

NEWSLETTER



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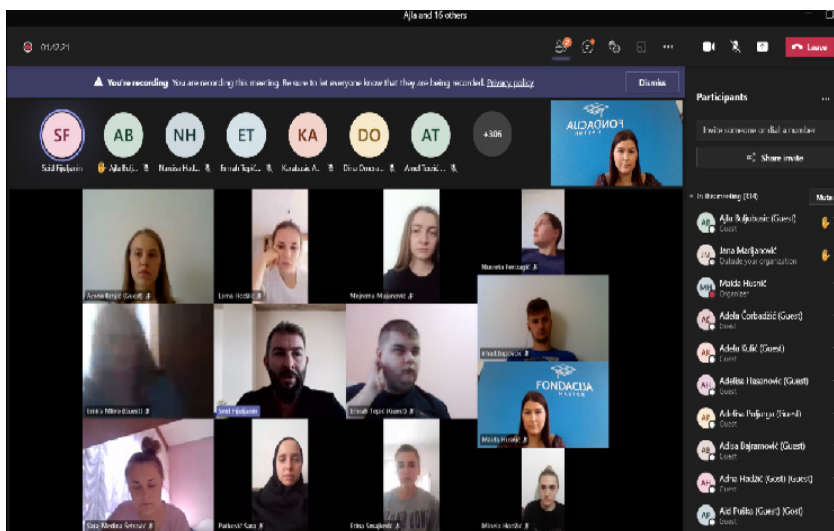
July 2021

NEWS

Monthly Scholarship Holder Meeting

Anxiety: how to overcome it?

The student scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation held an online meeting this month, on July 23, 2021, and they had a chance to hear about an important topic presented to them by our scholarship holder Said Kamenica. The topic is related to anxiety and how to overcome it. Today, everyone is, more or less, exposed to stress that can be directly connected to anxiety, which makes this topic important and significant.



2207 scholarship holders!

The Hastor Foundation's director, Seid Fijuljanin, started the monthly online meeting by speaking to student scholarship holders and reminding everyone about the Foundation's development from its foundation until today.

Starting with 304 scholarship holders in 2006, the Hastor Foundation has, until today, reached an impressive number of 2207 scholarship holders who benefit the local community and the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina with their volunteering activities. The Foundation's director pointed out that the number of scholarship holders will continue to grow and that we're really looking forward to new forces that will make our family proud and happy.

After the director's speech, this month's meeting continued with a lecture held by the scholarship holder Said Kamenica. In the beginning, Said asked the scholarship holders how familiar they are with the term anxiety. Since there were several psychology students among the scholarship holders at the meeting, we arrived at the term's definition shortly, along with their opinions on the topic. After that, we engaged in a quality discussion about the topic that we can, unfortunately, struggle with ourselves at any point in life. The beginning of school, exams, public performance, moving homes, are just some causes of stress among the youth, and it's really come to the spotlight during the pandemic. Said explained to us the various types of anxiety disorders in details, as well as the best ways to overcome them. Even though each individual is different and there is no universal cure to anxiety, our lecturer Said still managed to give us advice to decrease stress, such as spending time in nature, regular physical activity, meditation, self-reflection, and decreased caffeine usage. Scholarship holders talked about their experiences with stress during exams and the ways they deal with stress and trauma.

We finished the meeting with additional advice to fight anxiety and we gave nice virtual byes until our next student scholarship holder meeting. Time flies with student scholarships holders, and we're awaiting the next meeting with joy and impatience.

STUDENTS OF THE GENERATION



Amra Forić

Amra comes from Čelić, and she graduated from the Mixed High School Čelić, at the nurse department. She enrolled in the Department of Medical Laboratory Diagnostics at the University of Tuzla.

During high school, she tried to be involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible to work on her education and development. Besides her interest in medicine, she harbors special emotions for photography, and she realized that photography is something she wants to do in her spare time. Spontaneously, she became an amateur photographer who always steers towards photographing sincere emotion and helping people around her create the most beautiful memories. Last summer, she had a chance to participate in the photography competition with the topic "Life after coronavirus", and she won a second-place award.

