



FONDACIJA
HASTOR



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NEWSLETTER

Implementation of the project of establishing the Centre for education, rehabilitation and social inclusion of young persons with disabilities

Investing selflessly in quality education and placing the focus of its operations on promising young individuals, who are in the centre of the overall social progress, the Hastor Foundation has been affirming its long-term mission for 14 years already, which is primarily oriented towards contributing to positive changes of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian reality. Precisely along these lines, and in cooperation with our benefactors and friends, numerous projects were implemented, the primary intentions of which were well received by the BH society, as were the quite successful implementation results.

Working in accordance with social responsibility, which is one of the essential principles that serve as the basis of the devoted work of our Foundation, we are happy to inform you that there is one more project of this kind ahead of us.

Namely, the Hastor Foundation is implementing the project of establishing the Centre of Education, Rehabilitation and Social Inclusion, the aim of which is to provide professional support to young persons with disabilities, of the age 14 and higher. The project is focused on the support to the aforementioned group, but also to the overall care system for disabled persons in the Sarajevo Canton and wider areas. In cooperation with partner institutions, organizations and ministries, the plan is to develop a unique model of services within which persons with disabilities will be included into different programs of social inclusion during or after their formal education, which include becoming prepared for independent life within the local community and for employment, additional rehabilitation services, improving the awareness of the society in terms of the needs and abilities of people with disabilities.

Due to the need for the involvement of a great number of users, the Hastor Foundation has initiated the process of building the centre which will be suitable in terms of its capacity, whereas in the meantime all the activities linked to this project will be realized in a rented facility.

The support to young persons with disabilities is a process that should be a priority in creating future educational, social and health programs in the Sarajevo Canton, and this projects shows the clear intention of the Hastor Foundation to use its financial and other capacities to become actively involved in the support of the system through its partner relations with different levels of authorities.

What is positive is the fact that the importance of the project has been recognized by the persons with disabilities, their parents, but also the ministries in charge. The strategic commitment of the Hastor Foundation is to have a respectable center which will be a true example of public-private partnership and which will perform the function of improving the overall quality of life of people with disabilities and their families.

Amina Vatreš





Scholarship holder Amar Velagić

Asked about the Hastor Foundation, he says:

took part in the 31st International Meeting of Poets “Garavi sokak”

The Hastor Foundation regularly presents proactive students and scholarship holders who contact us to share their successes. One of them is also Amar Velagić, who graduated from the Mixed Secondary School in Bugojno, and is currently a student of Latin Language and Roman Literature, and of Pedagogy.

He has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for six years. He says that his love for the Latin language was born in secondary school, where he won a silver medal at the European competition in Latin language and Roman civilization.

“It is our guidance, a very significant pillar of support when we most need it. The Foundation is our second home, a safe haven that offers numerous benefits. It is an honor for everyone to be rewarded for their work and effort. A great thank you to the Hastor Foundation for recognizing that.”



This year, Amar partook in the International Meeting of Poets “Garavi sokak”, which was initiated 31 years ago by the Literary Club “Miroslav Mika Antić” from Indija. In cooperation with that municipality, collection of works is printed annually and over time it has become a sort of retrospective of the regional and international literary scene. The editor and the translator from English is Aleksandar Mijalković, and the expert team of poets is comprised of the club’s president Zlatomir Borovnica and the poet Nikola Banić. The covers of the collection are designed by the poet Majo Darilović from Belgrade.



We are proud that Amar’s poems were included in two of these collections, because this is a significant gathering spot of poets from the whole region, open for the authors from diaspora, but also an opportunity to be introduced to poetry of diverse authors from across the world. In addition, Amar can boast with the title of the Honor Pupil of his secondary school, from which he recently graduated.

We congratulate Amar on his successes so far and wish him fortune in the future.



The Hastor Foundation is always happy to write about the scholarship holders who leave a mark with their knowledge and good work. One such scholarship holder is 16-year-old Iman Šunje from Mostar, more precisely Bijelo Polje. She finished primary school in Bijelo Polje, where, according to her teacher, she always stood out as a hard-working and responsible pupil. She says that she always did well at subjects such as math, physics and chemistry. She participated in numerous competitions in various fields, achieving great results.

