

June 2017

NEWS

MAJA MEHMEDOVIC'S **Recipe for Success**

What is necessary in order to accomplish our goals and be successful? Some would say talent, some tenacity, while others would say love. For Maja Mehmedovic, hard work takes the number one spot, and it is closely followed by support. In addition to these two, to the mix is also added perseverance, self-discipline, as well as other ingredients which possibly include chance.

On Saturday, 10th of June, the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation who were present at the monthly meeting had an opportunity to listen to the life story of Maja Mehmedovic, the CEO and the board member of ProCredit Bank. What was particularly interesting to the college student scholarship holders was the fact that Mrs. Mehmedovic is one of "Foundation's children".

Maja's life journey began in Sarajevo. Her childhood innocence ended with the outbreak of war in our region, and because of it she left Sarajevo with her parents and sought refuge in Split, and later in Germany where she finished her secondary school and university level education. Adjusting to the new surroundings and overcoming the language barrier

posed a highly challenging obstacle which Maja, nevertheless, managed to overcome with considerable effort she put in every day and for hours on end. She also points out that, while on this path, she received the support of not only her parents, but also of the school principal, the professors, and a certain German foundation later on. Hard work and support are two significant aspects that had ensured that Maja finished the secondary school in Germany as the third best student in the whole school, that she finished two different colleges and that she found a job. Through all of this, she as an individual grew and reached self-actualization. She also emphasizes that besides hard work and support, criticism is also important for one's development, but only if it is well-meaning.



Every successful person has their own recipe for success. At the monthly meetings, the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation are not infrequently given an opportunity to listen to the inspirational life stories of successful people and after hearing each of them we can note that all of these recipes for success do have something in common. At our June meeting we learned that success can never simply fall in one's lap. The prerequisite of success is plenty of hard work, effort and perseverance, and an additional gust of wind in one's sails comes from love, support, as well as chance. Our guest reminded us of

the great importance of our Foundation, and we can particularly point out the enormous value of personal connections we make. Each month our scholarship holders have an opportunity to meet somebody who is more than 50 or 100 kilometers away from them, or at an even greater distance. This is a place where you make friends for life, friends who are, despite the little differences that make us unique, brought together by the Hastor Foundation – a thread which connects all of our hearts.

Sadzida Kosovac



A HUMANITARIAN IDYLL ON THE BOARDS IN TEŠANJ

Last month, third-graders of the Medical school in Tešanj organized a humanitarian evening, during which the play „Family Idyll“, written and directed by our scholarship holder Adis Merdic, was performed. This humanitarian event was organized to raise funds for some Adis' classmates who cannot afford to go to the excursion to Spain in the following school year. During this event 1700 BAM was raised, 500 BAM on the day Adis' play was performed. His classmates helped him in organizing this event.

Adis told us of the success and the attendance of the event: “The play was truly well-received and everyone praised the scenario and our performance. This was an opportunity for me to show my second love, love for the drama, on the boards in Tešanj in front of a large audience. I cannot express my happiness.”

With actions like this one, our scholarship holders show what kind of human beings they truly are, and Adis' act only shows that our scholarships go into the right hands and also that our scholarship holders are not only great students, but also socially responsible and active individuals.

We wish Adis best of luck in his future education and on the boards that mean the world, and we hope to witness more actions like this one organized by our present and future scholarship holders as well.

Mirza Okic



FORMER SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS – THE HASTOR FOUNDATION'S CONTINUED SUPPORT

“Respect for and connection with the Hastor Foundation does not end with the last monthly scholarship being withdrawn from the bank account. It is something that remains within us and accompanies us our whole life.”

Samira Becic and Nermina Imamovic are former scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation. They were born and are currently living in Kalesija. The fact that almost three years ago they stopped being scholarship holders after completing their education did not prevent them from remaining important members of the Foundation. Being grateful to the Hastor Foundation, Samra and Nermina have decided to stay in the Foundation as volunteers and in that way contribute to the Foundation. They have continued to work as mentors to younger scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation in Kalesija.

“I continued to be a volunteer primarily because of the Foundation, because each scholarship holder knows they have a support for life. It is the least I can do to express my gratitude for the Foundation's continued support and to be an example for the new generations”, says Samra.