My biggest success is the fact that I'm a Hastor Foundation scholar. I became a part of the Foundation a little less than three years ago, and I think that, with the help of the Foundation, I've become a better version of myself, and I have learned how to build my personality, how to help my environment, and how to make unfulfilled dreams come to reality. Volunteering at the Foundation helped me develop my social skills and educate myself on various topics. The Foundation was the one that gave me selfless support when I needed it the most, and, without doubt, it continues to do so until today. I'm proud to have helped realize several humanitarian interventions and brought joy to my fellow citizens.

To other scholarship holders, she said:

Go with confidence in the direction of your dreams and try to accomplish them. Also, there is a sentence very special to me, spoken by Meša Selimović, and I think it's noteworthy - "Slap me as hard as you can when I start to yammer about life and feel sorry about myself. Show me what I own with your finger, and show me the ones who don't have it. I don't ask for anything, just remind me that I breath and there are those who no longer breath."

STUDENTS OF THE GENERATION



Mahira Amidžić

Our Mahira Amidžić comes from Kakanj, and she's a graduate of the Secondary Mixed School "Zijah Dizdarević" Fojnica, where she became a nurse. Having wanted to continue doing this or a similar occupation, she enrolled in the Faculty of Dentistry in Sarajevo.

The dedicated work and effort brought her the title of the student of the generation in primary school, and now in high school as well.

I invested plenty of effort, there was renunciation and a large number of sleepless nights. Since Fojnica is not the place where I grew up, the time spent there during high school was very exciting. Deep inside, I have an explorer's spirit, and Fojnica, the ancient Bosnian treasury, gave me varied historical and geographical content to fulfill my free time during my four-year education. The Franciscan friary, the Atik Mosque, many viewpoints, and also the unforgettable Prokoško Lake are just some of the things to see in Fojnica.

While learning about the human body, health, and vitality, Mahira started doing fitness, and it became the main hobby she returns to, in her free time.

To other scholarship holders, she said:

I heard about the Hastor Foundation by accident, over the Internet, and now I'm a scholarship holder for the last four years. The gratitude I feel towards the Foundation and the people who are a part of it can't be described in words. My main message to all young people is to never give up! It might sound corny, but it's true. Find yourself a source of motivation, your go-trigger, and success is sure to follow. One day, when your effort is rewarded with the document you fought so hard for with a million sleepless nights, missing out on friends and everything, will fall into oblivion. Believe me and stay positive.

STUDENTS OF THE GENERATION



Aldijana Kovačević

The scholarship holder Aldijana Kovačević is from Travnik, but she grew up in Donji Vakuf where she also lives now. There, she finished primary school, and also the Secondary High School Donji Vakuf. From the next academic year, she will attend the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Sarajevo, at the Department of Chemistry.

Aldijana pointed out that in order to teach her to read, sports extracurricular activities were in a way that fills her free time:

Regarding free time that I was always able to find for myself, I gladly spent it reading. I was also a regular member of the volleyball club "As" in Donji Vakuf. However, when I stopped playing volleyball, I started with individual training in the gym. I also love athletics.

She added the following regarding the Foundation:

I found out about the Hastor Foundation from an acquaintance and I send my request to become a part of your story. I'm endlessly grateful for the support the Foundation gives to not just me, but all the scholarship holders. Through various volunteering activities within the Foundation, I made plenty of friends and had many nice experiences. I'm glad that there exists such a community in our country, where the progress of youth is what matters and which gives wind in the back and faith in a better tomorrow.



Sara Alihodžić

Sara Alihodžić is a graduate of the Mixed Secondary School in Sanski Most.

Her hobbies are drawing, painting and photography. Through her education, she participated in competitions in religious studies, art, chemistry, history, and the German language. She was also part of various sections such as the environmental, art, and volleyball sections. In her free time, she enjoys running and volleyball, and in addition, also likes to play the guitar and read books.

The Hastor Foundation provided great support to my education. I was motivated to become even better and more successful and to achieve all my goals. I like the volunteering program because scholarship holders can get to know each other and make friends. I am very grateful to the Hastor Foundation for the support and opportunities they provide me, and my message to the new scholarship holders is to strive to become the best version of themselves and achieve everything they want.

STUDENTS OF THE GENERATION



Edna Đuliman

Our scholarship holder Edna Đuliman was born in Bugojno, where, after graduating from the Technical High School in Bugojno, majoring in Electrical Engineering, Computing and Informatics, she enrolled at the Faculty of Information Technology in Mostar.

