ramo Hastor



Belmana's effort and hard work, as well as her commitment to the Foundation over the years are crowned with the title of the scholarship holder of the month of April. She had the honor of delivering a lecture during this month's meeting held at the premises of our Foundation, and our college student scholarship holders had an even greater honor of hearing her speak.



Belmana Gerin lives in Stolac and studies at the Agromediterranean Faculty in Mostar. She is currently in her third year of undergraduate studies at the department of Ecology and Environmental Management in Agriculture. She is among the 10 best students of the Faculty, and, with her GPA of 9.85 she shares the top position in her department.

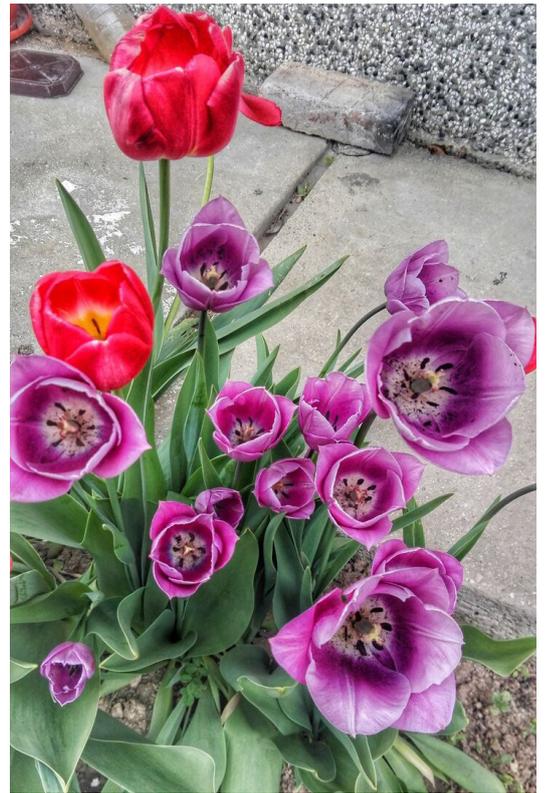
As a secondary school student, she was an active member of the Association of Secondary School Students in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ASuBIH), more precisely their office in Stolac, and thus had an opportunity to participate in various actions and initiatives, including humanitarian ones. She has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for 11 years. She always put in maximum possible effort when it came to fulfilling her duties towards the Foundation, as well as showing that the Foundation's trust is well-deserved. As a student she fulfilled her obligations diligently, and for the last three years as

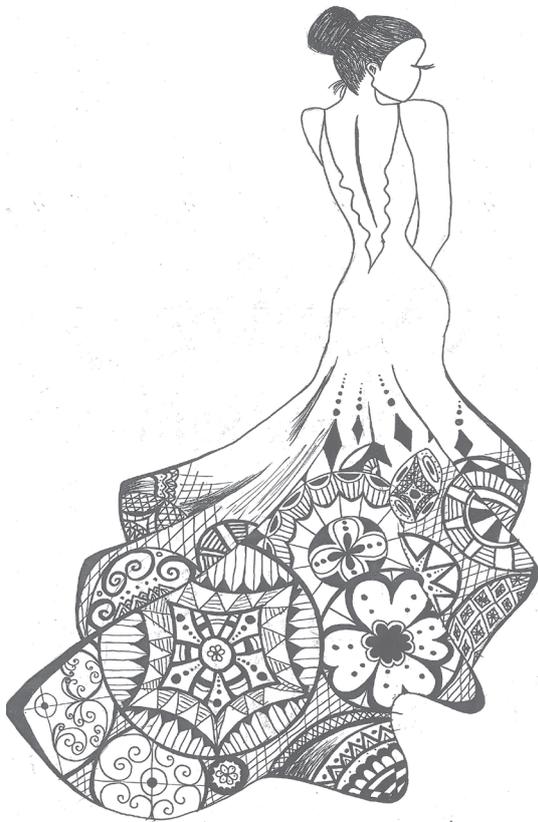
a proud mentor of her "straight-A students" too. She says that she is happy to have been given this opportunity to gain volunteering experience which will be helpful to her in the future.

She also adds that, for her, the Hastor Foundation is one large family that has offered her so much already, but above else taught her how to be responsible towards herself and towards the students she volunteers with. It enabled her to teach the students the way in which they too can become good mentors one day. Being a part of the Foundation, which gives her every support imaginable, is an honor and a pleasure for her. She has a particular wish to continue being a part of the Foundation even after she is no longer a scholarship holder and continue contributing to its work as much as she can and in every possible way.

Sadzida Kosovac

Dzulisa Otuzbir
Hanka Mujkic





Lejla Eminovic,
Stolac High School



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