

NEWSLETTER

October &
November

2017



FONDACIJA
HASTOR



283 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR

The scholarship contracts of the Hastor Foundation's college scholarship holders were signed on November 11, 2017, at the ASA Prevent Group headquarters. This year, the scholarship contracts were signed by 283 students from different universities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The students were first greeted by teacher Ramo and the Foundation's director, who congratulated those who were present and wished them success in the new academic year, whereas the members of the administration team explained the basic terms of the contract, the Foundation's rules and principles of its work.

The scholarship contract signing for this school/academic year is completed with the signing of student scholarship contracts, taking into

consideration the fact that the Call for the Scholarship Applications for a smaller number of students will be issued near the end of the year.

This year, the scholarship contracts were signed by 704 primary school pupils, 873 secondary school pupils, and 283 students, and the total number of the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders is 1,860. For the first time this year, 328 primary and secondary school pupils signed their scholarship contracts.

We wish our primary and secondary school pupils and our students good luck, success and excellent grades in this school and academic year!

Dzulisa Otuzbir

MINI SCHOOL OF KARATE AT THE HASTOR FOUNDATION

On Saturday, 14th of October 2017, a rather intriguing meeting of the college-student scholarship holders, a meeting quite different from the previous ones, was held at the premises of the ASA Prevent Group. Amila Mekic, our scholarship holder, expressed her wish to deliver a lecture on what has been her calling for more than twelve years and has earned her great recognition; karate. Amila became fond of this ancient martial art when she was a child and it earned her numerous accomplishments, medals and wonderful experiences.

Amila is a second year student at Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science, Department of Zootechnics, and has been the Hastor Foundation scholarship holder for seven years. The Administrative team of the Foundation together with Sakib Bitic and Inela Kavaz, scholarship holders who also practice karate, enthusiastically assisted her in preparing the presentation and delivering the lecture.

Amila put a particular emphasis on the fact that karate influences one's spirit and mindset, not just the body, and in addition to presenting historical overview and basic terminology, she had also given a demonstration of this fighting style's techniques. Sakib Bitic, a black

belt holder, assisted Amila in these demonstrations during which the scholarship holders were given an opportunity to learn various stances, arm and leg techniques, as well as blocking techniques.

It was a particular honor to witness a kata demonstration by Inela Kavaz, a 6th grade elementary school student and the national champion in karate. Inela had recently returned from the Balkan Karate Championship hosted at Istanbul where she won a bronze medal.

Under the guidance of Amila and Sakib, all the scholarship holders had an opportunity to try out some of the moves and techniques they witnessed. The meeting and the lecturers did much to interest the scholarship holder and also encourage them to try their hand at karate, a martial art or perhaps sport in general. We thank our scholarship holders for holding this mini school of karate, and invite all others to share their knowledge, skills and experience at monthly meetings to come.