She states that she already knew what she wanted to do in primary school and that she had always had inclinations towards this profession. She has a love for geography, learning about other countries, their cultures, and foreign languages, and, in addition, she is engaged in painting and making traditional embroidery.

Painting is a big part of my life and it is something I find myself in the most. However, it takes a lot of time, but I hope that in the future, in addition to my university obligations, I will have time for that as well.

For the Hastor Foundation she added:

Great support in all this was the Hastor Foundation, of which I have been a part since the sixth grade of elementary school. The foundation was accidentally found by my sister and she helped me send the application paper. Soon, all the benefits brought by the Foundation were shown, mostly in terms of volunteering and creative projects that we created, and thus encouraged all scholarship students to socialize and exchange experiences. On behalf of all, current, past, and future scholarship holders, I would like to thank the Hastor Foundation for its selfless support. I believe that the Foundation represents one big turning point in the life of every scholarship holder, it opens the door to a better, safer, and more beautiful future. I am glad to be a part of this Foundation and to present it in a beautiful light.

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

The Hastor Foundation can boast of diligent, ambitious, and successful scholarship holders who achieve notable results in the field of education, science, sports, etc. The foundation consists of young people who contribute to its work, improving it with their knowledge and skills. It is precisely these values and commitment to volunteer engagement within the Hastor Foundation that give scholarship holders the title of Scholar of the Month from month to month. Read below about the scholarship holder who took the title this month!



Mersiha Dudić

She enjoys running and yoga recreationally, and in her free time, she also draws, photographs natural landscapes, and writes stories. For the previous three years, she was a mentor to a volunteer group of elementary and high school students in Srebrenica with two other Hastor Foundation scholarship holders.

Mersiha Dudić, currently a third-year student at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the Department of Geography, Tourism, and Environmental Protection, has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for 9 years. She comes from the small settlement of Osmaće. She finished primary school there and graduated from medical high school in Srebrenica.

She states that throughout her schooling she always tried to be an excellent student in order to make her parents proud. After graduating from high school, she passed the state exam for a graduate nurse in parallel with attending classes at the university. When choosing the faculty, Mersiha decided to turn to her other passion, geography, due to her great love for health tourism and balneology, ie the science of spas.

My love for balneology was born when I first heard stories about the healing spa "Guber" and its miraculous powers. I had no idea that a few years after that, I would become one of the people who was cured by the "Guber" spa.

During her high school education, she participated in numerous humanitarian actions (such as the distribution of meals from the National Kitchen to elderly and exhausted citizens) which she carried out during her stay at the International Solidarity Forum "Emmaus", ie the boarding accommodation complex in Potočari. She provided support to environmental sections, which were conducted in cooperation with the Hastor Foundation and other organizations from Srebrenica and around the world. She also participated in peace camps conducted as part of US government projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina with which she traveled to Croatia and met young people from the Balkans.

Mersiha points out:

Through the workshops that I hold in my volunteer group, I try to transfer as much knowledge as possible to the students in the shortest possible time. Given that I know what it's like to be in their place and how scared they are in trying to express their opinion, there's nothing in my meetings that is labeled as the wrong answer. I try to involve students in the conversation as much as possible, turning every serious topic into interesting content, so I try to use as many different sources as possible when preparing literature for meetings and, according to the level of my knowledge, I try to explain them to students.

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH



Mersiha seeks to substantiate each of the meetings with graphic attachments, videos, and photographs in association with the topic. She also notes that she does not force difficult terminology during the meeting, and if she does use it, she explains everything in the simplest words so that even the youngest scholarship holders can fully understand it.

The biggest success for me is when my students become mentors themselves and pass on everything we learn in meetings (about etiquette, water saving, first aid, etc.) to parents, friends, and everyone they know. One piece of information that particularly touched me, and which was passed on to me by the younger scholarship holders, is that, in addition to themselves, most of their parents listen to our online meetings. Therefore, I understand how important my role as a mentor is not only at our meeting but also beyond. That's why I try not to disappoint all those who believe in me. I realize how far the voice of that former girl who was afraid to introduce herself reaches today.

