

NEWSLETTER

February 2022.



Nelson Mandela once said that education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. Hastor Foundation scholarship holders are an example that many young people in our homeland will use their knowledge and skills to make the world a better place to live in. As many as 26 Hastor Foundation scholarship holders were crowned with various awards at the end of the past academic year.

Students receiving special awards

Emira Mlivo

Another one in a series of successful scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation is our Emira Mlivo, who comes from Bugojno. Emira is studying integrated studies of pharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Health in Travnik and is currently in her fourth year of studies. In the previous academic year, Emira achieved an average of 10.0, based on which she received the "Dean's Award - student of the generation" recognition.



When it comes to the Hastor Foundation, it is enough to point out the fact that I have been a scholarship holder for eight years. Words cannot describe the feeling of satisfaction for belonging to such a huge community of people. For me, belonging to the Hastor Foundation is a special honor and pleasure because, above all, it provides me with a large number of new experiences, especially in the segment of volunteer work, and also provides me with financial aid. I consider being a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder a great advantage, and I can rightly confirm that the Foundation is my other family. Finally, I would like to point out that all scholarship holders are special and successful young people, students and pupils, and meeting such people is an irreplaceable and special segment of belonging to the Hastor Foundation!



Aleksa Piljak

Aleksa Piljak is an extraordinary student at the Faculty of Law at the University of Sarajevo. After completing the first cycle of studies, his grade point average was 9.86, which is why he was awarded a special recognition "Golden Badge" of the University of Sarajevo.

From the second year of study, when I became a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder, until the end of the first cycle of studies, the Hastor Foundation was an organization that selflessly provided me with every kind of support in achieving my goal. By awarding the scholarship at the end of the first year of study, the Foundation became the first institution and organization that recognized and valued my faculty success. This relationship continued for the next three years, ie until I graduated from the Faculty of Law and, finally, until I received the recognition of the "Golden Badge" of UNSA.

Ajdina Kadušić

Ajdina Kadušić is a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation who successfully completed the first cycle of studies at the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Sarajevo. Thanks to her hard work, she achieved a grade point average of 8,3 and, thus, as the best student of the Faculty of Forestry, she received the "Charter" of the University of Sarajevo.



The road to success is difficult, full of obstacles and sacrifices, but everything is easier when you are surrounded by people who are first and foremost your friends, then also your financial support. The Hastor Foundation is an organization that has been growing and advancing for many years together with young people who are encouraged to achieve their goals in various fields. It is a great honor for me to be part of the Hastor Foundation team. During the five years of being a member of our family, I have had the opportunity to meet wonderful people, enrich my study period with positive experiences and bring a lot of useful knowledge from our gatherings. Thanks to volunteering with students, monthly student meetings, and volunteering in the local community, I was able to improve interpersonal relationships and learn and develop my skills and abilities. For all the help, support, and love provided by the Hastor Foundation, we strive to "repay" by volunteering and spreading the same values in our volunteer groups and local communities to help and contribute to the development of our society, which we have certainly succeeded for many years.



Adna Salković

Adna Salković is a third-year student at SSST (Sarajevo School of Science and Technology), Department of Computer Science. Adna's grade point average in the previous academic year was 9,92, and because of that she was included in the Dean's list and was the winner of the award for outstanding success in the same year.

For me, the Foundation is another additional motivator and source of ideas. The people who make it up and their deeds leave you no choice but to be like that yourself. The constant support and network of the Hastor Foundation team is a daily source of energy for those who know how to use it. Also, they are always there to support the success of all scholarship holders.

Hanna Helać

Hanna Helać is a fourth-year student of integrated studies of pharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sarajevo. Hanna's average at the end of the third year was 9,27, so, thanks to that, she won the "Commendation of the Faculty of Pharmacy Council" for outstanding academic results in the academic year 2020/21.



Having become a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, I realized the importance of volunteering engagement and all the beauties that come with it. In the future, when I talk about my successes while studying, one of the items I will definitely mention will be becoming part of the Hastor Foundation family. For young people with dreams and ambitions, surrounding yourself with people who have similar thoughts is extremely important. I believe that the Hastor Foundation is a motivating and pleasant environment for the growth and development of young people. I am endlessly happy that the Foundation gives us the opportunity to mature through volunteering and socializing and, by helping the community, gain valuable experiences.

VLADAR FEDERACIJE BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE
GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Narcisa Hadžajlić

Last academic year, Narcisa Hadžajlić completed the first cycle of studies at the Department of Mathematics and Informatics at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zenica. With a total average of 9,83 during her studies, Narcissa was awarded the recognition of the Ministry of Education and Science for the best students from faculties in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2021.