Sadzida Kosovac





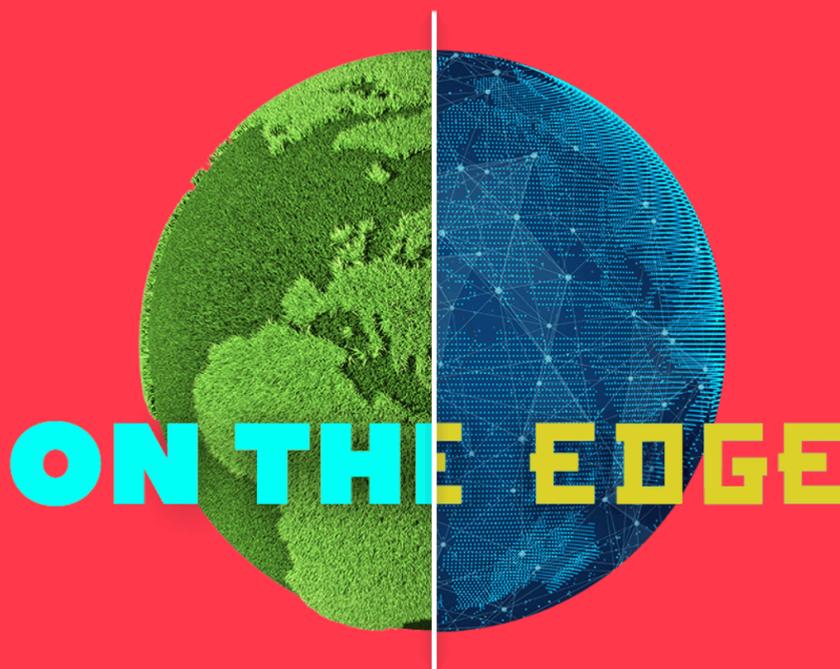
HASTOR FOUNDATION PARTNER OF **TEDx VIENNA** CONFERENCE STREAMING

Together with Academy 387 Sarajevo, the Hastor Foundation organized a live stream of this year's TEDx Vienna conference: On the Edge. The conference was held on Saturday, 21st of October and the Foundation's scholarship holders, together with the rest of interested viewership, had an opportunity to watch the live stream from Vienna National Theatre. The live stream was organized at the premises of

Academy 387, and this year's TEDx Vienna gathered 20 speakers and lecturers from all around the world who have explored a whole spectrum of themes, from latest technological and scientific developments to the profound insights about psychology, creativity and knowledge.

Dzulisa Otuzbir

TEDxVienna
x = independently organized TED event



ADELISA BEGIC PUBLISHES HER FIRST BOOK

Our scholarship holder Adelisa Begic from Jajce, who is almost 16 years old, has published her first book!

The novel with the title “Tvoja ljepota mijenja svijet” was written when Adelisa was only 14 years old, and as she reveals to us, her second book is being prepared as well.

Adelisa has been the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder for two years. She lives in Jajce, where she is a pupil at the Secondary medical school „Nikola Sop“. She says that she really loves to read. At the beginning she read Nura Bazdulj-Hubijar, and now she often reads Nora Roberts and other American bestsellers. Writing is for her a way to escape the reality and visit a more beautiful world which she gladly puts on paper, and since those papers have begun to multiply, she decided to collect them all in a novel.

“As most of my peers decide to do sports or spend their leisure time in cafes, writing is what fulfills me and through it I wander into some different world, somewhere where things are as I want them to be. I find inspiration in everything. The books I write have no connection to my life. I write the book, not the other way around“, says Adelisa.

The story of the novel “Tvoja ljepota mijenja svijet” is set in Sarajevo, the city that has a special meaning for Adelisa. It is a romance novel, and the characters and events in it are purely the result of her imagination.

The promotion of Adelisa's novel was held in Jajce on 11th of November at the “Turist 98” hotel. It would be an understatement to say that our scholarship holder was satisfied with the reception of her book:



ADELISA



“Everything went even better than I imagined and around 150 people attended! This was a night that marked my entrance into adulthood. The night of pride, success, love and friendship and genuine happiness and smiles.”

“The support of the Hastor Foundation really means a lot to me and I was delighted and very grateful that you called me today. I plan to continue with my education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I want to stay

in my country and here build my career as a writer, but also in the field of medicine. I love medicine and want to continue with it“, says our scholarship holder.

Everyone in the Hastor Foundation is extremely proud of Adelisa and we wish her success and many great publications in the future!

Dzulisa Otuzbir



DEAN'S AWARD FOR SAKIB BITIC

Dean's Award is given to the student who has achieved the highest GPA in his year of studies, general requirements being that the GPA be above 9.0 and that all exams have been successfully passed. This was going through my head while I was reading a message from one of our scholarship holders, college student Sakib Bitic:

“Dear teacher Ramo, I would like to invite you to the Dean’s Award ceremony, just like I did the previous year. Namely, as the best student of my generation at the Polytechnic University in Zenica I will be presented with the Dean’s Award 2017, for my overall GPA of 9.8 in the previous academic year. I have thus finished my undergraduate studies with four Dean’s Awards. The ceremony is hosted at Arena Zenica and will be held on Saturday, 28th of October, starting at 10:30 am.”

I did not immediately read the whole message because the image of Sakib sprang up in my mind, an image of a karate practitioner who demonstrated during the last scholarship holder meeting his skills and showed why numerous medals fill his display cases. No reason to think too hard about an invitation such as this one; the answer is obvious. I will attend because the accomplishments of young people, particularly of the Hastor Foundation scholarship holders, as well as the knowledge they attain, represent a source of pride for both me and the Foundation whose logo is “Education - the Choice of Winners”. At Arena Zenica I met with Sakib and his family. Everybody is happy, no, it is too weak an expression – everybody is overjoyed.