Mersiha described her feelings and gratitude to the Foundation:

For me, the Hastor Foundation represents my voice and my courage as a student, but also as a mentor to a group of high school and elementary school students from Srebrenica. When I say my voice, I refer to that girl who was not allowed to express her opinion, fearing condemnation, and who today, thanks to the Foundation, social engagement, and volunteering, speaks freely, and teaches with her modest level of knowledge. When I say courage, I mean all the bold endeavors I have done thanks to the support of the Foundation. The foundation has done a lot, not only for me but also for my family. They made my education easier and achieved my primary goal - to make my parents proud. What I value most when it comes to the Hastor Foundation is not the material one, but the spiritual aspect of belonging to one big family that provides us with the greatest support.

Mersiha plans to enroll in a master's degree in health tourism. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her dedicated work and want to express our pride for her being a part of our family. We congratulate her on her successes so far and wish her good luck in the future!

RAM – RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

RAM is, by its definition, the working memory of a computer. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the “working memory” refers to proactive and diligent young people who, by their deeds and actions, are the shining example of exemplary citizens that our country needs. Throughout this column, we will present active and young Hastor Foundation scholarship holders who, apart from their volunteering sessions, do phenomenal deeds and present their Foundation in the best light possible!

Aleksandra Đukić

Our scholarship holder Aleksandra Đukić from Bijeljina is currently a second-year student, studying journalism at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Tuzla. She is a scholarship holder since February this year and she is not hiding her pride and joy for being a part of this family.

She has practiced volleyball since primary school. Later, she decided to take a volleyball referee exam which she passed in 2016, after which she took in all the required duties for a referee. She became a republican volleyball referee in 2019. This job helped her achieve self-confidence and become sure in her own decisions even after making a mistake.

Even though Aleksandra was active in informal education before her university years, her choice of higher education and journalism showed how she will continue her story. From the very beginning of her university, she participated in various panel discussions, workshops, and seminars which were not only related to journalism but also for the inclusion of citizens in public questions, for the role of the youth in combating corruption, for human and female rights, and many other areas that are valuable for every healthy society.



I was always attracted to books and reading, and, even today, my love for books takes up a special place in my heart. Taking into consideration the fact that I always read books, writing was also a hobby of mine. My works and essays were read in front of my whole school and some of them even won awards in literary competitions.

She volunteered at a kindergarten located in Lopare a few times, after which she started to work at the editorial board of the Hastor Foundation. She exclaimed that she enjoyed working in the kindergarten because she likes working with children. However, volunteering in the editorial brings her even more joy since she does exactly what she studies at her university, following the path of her future career.

Volunteering in the editorial board presents a beautiful overture in my future profession and this act opens new doors into the world of journalism. As I already mentioned, I love to write, and writing for the board presents a certain type of emotional fulfillment because I enjoy writing every word.

RAM – RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

The activity of which I am the proudest is attending the program "Encouraging democratic values and active citizen activities among the youth", organized by the non-governmental organization "Humanity in Action." Encouraging democratic values and active citizen activities among the youth" is a ten-month program that aims to train young activists, teach them about democracy and human rights, encourage the use of critical thinking in sensitive topics, and build the art of communication, presentation and research.

Within the boundaries of this colorful program, she also attended lectures and practical workshops. Immediately after the lecture, they were given the assignment to find some important information based on the 'Law of freedom of information access', which Aleksandra completed successfully. After that, they attended debate workshops in Sarajevo, where our scholarship holder was announced as one of the best debaters.

From December last year to February this year, they conducted individual research and wrote the policy brief. The topic in question was hate speech and the lack of a Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina that regulates hate speech. The name of her topic was "Regulating hate speech in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The policy brief which Aleksandra wrote was sent to the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She believes that she caused a set of changes in the country that will make the situation better. Currently, in the boundaries of this project, she is also working on a project called "More Positive". This project aims to promote inter-human relations in crises like the pandemic, increase awareness about the importance of communication, spreading positive energy, and inspiring real-life stories. Currently, they are collecting stories on their Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter profiles named "More Positive", and after that, they will make a publication in which they will positively show the interconnectedness of people during the pandemic.



The youth needs to be active in society since that will help them build themselves as personalities that will have multiple perspectives and which will bring positive changes to society. Young people are the future of every country, and it is very important for them not to be passive observers, rather those who are actively participating in many societal issues. Social participation has many positive traits for all because sometimes one voice can echo so loudly that all others, for a moment, become mute.