She finished primary school as an Honor Pupil, and her hard work and knowledge were rewarded at the very beginning of secondary school, when she won the 1st place in mathematics school competition and 2nd place in chemistry school competition. She is currently a student at the Secondary Medical School in Mostar, school where she always wanted to go. On the ranking list of those who applied to study there, her name was at the top, which made her even happier and gave her the enthusiasm to continue pursuing good results.

Through her schooling, she tried to gain general knowledge and participate in extracurricular activities organized by her school. She has been a member of the Student Council since primary school, and for a certain period, she was also the president. She spends her free time with friends and family. Some of her hobbies are reading books, listening to music and playing sports, and her favorite book is "Crime and Punishment", a well-known work by Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky.

She says she has not yet decided which colleges she wants to enroll into in the future, but that it will definitely be something in the medical field.

Iman Šunje

and her achievements in numerous school competitions



Iman told the Foundation:

"The Hastor Foundation has done a lot for me and my colleagues and they still do. They work for the greater good and support me in my learning and reaching the goals of achieving humanitarian deeds. Medicine is a human science and that's why I want to be in this profession. Along with my parents and family, the Foundation is a huge support! My wish is to progress, to continue achieving goals, meeting my expectations, all as a member of the Foundation, my large family."

We are proud that Iman is part of our family and we appreciate her dedication and ambition. These values had guided her towards success since the very beginning of her career, and we wish her good luck in the future.

Our scholarship holder Dženana Duvnjak partakes at the Slovo Gorčina Festival

In this month's issue of our newsletter, we would like to introduce you to another Foundation scholarship holder, Dženana Duvnjak. Dženana is sixteen years old and goes to the Secondary School in Bugojno, majoring in Nursing.

She says she couldn't decide with certainty whether to enroll into this school or a gymnasium, but she is certain that her dreams involve studying medicine. Dženana says that she is guided by the motto "What you give to others is actually yours" and that this is exactly what leads her to be someone who helps others and makes this world a better place. Through her education so far, she has gained numerous diplomas, awards and recognitions, and she stood out by participating in competitions, workshops and projects. She says that she is a person who sincerely loves everything: both in her surroundings and in school subjects. She especially loves acting, poetry and yoga.



"Special thanks to my Foundation, which encourages me day by day to do better things and gives me the opportunity to make many friends, for which I can only thank God."

Since the beginning of secondary school, my Bosnian language teacher was delighted with everything I ever wrote. She included each of my works in the "Collection of gymnasium students", which the school publishes every year as a collection of student works. With the support of my class teacher, I applied to the Slovo Gorčina competition. This competition, held annually, gives the Mak Dizdar literary award for an unpublished collection of poetry to a young poet. I haven't won the award, but since I've only been writing poetry for a month, I feel good. The competition was open to people aged 16 to 26, and I turned sixteen after applying. Also, for a year now I have been a member of the ZFD forum (forum for civil peace services), where we are working on the project "Future we want". It's really one great team, and we often have interesting workshops, but unfortunately, we're working from home these months. As for the local community, I am also a member of the association of secondary school pupils. The latest news is that I am the coordinator of the eTwinning project, which is just beginning and ends after the first semester. I am really looking forward to everything that the future holds."



Hastor Foundation scholarship holders successfully implemented the **“Book for All”** project

Every month, Hastor Foundation college student scholarship holders set aside time to participate in activities within the local community, provide assistance to the elderly and those in need, organize environmental and humanitarian actions, etc. Last month, our scholarship holders Ajla Tabak, student of the Faculty of Economics, and Berina Golub, student of the Faculty of Philosophy, came up with and successfully implemented a project called "Book for All".

The project was organized with the purpose of ensuring access to better quality literature for all citizens of Zenica, and the literature is available at the Youth Center in Zenica. The project was realized with the support of Mozaik Foundation, and our scholarship holder Nedžma Salkić also took part in its implementation, assisting in numerous activities.