“This is my fourth Dean’s Award because I study continuously. This year my GPA is 9.8 and with inconsistent studying that can’t be achieved. The Dean’s Award is a great success for me. It takes a lot of studying and effort, as well as sacrifices to receive it. Last year I was awarded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science and I hope that it will be the same this year, because my GPA shows that I deserve that recognition.”

I look at Sakib and think: knowing knowledgeable and well-mannered people like him is a wonderful thing. All compliments to him and his parents and to the teachers and academic staff who raised and taught him so. I am regarding this happy family – Sakib standing with his brother and parents, his mother reading the words on the Dean’s Award. She is carefully considering each letter, word and sentence and these evoke images of every milestone Sakib reached since his birth; from the first grade of primary school to the enrollment at university. Her expression shows the recollection of all the difficulties of the past which then disappear once she reaches this happy moment and returns to the present where she is gazing at the Dean’s Award in her hands, an award won by her son. Can there be a moment where greater happiness is felt?

EXHIBITION “THE ART OF BOSNIAN MUSANDERA” HOSTED IN MOSTAR

IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION OUR SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER DELILA VEISPAHIĆ

On Friday, 27th of October, an exhibition titled “The Art of Bosnian Musandera” was held at the Cultural Center Mostar. This exhibition was a result of great dedication and effort put in saving the Bosnian heritage from oblivion. Showing the results of enormous research project, focusing on the interior of a traditional Bosnian house, was pointed out to be its primary purpose.

Every Bosnian house, be it from a Muslim, Christian or Jewish family, be it from a rich or a poor family, had a musandera (built-in range of cupboards). Nowadays many are unfamiliar with the term.

“Sadly, this sample of traditional Bosnian culture did not only disappear physically, but is also almost completely erased from our memories. Fragments of memories, however, can be found in certain literary works,” said Amra Hadzimuhamedovic, a professor at the International University in Sarajevo, who is behind this exhibition.

“The Art of Bosnian Musandera” was comprised of 33 exhibition panels and fragments found during the research process. Among them is the house of Cemalovic family on Buna River; in 1937, its carved pieces were either loaned or sold to the Museum of Sarajevo, but every trace of the documents was soon lost.

Besides Hadzimuhamedovic, other contributors were Merima Tica and Delila Veispahic, our scholarship

holder. Delila pointed out that she is very sensitive when it comes to our heritage and that the overall lack of preservation initiatives pains her.

“Every step forward delights me and I am extremely happy to have been able to directly contribute to this important project, or to be more precise to the research from which “The Art of Bosnian Musandera” resulted. I am glad to see that both local communities and the general population recognized the significance of the topic and I hope that they perceived musandera as it is: an expression of a beautiful and peaceful way of life,” said Delila.

Merima shares her opinion that being a part of the project which resulted in this exhibition was an honor and a pleasure.

“For the first time extensive research and documentation of musanderaas symbolical and pragmatic, yet also key component of Bosnian houses’ interior is conducted. With this project we pay respect to our heritage which is now fading, but we do it in hopes that it will be rightfully restored as a part of the contemporary age,” says Merima.

A virtual reconstruction of one room with musandera is also a part of the “The Art of Bosnian Musandera”, as is one reconstruction or a modern adaptation of this component.

Belma Zukic





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS OBSERVED IN BOSANSKI PETROVAC

As a part of the volunteering activities our scholarship holder Fazlic Dzenita from Bosanski Petrovac decided to observe the International Day of Older Persons together with the group of scholarship holders that she mentors. In cooperation with the Red Cross she and scholarship holders Gutlic Belma, Jaganjac Aida and Zoric Branislav distributed parcels to the elderly who desperately needed them.

“We visited five older persons in need and they were very glad that we remembered them and gave them

the food parcels. Naturally, the scholarship holders were also content because they contributed to the realization of this activity,” said Dzenita.

Incentives and activities such as these are more than welcome in realizations of volunteer meetings. It is precisely what the Foundation teaches us: to help those in need same as the Foundation helps its scholarship holders.