To all scholarship holders, she exclaimed the following:

Be not afraid to go out of your comfort zone, because it is usually fear that blocks us from our path towards happiness. Be the best version of yourselves that motivates others and who will be a role model for all.



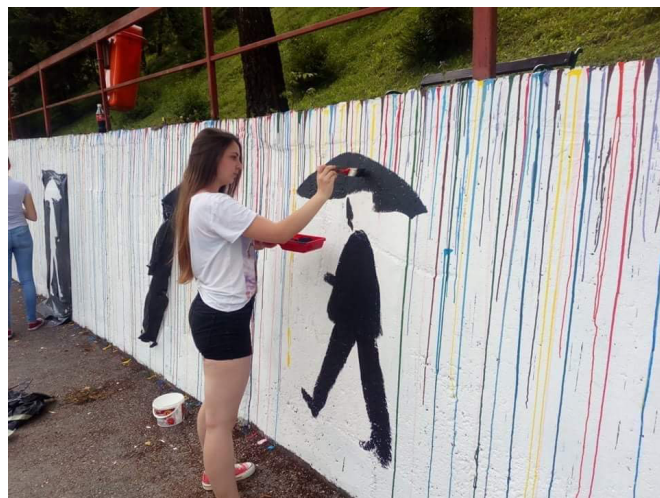
Aleksandra is the type of person who had a wide array of possibilities during her choice of career. However, she chose with her heart that which she will enjoy the most. The Hastor Foundation and volunteering in the editorial board only confirmed what she thought herself. She believes that it is very important to choose the university that you love so that your future career is enjoyable and loved.



THROUGH THE LENS



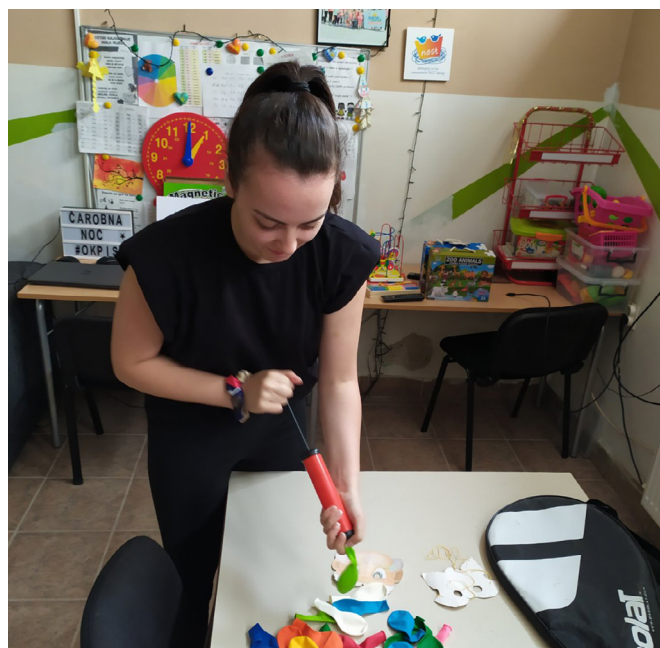
Anida Arnaut



Džejna Čizmo



Emrah Jamaković



Emela Pozder



Semina Bulić



Elma Karić

INTERESTING FACTS

Sarajevo Film Festival



The film is an art that changed the twentieth century. It is difficult to talk about its popularity today because this type of art has a special impact on the culture of individual people.

In Europe (in some countries such as France, Germany, the Netherlands, etc.) there are film festivals with red carpets that many famous actors tread on. One such festival is also held in our country, every year in August - Sarajevo Film Festival. It was first held in 1995, and only two years later it gained an international character with a special focus on the region of Southeast Europe (Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey). Thanks to this festival, films, talents, and future projects from the region are able to reach the center of attention of the international film public. Interestingly, the short film "SPIT" was shown at this Festival, in which Adela Petrović, a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, also participated. Within this festival, the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo award is given, and it is given in recognition of an exceptional contribution to film art.

When it comes to the competition program, prizes are awarded for feature and documentary films. Awards for the best director, actor, and actress are given as a part of the feature film category.