The library is non-profit, but the contribution to the community of these scholarship holders is ever lasting. Two events were organized within the project: a lecture by prof. Naida Mujkić Osmanbegović on the topic of literature and the Poetry Night, which brought together young artists from Zenica and Sarajevo, who presented their works. The idea for such a project arose due to the situation in which our scholarship holders found themselves. Namely, due to the coronavirus pandemic, they were not able to go to the library to borrow books, so they exchanged with each other what they owned:

"In that way, we realized that some books are not available to readers in the City Library in Zenica, which is really trying to ensure quality books. That's why we decided to make a library that will be accessible to everyone and will contain books that can't be found in the City Library. Our library is free."



There was nothing that could give away that this is the first project of this kind organized by Ajla and Berina, considering the success of the project itself. When it comes to plans for the future, they point out that they already have a new project in mind, in an expanded composition. Volunteering at Merhamet, a Muslim charity, they came up with the idea that the next project would be aimed at improving the quality of meals for people in need.

"For us, the Foundation is a big family in which we met wonderful people with whom we hang out. Volunteering gave us the opportunity to learn many things, gave us the motivation to be a better version of ourselves. Also, volunteering complements us, makes us feel as useful members of the society. We are grateful to the Hastor Foundation for its support over the years."

We heartily congratulate our hard-working and enterprising scholarship holders, with wishes for the realization of numerous projects in the future, and we invite our scholarship holders to follow in the footsteps of Ajla and Berina and to regularly inform us about their adventures of this kind, so we can celebrate them together!





Our scholarship holders' deeds as a reflection of all the values on which the activities of the Hastor Foundation are based

The story of former scholarship holder Lejla Ramić

High values can only adorn great people and create wonderful stories that leave an eternal mark. In support of what has been said, we bring you another beautiful story of the Hastor family.

Members of the Hastor Foundation administration asked our fellow mentors in Sarajevo to check with their 8th grade students if they have and want to donate textbooks to an eighth-grade girl whose parents are unable to afford them. Shortly after our announcement, former scholarship holder Lejla Ramić called and offered to buy new books for this girl with her friends. Just two hours after the announcement, Lejla delivered the newly purchased books to the office of the Foundation.

Lejla is a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo, a two-time winner of the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo with an average of 9.89 and a doctoral student at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo. She was a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder for 3 years.

**"I will
always
consider
myself part
of the
Hastor
family."**

I am especially happy about the fact that I still keep in touch with them and that it is not rare that they stop me in the streets, while I'm lost in my thoughts. I use such opportunities to encourage them on their path of knowledge. When I read the announcement in the Facebook group that a scholarship holder needs textbooks for the new school year, I remembered the faces of my students who once commented on the difficulties with getting ready to go to school. I wanted to make her school days more beautiful with my friends and fellow scholarship holders.

I may not be able to change the world, but I believe we brought a smile to that girl's and her parents' face. As I write about this, I also feel uneasy, because I have heard too many times while growing up that good deeds should be done in silence and I try to adhere to it, but at the same time I think that this little sign of care will encourage someone to do something similar and greater for someone else - that is where the greatest value lies.

I have had the opportunity and honor to be in the newsletter of the Hastor Foundation before and, as was the case then, I use this opportunity to thank teacher Rama, director Seid and members of the Hastor Foundation Administration Team for their trust and opportunities. Thanks to the academic vocation, I live the motto - education is the choice of the winner!

Such beautiful stories from the Hastor Foundation family are countless and we are happy to celebrate them in this way. We are proud of all our current and former scholarship holders who live by the principles of humanity and who are a proof that good people do not exist only in fairy tales and know how much a girl's smile from our story is worth.

"The most memorable moments from the time I was a scholarship holder are those spent with the students I mentored. Remembering the monthly meetings, I miss the feeling I had then - the feeling of doing something good for my community. From this perspective, I conclude that the beauty of these deeds is in the fact that I devoted myself to them and the amount of knowledge I had then, and not just money as it unfortunately happens today.

Those eight hours a month spent with younger scholarship holders represented their and my way out of all of our life's ups and down. As a mentor, I tried make use of this time by developing their habits such as: visits to museums, cinemas, theaters, going to nature, etc., but above all by teaching them critical thinking and introducing them to the beauty of wide horizons in life."