Mirza Okic



RETRACING THE STEPS AND HEADING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Our long time scholarship holder, Emina Adilovic, successfully completed her college education this October. By concluding her master studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo, a chapter in Emina's life which had marked her education and coming of age, as well as greatly shaped her personality, was also concluded. Namely, this October Emina received her last Hastor Foundation scholarship, and after ten years spent in the Foundation this final scholarship has a special meaning to her. She described this wonderful chapter in her life in a farewell letter that we present in its entirety.

“It is October, year 2017. Unlike the previous ones, this October is special and will be remembered as a month when one beautiful chapter in my life came to a close.

I am leaving my, according to the scholarship contract, ‘last’ monthly meeting of the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation. At the entrance to the Assembly hall is teacher Ramo who is talking with scholarship holders and visitors who were attending the meeting. Our eyes meet and, as is usually the case when people deeply understand each other, we soon stand face to face. And then, when words fail you and too much is felt, one hug bridges the distance and gives you strength.

I look ten years back and see myself, then a secondary school student, being told that I became a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, not knowing at that moment how exactly it will influence my life and to which degree change it in the years to come. I remember that soon after I've signed the scholarship contract I got put under the care of my first mentors who organized monthly meetings where all of us got to know each other, where we laughed and learned, debated and discussed. That is when I met some new people – their previously unfamiliar faces became the faces of people whom I consider family members.

I remember the excitement of getting my first letter, a reply to the letter that I had sent to the Foundation. It was written by a scholarship holder who was a college student; today the former student is a successful person in every aspect of her life. What happiness that was! Since I've mentioned happiness, it is impossible not to reflect on what crossed my mind numerous times: just how crazy lucky one has to be to have someone come to their school and decide to give them money as long as they keep studying and working hard?

This was the turning point in my life. Ten turbulent, yet wonderful years would follow. In these ten years I have met people from all around Bosnia and Herzegovina and enriched my life with a myriad of beautiful and lifelong friendships. The Foundation gave me an opportunity to experience so much, at the same time teaching me that true happiness and contentment actually come through the act of giving. My experiences as a part of the Foundation showed me that unconditional support is not a mere expression and that there are people who are with you, always!

I am happy to have been a part of the family which facilitates and nurtures good interpersonal relationships. But in every family there comes a time when the young leave the safety of the nest which kept them warm and fly away, soaring the skies of new adventures. I am writing this confession out of gratitude for all the years of your support, for each day that weighed heavily on me but whose burden you gladly offered to share and for all the memories that I will treasure forever.

I go back to the beginning of my story where I have been enveloped in a hug which lasted for a whole minute. Once I find the strength to meet teacher's gaze I see that in his eyes both happiness and sadness are reflected so clearly. It is a gaze which reveals how happy this man is because he has managed to lead another young person to the right path, but at the same time how sad he is that this young person is now ready to leave the nest and embark on a new journey, unsure in which direction life might take them both. Having noticed this, the only words I manage to utter are: “I'm still here, this isn't the end of anything.” He replied simply, full of understanding and certainty: “I know.”

It is just like they say ‘every ending is a new beginning’, and this one I truly believe to be a beginning of an even more wonderful cooperation and a continuation of a great friendship. I wish to thank all those who were, or still are, in any way a part of the Hastor Foundation; thank you, because all of you have helped me walk this path towards a better future that I have today and helped me develop to be who I really am.”

Emina Adilovic

CULTURE >>

Many events from the world of culture were hosted in the cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in October. In this section we will mention cultural events that have marked this month. We invite all our scholarship holders to write to us about the cultural events in their cities.

Academy in Honor of Mak Dizdar

The hundredth birthday of Mehmedalija Mak Dizdar, the poetry genius of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was observed this month. In the honor of this great literary genius, a rich program of events was held, beginning on October 17 in the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was continued with a series of central events in other cultural institutions in Sarajevo, all of this in order to pay homage to the man who carried the name of Bosnia across the world meridians and left an eternal mark on the map of Bosnian-Herzegovinian cultural and historical heritage. The hundredth birthday anniversary of this important Bosnian-Herzegovinian writer was also marked at the Faculty of humanities, "Dzemal Bijedic" University of Mostar. The professors and students at the Department of Bosnian language and literature marked this day at the University library by taking a look at the linguistic and literary contribution of Mak Dizdar, reading his poetry and with an exhibition of his books and research on Mak and his work as well.