They are currently preoccupied with the student internship and are preparing for future life paths.

Nermina graduated from the Faculty of Technology and Samra graduated from the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation. They say that the volunteering with scholarship holders helps them find themselves again and gives them strength to move forward. They adjust the meetings to the pupils as much as they can. All of them work together when discussing different topics, both obligatory and free ones, they write down their own opinions and the emphasis is also put on better grades so they learn and practice together.

“The team we had with them was ideal. They were always nice and there for us whenever we needed help. They prepared my colleagues and me for future, independent work, from writing the reports to holding these meetings”, say the pupils whose mentors were Nermina and Samra.

Volunteering is something you learn in through life, but what remains after it is what we chose to take. Indeed, the Hastor Foundation has a special connection with all its scholarship holders, and this is what makes it unique. Nermina and Samra are just another proof that education is the choice of the winners, more precisely grateful scholarship holders who remained the Hastor Foundation's continued support, despite achieving victories in life.

Hanka Mujkic



A MUSIC STORY FROM SPAIN

Ammar Biser, student at the Sarajevo Music Academy and a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation had an opportunity to spend the summer semester in Spain and there learn from the best, thanks to the Erasmus Programme.



We contacted him to find out more about it for this month's newsletter.

Ammar is a third-year student at the Sarajevo Music Academy, Department of string instruments and guitar, and he has been the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder for nine years. Wanting to try and learn something new, he applied for the Erasmus Programme by sending a video of one of his guitar performances and soon received a positive answer.

Thanks to the Erasmus Programme, this year he had an opportunity to visit Spain, particularly Vigo, a city near the border with Portugal, and attend classes at the University of Vigo. During his stay in this Spanish city, he had one solo concert and four performances and still managed to pass all the exams.

He did not hide how impressed he was by the professors and says that it was a great honor to learn from Margarita Escarpa, the winner of the prestige guitar competition The Guitar Foundation of America, and to meet piano professor Arabel Maragues from Cuba.

Besides the professors he met, he had an opportunity to hang out with students-musicians from all continents which is another great experience for him to bring back with him to his country, happy and content.

During all these years, he stood out with his guitar performances regardless of the occasion. We will mention his performance during our scholarship holders' art exhibition, the Sarajevo Film Festival, the Vijecnica opening, the celebration of the Hastor Foundation's ten years of existence and many others. Whether in faculty events or these for the Foundation, he is always ready to participate and please the audience with his performance.

Sadzida Kosovac

For this month's Do It Yourself section, our scholarship holder **Berina Brakovic** sent us a suggestion for decorating objects with pasta luce and acrylic paints.

Needed materials and supplies:

acrylic paint, pasta luce, varnish, stencil, paintbrush, tool for applying pasta luce, the object we are working on



MAKING PROCESS:

Paint the wooden object with acrylic paint and let it dry.



1.



2.



3.

Let the pasta luce dry. (color it if you wish, on the saucer shown in the photo some parts are colored with golden contour paint)

Fix irregularities if there are any and let it dry properly.

Put the stencil on the part of the object you have chosen for decoration. Apply the pasta luce, not too much but just enough to see a bulge. Lightly remove the stencil and clean it immediately. (it can be used multiple times if maintained properly)



Varnish the object (you can do it several times, for example I always make three layers for better protection of the object, because besides giving a shiny coating to the object, the varnish also protects it)

Let it dry. (approximately 24 hours is needed for the varnish to dry completely)



4.

You can use hairdryer if you want. If the acrylic paints are too thick it would be great to thin them with water.

Time needed: approximately 2 hours.

TEACHER'S SECTION

Few days ago Seid told me that at the end of May and the beginning of June he visited 109 families from 27 municipalities and did 5,900 kilometers to check the validity of the paperwork sent for the Hastor Foundation's scholarships. I acknowledged his effort and told him that at the same time and for the same purpose I visited 181 families from 36 municipalities and did 5,200 kilometers. I also told him that Amela and Faruk did their part as well: they visited applicants from Ilidža, Hadžići and Sarajevo, 43 families precisely, and did several hundred kilometers. We concluded that the Hastor Foundation is ready to admit another 333 primary and high school pupils this year. Along with the growing number of the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders, the number of students who are delivering great results at their faculties is growing as well. We have many students like Željko Simeunić from Čečava who wrote: "I've passed three exams till yesterday and one today which means I've completed this year!" Amin Sejfić from Čapljina says: "I've passed six exams, and I've got all As!"