Azra Bilalagić is an inspiring example of a young person who started as a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation and who is now on the other side - in the role of a benefactor. According to her, she does not like to put herself in the center of attention, but she has set aside time for the Foundation's Editorial Board.

Azra was born in Sarajevo, where she graduated from the Primary School "Čamil Sijarić" and continued her education at the Secondary School of Economics and then the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, majoring in Tourism and Environmental Protection. Since 2010, she has lived in Glen Allen, Virginia (USA) and continued her education there. She completed her master's degree at Virginia Commonwealth University. She says that she is very persistent and that she does not give up on her goal until she achieves it, and adds that she thinks that this trait helped her a lot in life, especially in moments when she herself would doubt her abilities. Although she is naturally an introvert, she enjoys meeting new people and has always had the desire and passion to have a positive impact on the people around her.



An inspiring life story of former scholarship holder

Azra Bilalagić

From scholarship holder to benefactor

"I deeply believe that you can only have as much as you give and I really feel true happiness in giving, not only when it comes to material things but also the little things like a nice word, a smile, kindness and compassion that we all need so much."

She was a scholarship holder of the Foundation for two years. She needed financial help during her schooling, but she got a lot more as a scholarship holder, through volunteering, where she met many wonderful friends with whom she is still in touch.

Of all the experiences, Azra's most beautiful was mentoring primary school scholarship holders to whom she helped with a variety of subjects, which helped her increase self-confidence, learn and hone various skills such as responsibility, organization, teamwork, and teaching and knowledge transfer skills.

The quote she singled out reads:

"Do not beautify your body, but your heart and soul. Because the outside is what the creatures look at, and the inside is what the Creator is looking at."

- Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, one of her favorite poets.

Azra explained her motivation to become a benefactor and we share her answer in full:

"Bearing in mind the wonderful experience and feeling deep gratitude for everything I received as a Foundation's scholarship holder, I wanted to make at least one fellow happy and give them the opportunity to experience what I experienced as a scholarship holder. A couple of years ago, I decided to ask a few friends to donate money for scholarships. Friends asked their acquaintances to join and so the money was collected. I really couldn't have achieved anything without the help of good people who decided to join me in this. It's a wonderful feeling to read letters, watch videos of numerous scholarship holders and see how much the scholarship helps them and their families. I hope that the Foundation will be able to increase the number of scholarship holders every year and that more benefactors will be involved, because this scholarship really provides much more than just a financial aid."

Focusing on the goal was Azra's biggest motivation and she imagined how she would feel when she achieved the goal and thus visualized the outcome.

Her message for the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders is:

"Don't let your limits of success be set by others. The most important thing for your success in life is to believe in yourself, and everything else will fall into place. When life is the hardest for you, do not give up on your dreams, be persistent, hardworking and you will see that every effort pays off. If you fail, keep your focus on the goal, stay positive and deeply believe that everything is happening for your good."





The importance of literature in human lives (continuation)

*“I have never known any distress
that an hour’s reading did not relieve.” Montesquieu*

Reading enriches our personality and experience. The importance of reading is a matter of scientific interest and since the 1980s the research on reading began to incorporate sociological concepts. The research results show that the youth nowadays reads less than their predecessors.

In the previous issue of our newsletter we listed some of the advantages of reading, and we now bring more interesting facts about the importance of literature in human lives.

Literature reflects human nature and the way in which we can learn something and connect with others. By reading first person point of view, we are able to fully dive into a different style of thinking and understand how others think and feel. This is particularly important in the society of today, because we are drifting more and more away from human interaction. By reading books, we delve into the dialogue and experiences of other people. The ability of empathy and understanding of others is a key feature of connecting with different religions, races, societies and time periods. Reading helps us perceive different aspects of life, in relation to the ones we already know and live, which can change our perspectives.