The competition program of the documentary film is marked with the Heart of Sarajevo award for the best documentary film. Also, the Human Rights Award and the Special Jury Award are awarded for this category. As a part of the competition program for short films, the Heart of Sarajevo is awarded for the best short film. Student films are included in the competition program, and the Heart of Sarajevo award is also given for the best one. The festival is also marked by other so-called partner awards, and they are:

EDN TALENT GRANT

- EDN Talent Grant was established through the cooperation of the Sarajevo Film Festival and the European Documentary Network in order to support talented documentary filmmakers from the region.

CICAE AWARD

- The International Confederation of Art Cinemas (CICAE) awards a film in the selection of the competition program - a feature film. The award-winning film will receive special support from CICAE when it comes to helping distribute and screen the film and reach audiences through a network of 3,000 cinemas.

CINEUROPA AWARD

- The award is given by the Cineuropa portal dedicated to European cinematography and its creators, to a film that, in addition to unquestionably possessing artistic qualities, also promotes the ideas of European dialogue and integration. The value of the prize is € 5,000.

This year the festival runs from the 13th to the 21st of August. If you like attending events like this visit SFF and see the celebrities on the red carpet, but also their awards.

See more about this festival on the official website www.sff.ba.

LET'S BE (MORE) COMPETITIVE!

In the 21st century, success during your education is not enough to make you attractive on an international level, level of study, or employment. It is not uncommon to see and hear that young people who have recently graduated or obtained a master's degree are unemployed, even though they sent in their biographies (Curriculum Vitae) for several job applications. Fewer and fewer young people know how to use the online resources that they have at their disposal (eg. using e-mail correctly). Educations, seminars, exchange programs are this section's goals, but it also strives to show how students on the international level work on their improvement.



How to get rid of insecurity?

In the modern world of the 21st century, where we can learn about events on the other side of our planet in just a few seconds, we as a society have never been more exposed to various influences that, consciously or unconsciously, set socially acceptable or unacceptable norms in all spheres of human life. On social networks, we see tens of thousands of photos and posts that directly and indirectly tell us how it is acceptable to behave, what clothes are in trend, what branch of study is the best, and what is the so-called perfection that we need to strive for. The pressures of the modern age greatly increase the feeling of insecurity among the younger generations and prevent them from being the best versions of themselves. Insecurity can cost you relationships with people or careers, but it can also make a nuance of difference that will earn the other candidate the job you have worked hard for. Self-confidence – just like any other characteristic that sets you apart from the crowd – is what will make you more competitive when applying for a job or some other important life opportunity. Below you can read some of the tips that can help you deal with your own insecurity and turn it into your most precious asset – self-confidence.

01

Understand what makes you insecure

Many people are not ready to face their fears and accept their insecurities, and, therefore, they avoid the most important factor that can help them feel better – understanding the cause of their insecurity. Some of the many questions you need to ask yourself are: When do I feel insecure? Why am I insecure? When did I start to feel insecure about...? Remember, any insecurity that openly prevents you from making progress has a clear and realistic reason that no one but yourself understands. If there is a logical cause, there is also a logical solution. Usually, the cause is related to some trauma from the past that you either didn't want to face or simply didn't face. Try to write down on paper the cause of your insecurity. Remember the most important thing – be honest with yourself. This is the only way to solve your problem of insecurity.

LET'S BE (MORE) COMPETITIVE!

02

Work on yourself and in the fields in which you excel

It is very important that, while working on insecurities, you also dedicate yourself to working on things that you love and that fulfill you. In fact, this is the best way to notice changes. Why? When we do things in which we are good (academic progress, competition, various hobbies – sports, acting, dancing, playing an instrument, etc.) we feel better and believe in ourselves more. Therefore, if you are aware that you feel insecure because of some reason known to you, the very fact that you are proving to yourself that you excel at something will make you feel better. You should definitely keep in mind that no one is perfect and that maybe it is your insecurity that sets you apart from the crowd and makes you different. You may feel insecure because, e.g., you don't know how to play volleyball, but on the other hand you are great at singing and you get praise at choir rehearsals. No one can excel in every field, but we can all accept that it's okay not to be the best at everything.