Pop-Up! Festival

In the period between the 19th and 21st October, the third Pop Up! Student festival of visual communication was held in Sarajevo. For the third year in a row this event is organized independently by the students from the Department of Graphic Design at the Academy of Fine Arts Sarajevo. The festival was first and foremost intended for students of visual arts but also for all people interested in graphic communication. Visitors could attend various lectures or take part in workshops. Our scholarship holder Nirvana Zisko participated in the organization of this event.

Santic Poetry Evenings

On the 10th October, in the "Aleksa Santic" park in Mostar, the Santic Poetry Evenings began and lasted until the 16th October. The program of this poetry event was held in different locations in the town and it started with Santic's well-known poem "Emina".

Tuzla Film Festival

The sixth Tuzla Film Festival was held in the period from 18th to 22nd October. The Tuzla Film Festival is an annual cultural event in Tuzla, organized by the nonprofit organization Magic Factory, with the purpose of promoting the cinematography from the South Slavic countries. During the festival 95 movies by directors from our country and the region were shown, as well as those by directors from the rest of Europe.

ZAPLET 09 - The International Festival of the Young Actor

With the premiere of the play "Pita li iko kako je meni?" in the City Theater Jazvac in Banja Luka, the ninth International festival of the young actor ZAPLET began. This festival was held from 20th to 26th October and this year it also visited Prijedor, Gradiska, Laktasi, Doboje and Prnjavor.

“Some People are Kept Warm by Love” - Art in the Common Hallways of Sarajevo

On November 17, 2017, the H:ART Community together with “Obojena klapa” opened the fourteenth public gallery in Sarajevo. Inside the common hallways in the Hasan Brkic Street, number 47, these young artists painted a mural called “Some people are kept warm by love”, in order to promote street art in the capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They say that their primary goal is to step out of the frames of galleries and make art available to everyone. The members of H:ART want to offer another, definitely prettier and brighter, vision of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian reality, and thus push aside the darker side of life in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is usually analyzed as the most important one by many in the society.

Mostar as the City of the Film in November

The eleventh Mostar Film Festival began on the 16th of November, in the Great hall of the Croatian Lodge “Herceg Stjepan Kosaca”, with the screening of Bosnian-Herzegovinian feature film “Zaba”. Movie lovers, in the town on the Neretva River, could have enjoyed the showings of forty movies from twenty countries from the region and Europe. Apart from the very movies, various other educational workshops and conferences were organized as well. The Croatian movie director and actor Antun Vrdoljak, and Zarko Lausevic, Montenegrin actor, won the “Tree of Love” award. It is important to mention that a growing number of cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have begun to cherish the Seventh Art, and that a great number of visitors came to this year’s festival as well.

“The Night of the Theatre” in 13 Cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina

As a part of the European event “The Night of the Theatre in B-H”, a rich cultural program was organized in 13 cities (including Brcko, Banja Luka, Kakanj, Konjic, Srebrenik, Travnik, Zenica, Tuzla, Mostar, Prijedor, Laktasi and Bugojno), which included plays, radio dramas, and poetry evenings. Since this is the eighth year in which this event is held, it is evident that it will become a part of the tradition of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the years to come, and a proof for this is also found in the number of participants, which doubled when compared to that of last year. In order to promote such cultural events as this one, and to raise awareness of the importance of the theatre, there was no entrance fee for all those who wanted to enjoy the charms of theatre and poetry.

Youth Theatre Gorazde - “School Lunch for Every Pupil”

Setting an extremely positive and beautiful example, the members of Youth Theatre in Gorazde started a humanitarian action called “School Lunch for Every Pupil”. By selling the season tickets for their plays, these young, sympathetic people are raising funds in order to be able to buy school lunches for a certain number of pupils, since they are aware that there are many who cannot afford it. The members of this Theatre write their own plays and present themselves as a little school of creative thinking and positive energy that wants to bring about changes in Gorazde, but also in the society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in general. We use this occasion to invite everyone who loves theatre, and is at the same time willing to help those in need, to buy the season ticket and to see the plays of these young, creative people.

■ something which is simply priceless !