Great literary works have played the fundamental role in shaping the society. For example, The Epic of Gilgamesh initiated the archetype narrative of the hero who begins an epic quest, which became a popular and influential outline for literature across the world. Some other significant texts include Homer’s The Odyssey, Dante’s The Divine Comedy, Shakespeare’s Hamlet, etc. It is undeniable that books have the power to shape culture and history.

Books also have a healing effect on people – they contribute to the reduction of tension and nervousness. Certain studies show that reading reduces nervousness to a greater extent than is the case with walking, watching TV or drinking coffee. There exist so many books and we can always find something suitable to read that will lift our spirits. People become more content by reading, because it improves the production of dopamine, which directly affects our sense of satisfaction.



Reading books is important in building a successful career and moving forward and in acquiring numerous skills that are important in the business world. The skill of reading is significant in almost all jobs, particularly the skill of proper comprehension of texts. In addition, reading improves our perseverance, increases our confidence, etc..

Reading literature also helps us get to know ourselves, i.e. understand the human, considering that the subject of literature is precisely the human. Numerous book pages teach us about our creative and moral abilities, consciousness and, most importantly, our soul.

“The difference between where you are today and where you’ll be five years from now will be found in the quality of books you’ve read.”

Dž. Ron



We see the human at the peak of their glory and the depths of their craziness – with all the heartily thoughts, actions, feelings and beliefs. In other words, literature contains the mirror to human nature, revealing its inner depth and complexity, the range of virtues and vices, etc.

Long ago, there was a saying in the forecourt of the Temple of Apollo:

“Know thyself.” Reading literature persists to be the safest way to do precisely that – live the life that Socrates proclaimed the only one worth living: an examined life. Literature can be a creative expression of metaphysics and existence: in some mysterious way, one life is every life, and every life is one life – every character we encounter on book pages has something from ourselves.”



LEARNING TIPS :

Useful web pages which facilitate learning

GoConqr

GoConqr is a web page that is an ideal solution for visual students. What makes this page unique are mind maps and information networks, which simplify and break complex topics down into multiple smaller and simpler ones. When you create your own map, it enables you to see connections between things. This significantly contributes to memorization and comprehension. This web page contains numerous other parts such as flash cards, notes platform, individually created quizzes, study planners, collaboration tools and numerous ways to track your own studying progress.

Quizlet

With this app, you are the ones that provide information, and Quizlet generates specific tools for studying and memorizing that information. The users have the possibility of creating "sets", based on which the app generates flash cards, quizzes, practice tests, matching games, and even listening tools. Quizlet also has a free app for studying on the move and even when you are offline.

Not going into the quality level of online learning in comparison to the traditional way of learning, the internet and the wide range of possibilities it has to offer are a significant way in which we can make the usual learning routine simpler, but also more creative. There are thousands of web pages designed specifically for learning new skills and languages, managing everyday life and tasks, and numerous studying tools which help students prepare for exams. Be it efficient time management, digital flash cards, individual quizzes or other studying tools, these web pages and apps can help pupils and students of any field of study to prepare for the upcoming tests.



Amina Vatreš

Evernote

Studying can sometimes be performed on several different platforms, but with the help of Evernote all your notes, information, research and analyses can be in one place. Evernote, as one of the most efficient online organizational tools, offers the possibility of synchronizing all your data from computers and phones, sharing with other users, gathering web articles and creating everything on one central platform.

StudyBlue

StudyBlue connects students of different aims and fields of study, enabling them to share and access joint flash cards, notes, studying guides, etc. StudyBlue can connect students in different classes/departments, allowing them to chat and cooperate on some projects. This web page has a diverse offer of content within its e-library, different types of study guides, a base for all your notes, as well as the result of self-assessment in real time based on the progress in a certain subject/field.



Have you ever heard of the butterfly effect?

What we write is: *If a butterfly flapped its wings in Japan, it could lead to a hurricane in the Atlantic.*

What we understand is: *Sometimes small changes make us take only blue shades from all the hurricanes of our life and draw our own seas and some new, brighter skies.*

Nostalgic September always reminds us of school desks and those who taught us knowledge. If they were just words, we might forget them, but they are also voices, and first letters, and first emotions, and our important decisions, and our whole lives. So how do we forget them? The following lines are a retrospective of the life of our scholarship holder, now a professor of Bosnian language and literature, Maida Husnić and her per aspera ad astra.