This shows that they have accepted the Foundation's practice not to speak of what will be done but of what has been done.

Ramo Hastor

Due to his selfless work, commitment and willingness to always be available for the Foundation, in this month's newsletter we will single out the name Vedad Huseinbasic-the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder from his seventh grade and the scholarship holder of the month in June.

Vedad was born in the small, but beautiful city of Fojnica, where he graduated from elementary school with excellent grades. He learned a lot from his mentors at the monthly volunteering meetings of the Foundation, from being a friend and a teacher at the same time to organizing his obligations and time adequately. After finishing elementary school he moved to Bihać with his parents and there graduated from the Turkish-Bosnian Una Sana College, also with excellent grades. He is currently living in Sarajevo and finishing his first year on the Medical Faculty. He spends his leisure time reading or hanging out with his friends, the number of whom grows with each

monthly meeting of the college student scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation. Vedad likes all types of sport, mostly team sports, which is why every summer he goes hiking throughout Bosnia. After finishing faculty, he plans to stay in our country and contribute to its growth, something he considers to be the first civil duty. His family and the Hastor Foundation are his greatest support.

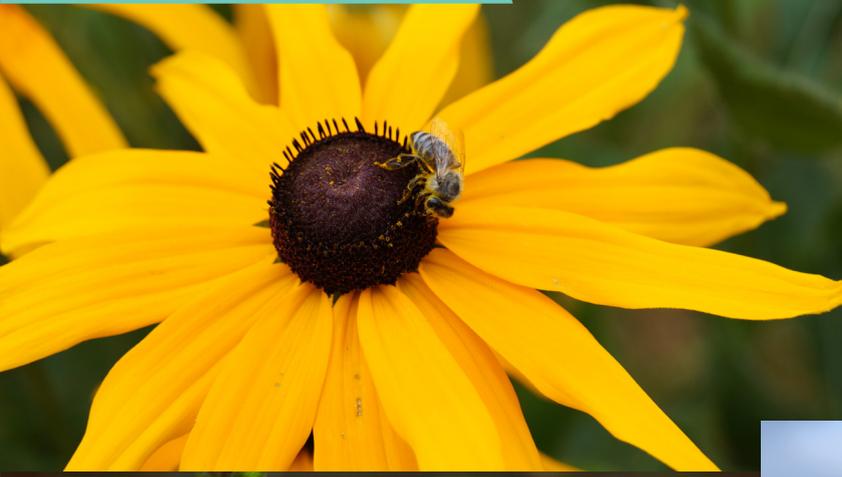
“When it comes to the Hastor Foundation, it is enough for me to see the successes of young scholarship holders to know that this is the path for a better tomorrow. Indeed, this is a true example that a country can be built with knowledge and effort.” A motto he follows in life and difficult situations is: “Never underestimate the power of a nice word.”

We hope that Vedad will continue with his excellent results and that his plans will succeed in the best way possible, so he could become a true man and later a citizen who uses knowledge to conquer the world.

Hanka Mujkic

HUSEINBASIC VEDAD





VEDAD HUSEINBASIC



Good day,

I am writing this letter as a thank-you note to the Hastor Foundation, this being my first year as a member of this collective. I felt the need to write this letter because the Foundation was there for me during this school year. I tried my best to live up to your expectations which can be seen in the grades list I sent you. The scholarship helped me with it of course.

Also, volunteering with mentors and other scholarship holders made a strong impression on me because such form of volunteering improves our socialization. Regarding my leisure activities, I like to read, play basketball and table tennis, and I also play volleyball.

When it comes to my school activities, I tried to do my best in school competitions. During those held in March, I won the first place in Physics and Math, the second place in the Spelling Bee English competition and the third place in Chemistry.

Regarding cantonal competitions, I participated in the semifinal of the Spelling Bee competition. I tried to be active when it came to sports as well, so this year I played for the "OK Ilijaš" junior volleyball team and we managed to win the third place in the Federal Championship. I'm using this opportunity to send you photos of my school degrees and medals from the Federal Championship in volleyball.

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