In the contract between the Hastor Foundation and scholarship holders one of the points is that volunteering is obligatory. Out of the children I asked about volunteering many did not know what it was, while everybody could explain what working for nothing meant. After they spend a couple of years as scholarship holders in the Foundation they all realize what volunteering is and also grow very fond of it. After ten years, most of the volunteers say that volunteering is much dearer to them than any work done for money. Hamed recently told me:

“When I work for a salary, I do what I’m told, but when I volunteer it is what I love doing. It is what makes me happy.”

A great number of students who were scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation have gotten employed once they finished their studies and now when we meet almost all of them praise the volunteer hours that they completed in the Foundation. A couple of days ago I met Safeta who told me she found employment and is doing exactly what she spent four years of her life studying for.

“I am lucky I got this job, I am really glad to be doing what I know and love. At the job interview, the decisive factor for my employment were my nine years spent as a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation where I volunteered 1080 hours and learned more than I had during one year of studies. I explained to them that

during those educational volunteer hours we learned what was not taught either in school or at home. Furthermore, there is no whining, especially not the collective one which ensues as soon as two or more people meet and start rants about politicians, the state of the society etc. During the volunteer hours I learned to listen, be disciplined and responsible, knowing when to keep silent and when to speak smartly. They gave me a job and now I apply what I had learned.”

“To me the Foundation is a second family, the ‘second’ not referring to its worth naturally, and thanks to the volunteer hours I met many people, many true and genuine human beings; true friends who are always prepared to help you. Volunteering also made it possible for me to spend twenty one days in the Netherlands and this is something that I will treasure dearly because it was so wonderful,” said Emina in the same breath so she could prove from her example that working for nothing is worthwhile.

“During my volunteering in the Hastor Foundation,” said Adela, “I met hundreds of young men and women from all around Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I befriended dozens of them. We built such close friendships that I am prepared to help them be it day or night and I’m certain that they would be equally ready to help me. That is something which is simply priceless!”

Ramo Hastor



semir hajdar



SEMIR HAJDAR

Semir Hajdar is one of those scholarship holders who are always happy to answer the calls when the Hastor Foundation administration team needs help. He completes every assignment very responsibly and carefully, which is why he won the title of the scholarship holder for the month of October.

Semir has been the Hastor Foundation scholarship holder since 2008. He graduated from the Secondary Economic School in Vogosca and then enrolled into the School of Economics and Business in Sarajevo. He is currently in his postgraduate studies, Department for Management and Information Technologies. As a scholarship holder, Semir works hard, both during the volunteering meetings with his pupils, and with the administration team of the Hastor Foundation. In his leisure time he likes to travel. He played football for nine years and then devoted all of his attention to his studies and to achieving the best possible results.

"The Hastor Foundation is first and foremost my second family, but also a great drive toward progress and refinement", Semir says. This story is a proof that work and effort always pay off and that everything you invest in your education will return to you because it will bring you one step closer to succeeding and shaping yourself into another responsible academic citizen.

Hanka Mujkic

O c t o b e r



mia babic



MIA BABIC

Due to her efforts and contributions to the work of the Hastor Foundation, the title of the scholarship holder for the month of November goes to Mia Babic.

She was born on the 29th of December 1995 in Sarajevo. She completed her primary and secondary education in her hometown, and afterwards enrolled at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo. Currently she is in her first year of master studies (literature program) at the Department of English Language and Literature. She became a scholarship holder in the previous academic year. She is very fond of reading and in her free time she likes to be involved in sports and spend time with her friends, something she considers as equally important in building one's character as volunteering work or college studies. Being a cinephile, she is a member of the "I Heart Film Club".

N o v e m b e r

As a part of her volunteering duties, Mia is a member of the Translating team of the Hastor Foundation and translates the newsletter content and website articles. When it comes to her contributions to the Foundation, it is important to note that Mia is diligent and works very efficiently. She is always prepared to assist her colleagues and completes her volunteering activities on schedule. Mia believes that one's understanding of life is constantly being altered, and puts great emphasis on learning to accept inevitability of change and being prepared to leave one's comfort zone. Finding something to be passionate about and always seeking perfection is, to her, the most important point. In her opinion, the Hastor Foundation provides a sense security, both financial and emotional, and simultaneously urges its scholarship holders to try their wings and find that passion. At the core of every individual's life is gaining knowledge and improving skills, as well as broadening their horizons and meeting people, and their persistence, dedication, constancy and insatiable thirst for knowledge will surface eventually and inevitably leave a trace.