Maida graduated from the Faculty of Humanities of the Džemal Bijedić University in Mostar at the Department of Bosnian Language and Literature with an average grade of 10.0. As we read about the successes of those who fulfill and justify our visions and missions, we rejoice in them because they are shared successes, which certainly make us proud.

During her studies, diligent Maida participated in the organization and realization of numerous scientific gatherings and seminars, of which we single out: participation in the Literary Dinner with Irfan Horozović, lectures on the occasion of Mother Language Day organized by the Faculty of Humanities, participation in the 6th International Student Symposium organized by International Burch University and participation in the workshop "EXPLORE, DESCRIBE, PAINT HOMELAND", where she had the role of a coordinator within the writing section.

In addition, during her studies she distinguished herself as the best student and was given the opportunity to be a demonstrator in linguistic courses at the Department of Bosnian Language and Literature during one academic year. Thanks to good results during her studies, she won several awards: the award of the Federal Ministry of Education and Science for the best student for two years in a row (2017 and 2018), the Dean's Award for the best student of her faculty (2018), the Gold Plaque of the Student Union for the best student (2018), and we especially highlight the award of the member of the Presidency of BiH, Šefik Džaferović, for the best students in BiH.

"Speaking about my plans for the future, after graduation I particularly want to devote myself to scientific research, because it is one of the segments that makes me especially happy and that attracts my attention, and I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to enroll in doctoral studies and build my own personality. I think that knowledge and research are key factors that we can take to a higher level and I am deeply convinced that, in cooperation with colleagues across the country, we can make a significant contribution to the study of Bosnian studies and some new achievements in this field."

And please, remember:

"This is important, more important than what is the most significant: when so much beauty is kept in oneself, to be able, and with no one finding out, to wrap at least a piece of that something in dreams and share it with everyone ..."

Maida Husnić



"In December 2016, I became a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, and since mid-2017 I have been a member of the Editorial Board of the Hastor Foundation, first as a proofreader, and later I started working on writing articles. When it comes to my membership in the Foundation, I owe a great deal of gratitude to the entire team who have taught me many important things, encouraged and supported me over the years. Thanks to volunteering with students and monthly student meetings, I had the opportunity to meet many colleagues from all over BiH, socialize with them, exchange opinions and ideas, and develop my own skills and abilities through working with children. On the other hand, membership in the Editorial Board provided me with an unforgettable experience, given my profession, but also an unforgettable socializing with my colleagues. "



Through this section, we will present the active young scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, who, in addition to volunteering, do phenomenal things and thus represent the Foundation in the best light!

In early September, three scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation from Čelić – Adisa Bajramović, Amra Forić and Emina Bećirović – came up with the idea for their group of scholarship holders to organize a humanitarian action. They considered various ideas, but chose the one that no one has thought of so far - to raise funds (how much the scholarship holders were able to donate) and to buy school supplies for the first-graders of the Primary School "Čelić". The girls made identical packages of school supplies and, as agreed with the school's principal, distributed them to each first-grader, keeping in mind the gender structure as well. In this way, the girls received a package for girls and the boys a package for boys.

"We must emphasize that all our scholarship holders were maximally flexible and showed responsibility when donating and collecting funds. Many parents of scholarship holders have written to us that they are thrilled with the idea and that they will once again support every type of activity we will realize. The enthusiasm of the first graders, their parents and school staff was not lacking. Our action was followed by numerous articles on social media and positive comments from the public, where we realized that we had done something that really resonated in the small environment in which we live. The goal of our action was to initiate youth activism, help others and promote the work of the Hastor Foundation, as an organization that has changed our view of the world", said Adisa Bajramović.



"If it is true that the world rests on young people, then they are the only most important link that can make positive changes in it."