For me, the Hastor Foundation is much more than a foundation that gave me a scholarship. It is a family, a refuge, a source of strength and motivation, a place where diligence, commitment, and empathy come together and create the most beautiful stories about humanity. The significance of the Foundation for me cannot be put into words. From the first day when I walked the hall of the Foundation and talked for the first time with our dear teacher Ramo, while I was getting to know the human wealth of the Foundation and made new friends, until the last day when I officially became a former scholarship holder, I knew that the Foundation would remain my second family forever. I should also mention the immense value of monthly meetings, volunteering with students, and the value of working within a social networking team for my personal and professional development. The Foundation was there with me and will remain as a hero in the book of my life.

Ajla Sadiković

Ajla Sadiković, a long-time scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation from Bugojno, completed the first cycle of studies at the Faculty of Law at the University of Sarajevo with an average grade of 9.1, which is why she won the "Silver Badge" at the University of Sarajevo.



I have been a member of the Hastor Foundation for 10 years and I am honored to be a part of this large and successful family, and I believe that no term other than family is enough to express the degree of connection and support we have in it every day. In addition to financial assistance and a series of friendships I gained through volunteer activities, I would especially like to highlight the motivation given to us by those who lead this family. They motivated us to work on ourselves day by day and achieve success so that we become those who will bring positive change to society. Every effort pays off, and the special charm of success is provided by the fact that there is someone who proudly stands by your successes and is very happy to promote them. The doors of the Hastor Foundation are open to all young and successful people, and one thing is for sure, they will forever be without competition in terms of success.



Aldijana Zukić

Aldijana Zukić is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Law, University of Mostar, where she continuously demonstrates her success. Our Aldijana has crowned every academic year so far with the "Dean's Award", which is given to the best students.

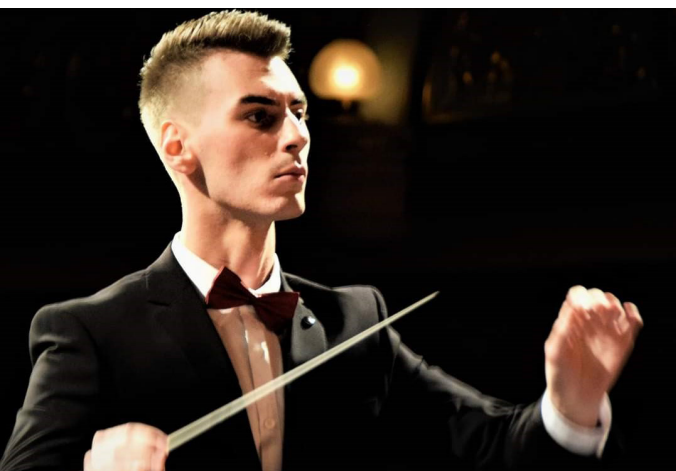
I have been a member of the Hastor Foundation for five years, which is a great honor and pleasure for me. Thanks to the Foundation, I met promising young people from all parts of our country and I managed to raise my organizational and volunteer skills to an enviable level. Monthly volunteer meetings are especially important for me because they enabled me to learn new things and gain experiences together with the children, and thus be a part of their growing up. It is a great honor to be a part of this great family that goes together through all of our successes, creates a positive story in our country, and gives us support in all segments of our lives.

Amra Pušina

Amra Pušina is a fifth-year integrated studies student at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sarajevo. Based on her high grade point average of 9.50, Amra is the fourth-time winner of the "Dean's Pride" award for the best achievement in her generation.



I have been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for the past year. I am happy to be a part of this great family that encourages young people and supports them to make their dreams come true. I am especially pleased with the mentor role and the chance to pass on knowledge and experience to younger generations who I try to motivate to learn and work hard to achieve their life goals, but also, above all, be good and honest people who some new incoming generations will be able to rely on.



Alek Isaković

Alek Isaković completed his second-cycle studies at the Music Academy of the University of Sarajevo at the Department of Conducting. At the end of his second-cycle studies, Alek's grade point average was 10.0, thus he won a special "Golden badge" award of the University of Sarajevo for the combined success in his first and second-cycle studies.