Razim Medicin

« THROUGH THE LENSES

This month's edition of "Through the Lenses" features photographs taken during the volunteering meetings held in November. They were sent by scholarship holders from all across Bosnia and Herzegovina who work diligently as mentors for primary and secondary school students, helping them achieve greatest results possible.

Busovaca - Mentors:
Segmedina Buljina &
Mirza Mekic



Tuzla - Mentors:
Zemira Bektic &
Razim Medic



Doboj - Mentor:
Zada Memic



Stolac - Mentors:
Belmana Gerin &
Anela Medar



Kalesija - Mentors:
Nermina Ramic &
Nermina Imamovic



Lukavac - Mentors:
Adis Mujkic &
Nihada Mulalic



Travnik - Mentors:
Mehmed Zolota &
Ismet Kadric



Gradacac - Mentor:
Almin Ibreljic



LETTER OF THE MONTH >>

Dear Hastor Foundation,

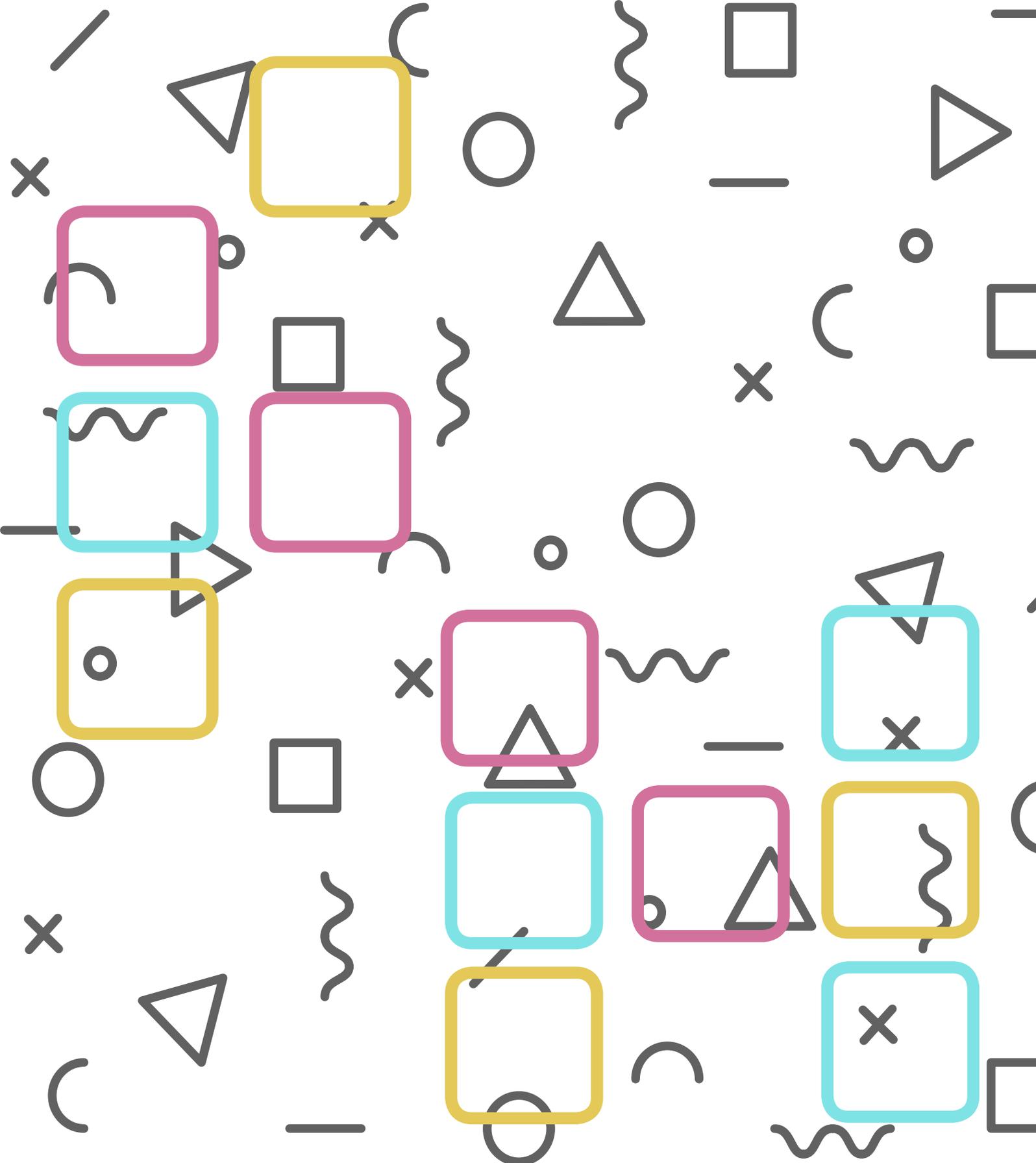
I've been your member for 10 years; a member of one great, yet warm family. I remember well the time when I joined your collective. It was a carefree time when my only obligation was going to school and making at least some effort to be among the best pupils, in which I have succeeded. For something that I had to do anyway, I received a scholarship. I graduated from my primary school standing proudly among the best pupils, holding the "Vuk Karadzic" diploma. Then came the enrollment into the Gymnasium, because I planned later to enroll into a faculty as well. I successfully finished my secondary education, and four years later graduated from the faculty. All of it went by rather quickly and then I realized that I should collect my memories, turn around and look behind me. Notice those who were with me the whole time. Look at the person in the mirror and at what I've become. Apart from family and friends, you were there. You gave me your selfless support during all these years. You sometimes had a stricter approach and then I would mutter things under my breath, but exactly then, in such situations I would feel the wind in my sails. That's when I would do my best and then proudly smile when you would praise me. The fact that I became a volunteer and worked with children is one of the best things, because the profession that I'm in now is mostly based on working with children. It was tough at times. It's tough to gain someone's trust. It's tough to encourage some children to open up. In order to achieve all that, I had to find all the possible ways and that way I also enriched myself with another new experience.