Adisa Bajramović is a second-year student of Medical-Laboratory Diagnostics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tuzla. She has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for only one year. She says she is known to others as a responsible, educated and active person. She enjoys spending time writing, volunteering, and working with children and people in need. Although she enjoys volunteering at the Foundation, this is not the beginning of her volunteer story. Already during primary and then secondary school, she was involved in various projects and was a member of numerous associations, which she states have contributed to building her personality and helped her become the person she is today. She has organized and implemented many humanitarian actions as a member of the Student Council in primary and secondary school, and the Hastor Foundation provides her with the opportunity to continue to act in this way.

"Thanks to volunteering, I have no problem working with people, coping in various situations. I easily overcome all private difficulties and all those that come my way, in any segment of life. This humanitarian action made the public recognize me as a useful member of society and that is why this activity is special."

Youth activism in society is of great importance for Adisa, primarily because of the self-education of young people and the building of various skills. She points out that many young people discover a new version of themselves that has been hidden for a long time.

The Foundation enabled her to finally present everything she could not show to others and gave her the opportunity to grow and mature, enrich her life with the highest quality values and be a role model for future generations.

In short, the Hastor Foundation has opened a new door of success for me. I tell the scholarship holders of the Foundation to appreciate the privilege that was given to them, and that is to be a part of this family. There is no obstacle that we cannot overcome on our own, if we have enough motivation and will for that. Just a little effort and creativity can change the way many people think. An example of this is our humanitarian action, for which we had no expectations, and which made us proud of our existence.

“I challenge you to be a dreamer, I challenge you to be the ones doing something to make this world a better place”

Amra Forić is a fourth-grade pupil at the Secondary Medical School in Čelić. She has been a scholarship holder for two years, and in addition to her love for medicine, she has been intensively involved in photography for the past year, which makes her happy. The photos you can see were taken through Amra's lenses.

Her activist story began by joining the Hastor Foundation. She is part of a local group of scholarship holders and is always ready to do her best to help with volunteering. Providing support to her mentors, she is just beginning her volunteer work. She is happy to volunteer at school, taking photos of important events. Together with classmates, she was a lecturer on the importance of breast cancer prevention for women.

“Everything I've done so far has helped me build myself and become a more confident, better person.”

She is most proud of this action, which everyone, as a group of scholarship holders from Čelić, managed to realize - an action that made the first-graders happy.

Amra believes that every young person should contribute to their environment and be at least a little active:

“If each of us were to become active at least a little, I think we could change for the better everything that we think needs to be changed. Volunteering at the Hastor Foundation is some type of turning point in my life.

Since I have become a scholarship holder and have been volunteering every month, I have become a better version of myself and much more confident. I was able to progress in various fields that are of interest to me.”

ma koja su me interesirala.”



Emina Bećirović is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Economics in Brčko, and she has been a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder for a total of 4 years, ever since she enrolled into the faculty. She describes herself as a positive person who works with children.

She points out that it is certain that her most important life and volunteer story begins with obtaining the status of a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder, even though she participated in various actions during her primary and secondary education

The activity and story that she will remember the most and that she is most proud of, is the recent action for first graders, which she organized together with the rest of the team of scholarship holders from Čelić..

“As they say, the world rests on the young, therefore, the young are and must be the driving force of this society. Young people should be a hope for a better tomorrow, and thus an example to new generations. The Hastor Foundation is an ideal opportunity for young people, and it is the best thing that has happened in my life. Through its work, it directs its scholarship holders on the right path and provides a certain dose of motivation and ambition, so that we can achieve each of our goals.”

Her message to scholarship holders is to always believe in themselves and appreciate the fact that they are the ones chosen to be part of the large family of the Hastor Foundation.

“As a volunteer, I learned some important things in life, which contributed to building my personality and who I am today.”



"Volunteering Is Our Profit"

I want to share with you a nice story and introduce one wonderful man, a philanthropist, whom I met at the end of the previous month, when I was given a lovely opportunity to volunteer outside of our Foundation. I received an invitation to this camp only a day before the event, as the organizers themselves did not know if it would take place. So, without much knowledge of what the event was actually about, I brought my instrument and came with a couple of my friends the next day. What a surprise! The man who welcomed us and whose organization this originally was, was one of the most famous composers of classical music today - the British Nigel Osborne. I was visibly shocked to see him near Sarajevo, given that, although I move in those circles, I didn't know much of this man aside from his musical masterpieces.