03

You are not alone in your insecurity

It doesn't matter whether they want to admit it or not, everyone feels insecure for the reasons that are familiar to those persons only. The thing that bothers you (your height or the fact that you feel uncomfortable knowing you are shorter than your colleagues and friends) probably bothers another person as well (e.g., a very tall person feels insecure because they think that their height makes them stick out from the crowd, so they would like to be exactly as tall as you are, i.e., to have the height which makes you feel insecure because they think their desired height would enable them to fit in, in the same way as you assume a few more centimeters would do for you). Height is not the only example that can be discussed. Another example would be the shape and color of one's hair or one's financial status. The sources of your insecurities are usually things that you do not want to admit to yourself, but you need to have the courage to do so for your own good. Social media do not represent the real image of life and the world, and it is completely okay if you don't look like a celebrity (a popular singer or actor/actress), because you should just be yourself! A celebrity may have the weight that you have always desired, but, just like you, that person also deals with insecurity. Whenever you feel insecure in your own skin, remember that a person standing next to you probably has insecurities of their own that they are trying to deal with in the same way as you do with your own insecurity.

04

Surround yourselves with people who make you feel good

Even though it seems like a random piece of advice, this is precisely one of the most important steps that will make a huge difference in your life, especially in terms of dealing with your insecurities. Sometimes, we are not (or do not want to be) aware of how much influence our environment has on us, our choices, and how we feel. It oftentimes happens that people who are very close to us show that they are jealous of us being better than them at certain things (Remember the previous step? Yes, such persons are insecure!). Those people indirectly ruin our self-confidence through their comments. Persons who do not support you on your quests, with whom you cannot talk openly, and who do not make you feel good, or better, after spending time with them, are the ones who do not need to be part of your lives. Even though social media contribute to the development of insecurities, people in our lives often do that as well. For this reason, choose wisely who your friends will be and whom you will let in your lives. A true friend or partner will always be a cure for your insecurities, and a person who will motivate you when you feel under the weather.

Samuel Johnson, a 19th-century English poet, said this about self-confidence: "Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings." So, work on yourselves and your insecurities, believe in yourselves and continue building your lives and doing magnificent things while being relieved of at least one insecurity by listening to our advice.

THE LETTER OF THE MONTH

Dear Foundation,

I can say with certainty and honesty that you are my second family and a part of my intellectual and imaginative life. I think words are not enough for me to express my gratitude to you, members of this beautiful community, as well as volunteers who tried their hardest to make us feel accepted, feel empathy, and to make our get-togethers cheerful and filled with various activities. This chapter which I spent as a member of a humane and successful family has made my life more beautiful and has helped me look at things in life through a wider scope. I made many new friends and got acquainted with different people and their ways of thinking. I have just finished my high-school education, so I have become eligible to become a medical nurse – technician. I spent a lot of time thinking about which way I should go to face new challenges in search of something that will lead us on long, thorny, but successful paths. I finally decided that I would finish my internship after high school, and officially become certified for the profession I settled for. Provided I had different wishes in terms of my future education, I didn't want to make any rash decisions; I decided to take a break from school and devote myself to my profession, and eventually continue walking down the path which I really like. In the end, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your selfless support, both financial and moral, because I understood that material possessions are not used to measure human value, but rather readiness to sacrifice and give something from yourself. I am really looking forward to the rest of the volunteering activities. Even though we are prevented from socializing in person due to the current epidemiological situation, I still feel that we have connected with our hearts and by exchanging personal opinions and life experiences. Many thanks for everything.

Sincerely,
Damira Križevac

POETIC CORNER

The River of Life

Ah, If I were a river, I could flow
I could defy my waterfalls
I could feed the earth and the ones
Who see their reflection in my whirls

I care neither about a rock nor a coast
I go wherever my being leads me
And when the rain falls and makes me blurry
I show my aspirations to it

I could flow from the well, and through cities
I could travel, feed, crystallize
I could make people look at my waterfalls
I could fill God's domain of beauty

I move, flow, and only I
Know where to go, where I belong
Was told to me by the Well from which I was born
And which tells me where to go, down the road

When I reach the heavens eventually
I won't be afraid of the rouge color that I'll see
For the color matches my being
So, I'll give everything which comes from me

Then will I become a raindrop
And my soul will submissively sigh
"That is a long way to go."

Fatima Gazić

Translated by: **Said Kamenica**



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