So I ask myself, who are the people that stand behind the name of the Hastor Foundation? Who are those who believe so much in young people and invest in knowledge? Why? I don't really have the answer to that question, but all I can say is thank you. As for the most of us, the scholarship was first and foremost a financial help for me. It made my education easier from the day I became your scholarship holder. On the other hand, we often forget just how great are the support and help the Hastor Foundation gives us. Let's look at ourselves from several years ago. Then look at ourselves now. We can notice the difference. We can understand that we are more mature and grown-up, and no, not all of it is because of the years, which would then make it logical. You had a great role in it. The best thing I learned is that true human values are still appreciated; respect, trust, and even love, because without love for all of this, there would be no progress.

You've followed me through most of my education. With you I've become more mature and experienced many things. I've often achieved the best results precisely because you've told us that we have to pass a certain number of our exams and I thank you for that. Thank you for the selfless support and help, for each and every one of your "if you need anything, just call us", thank you for trying so hard and thank you for being, first and foremost, real human beings. It took a lot of effort to achieve what you are today. I'd like to acknowledge the people who organize everything and answer all our questions. Not to mention the ones who provide the great amount of money. And perhaps this letter of mine has become a bit long and I hope that no one will be offended, but my special thank you goes to one man, so I hope that this will reach him as well. Teacher Ramo: a wonderful man, a bit strict, with wrinkles on his face, of which each has a story to tell. A man who devoted his life to children, and a man worth of admiration and respect. He would sometimes look at me the way that reminded me that I had to try hard and find what is best in me. Thank you, you wonderful man, because the best intentions are embedded in every word of yours.

I will stop myself here, because I could go on indefinitely. Thank you all for being a part of the most beautiful period for me, the period when I've achieved many things and succeeded in certain areas. Thank you for awarding every success I had with a nice word and for warning me when I needed it. You've made my education easier to my family as well. I won't be a member of yours anymore, but I would like our connection to not fade away. Once again, thank you for everything and I hope that I've accomplished at least part of what you've expected from me.

Warm regards,
Your scholarship holder Marija Mrda



Club of Friends of the Hastor Foundation was also joined by Orbico d.o.o and public notary Kapidzic Nedzada.

We use this opportunity to express our gratitude.



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