Prior to this experience, if you had asked me who Nigel Osborne was, I would have said simply "an amazing composer!", But today, nevertheless, in my eyes, his work and virtues have far surpassed the question of occupation. Nigel is a good soul that you can recognize once you meet him. What is currently etched in my memory is how he talks about Bosnia and Herzegovina with love (no less and no more, than in our own language!). I will remember the stories of his volunteer friends, how in the war he brought food, medicine, and money through the Tunnel of Hope; at a time, as he himself says, "when one dollar distinguished life and death."

The fact that I did not read this in the media or hear from himself, but from the people who witnessed it, made it an even greater thing. Nigel says foreigners deceived him many times in BiH, but never the local people themselves, and that such virtues, honesty, kindness and humanity that he found here, even then tied him to this area forever. He is a true lover of our people, customs and traditions.

Nigel is a man who, without much media pomp, has been organizing a music volunteer camp for children and adults with special needs for years. This humane person has countless stories to tell, but his volunteer story began 25 years ago, in 1995, when he returned to BiH for the first time after the war. He came to Mostar, where he found a group of volunteers for children with special needs, and since that year he has been taking them on summer vacations to Brijuni, Croatia. Together with his volunteers who came with him from Great Britain, he composes, creates and presents music to the audience with the maximum engagement and interest of those children, now adults. As he could not take our Mostar citizens across the border this year due to epidemiological measures, for this year's camp he was given one of the stables in the vicinity of Sarajevo, in Kakrinj.



The camp lasted three days and we stayed among the beautiful nature. Together with other volunteers - musicians, we created music, entertained and motivated everyone around us to enjoy their feelings and talents. It is amazing how much talent is hidden in people with special needs; you just need to search for it by raising their self-confidence and motivation. By the end of the camp, we had created, written and recorded about fifteen songs that were later shown via the online platform Zoom, as a concert. The three-day get-together resulted in happy and smiling faces, new friendships, a mutual sense of satisfaction and fond memories.

Between our dynamic rehearsals, I had the opportunity to listen to Nigel talk about another interesting topic from personal experience, and that is the therapeutic effect of music on the traumatized people. This is something he did himself, fearing for his life, in wartime Sarajevo in the period between 1992 and 1995. Indeed, he inspired everyone present with his stories and knowledge, but mostly with his works. The thought that he was one of us flashed through my mind. By that, I meant the family I have at the Hastor Foundation and everything we do ourselves; what our values are, who our role models are and what we strive for. It is a great honor for me to have this person in my life, and I wanted to share my beautiful experience with you. Have you ever heard of the English term "volunesia"? It marks the moment when you forget that you're volunteering to change someone's life for the better because it starts to change yours. I hope that in the future I will have many similar opportunities to contribute to others and to enrich my knowledge - and profit in such a way.

Nejla Komar



**VOLUNTEERING
IN
LOCAL COMMUNITY**



"My Greatest Joy"

For days, the question revolved around me
What is in the minds of those
Who do not look forward to the first snow
Conversations about everything that has been silent for
a long time
Or at least welcoming the fleeing birds?

Maybe they just want to grow up,
Leave their childhood in photo albums
And write down the first joys on the backside
So that the reason can easily be deceived.

So what then lives in their hearts?
Maybe the teacher's voice as she explains how to write
in Cyrillic letters
And the weight of that step
With which they left behind themselves and everything
worth breathing for

Maybe they ran out of imagination
So they know how to stretch their lips
Just enough to smile at the salesman
Or the man who stops for them at the traffic light.

I am one of those who rejoice at the first thought of
something new
Those who find a smile for every occasion
And they find themselves only in the eyes of those alike.

September is my greatest joy
But I also have to embrace December
Even July which never warmed the heart
So that which holds my happiness can come

Because of the rains this autumn brings
I'm escorting a summer train down the tracks
Because the body has to get wet
If the heart is waiting for a rainbow.

Nedžma Latić



Vildana Halilić, Prnjavor

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