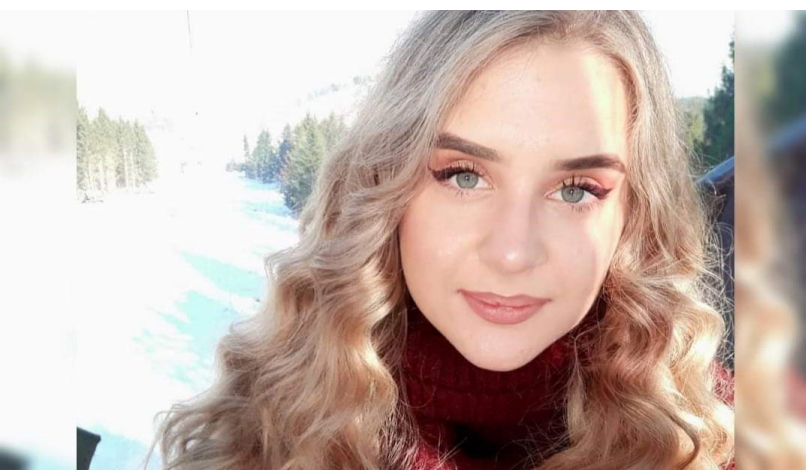
Although the Foundation has a large number of scholarship holders, they are all close as if it were a small collective or, even better, a family. From the director through the administration and colleagues from other teams, everyone is approachable and there is no principle of inviolability. On the contrary, absolutely everyone is always available and interested in new ideas, projects, advice, help, even if only a simple informal conversation is needed. This is what sets our Hastor Foundation apart from other foundations. Of course, I don't even have to talk about financial aid, it is certainly very important, but in the foreground are togetherness, accessibility, humanity, motivation, and desire for the success of all of us as well as daily tireless monitoring of progress and general condition of each scholarship holder individually. I can confirm with certainty that this does not exist in other foundations. For these reasons, I would want to be a student forever so that I can stay a part of this wonderful family. Of course, even when I am not formally a scholarship holder, I will certainly always be happy to respond and return to the activities and staff of the Foundation.

Lejla Đapo

Lejla Đapo is currently a first-cycle student at the SSST, Department of Computer Science. She is in her third year of studies and based on her success so far which is reflected in a grade point average of 9.8, she has won an award for outstanding success.



Being part of the Hastor Foundation family is a great honor for me. It is wonderful to be part of an environment that recognizes student success and further motivates them to give their best. The Hastor Foundation not only encourages formal education but also teaches us about personal development and the value of helping others.



Ajla Prnjavorac

Ajla Prnjavorac completed her first cycle of studies at the Music Academy, University of Sarajevo, at the Department of Wind Instruments and Accordion (clarinet). She received a special acknowledgment in the form of the "Silver badge" thanks to her high-grade average of 9.3.

Even though it is only my second year as a scholarship holder, I can confidently say that the Hastor Foundation has had a major role in my life, education, and success I achieved. Every person experienced a moment when they don't know how to move further in their life and we believe that there is no exit out of a certain situation. However, in every such moment, the Foundation stands behind us to clear our misconceptions, to motivate us, reward us, and most importantly, teach us how to be better people who think about others and create a better future for everyone. That is the place where we learn that we should not compete with each other. On the contrary, we achieve success when we stand next to each other, united against every evil because there will always exist a place for everyone where they will achieve their full potential and do good deeds. We learn that we must fundamentally change our negative opinions, offer a helping hand to everyone who needs it, and say a nice word because it can make someone's whole day, and even their whole life. If we understand that we are not alone and that each individual in an organization is as important as a piece of a large puzzle where even one missing piece can distort the entire image, then we can achieve extraordinary success and a part of a big change in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ena Bešo

Ena Bešo is a second-year graduate student of electrical engineering at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Computing and Electrical Engineering, University of Mostar. She is the winner of the "Dean's Award" for the previous academic year due to her outstanding grade point average of 5,0 (10,0).



Being the winner of the "Dean's Award" is in itself a reason for pride, but it is nice and motivating to see that there is someone who appreciates my results and rejoices with me in my successes. Apart from those close to me, this also includes the Hastor Foundation, to which I am sincerely grateful for the great support it provides me in various ways. It is truly an honor to have the Foundation by my side as I walk the path of knowledge.



Azra Porović

Azra Porović completed her first cycle of studies as one of the best students of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Sarajevo. Thanks to her average grade of 9,15, she received the "Silver badge" of the University of Sarajevo.

If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you. Only the opposite can happen, someone will recognize your effort and support your personal development. In my case, it was the Hastor Foundation. I knew that the Foundation values and recognizes the effort that the youth invest in education, but until last year, I never tried to become a part of this great family. Since the beginning, I perceive my scholarship holder status as an opportunity to share my knowledge with younger students to help them become more responsible and better members of society. Volunteering opens multiple paths, gives us new friendships, helps us develop organizational and presentation skills, and makes us contribute more to society. I can say that my badge is an acknowledgment of what The Foundation has recognized within me. I wish that more people become a part of this family and I believe that the right ones will be chosen – effort and work always pay off so don't give up!

Aiša Abdelaziz

Aiša Abdelaziz is currently a first-cycle student at the Faculty of Metallurgy and Materials Science in Zenica, Department of Chemical Engineering. Based on her achieved success and her grade point average of 8.90, she won the recognition of "Dean's Charter" for her second year of studies.



The Hastor Foundation, with the scholarship it provided me with, motivated me a lot to work on myself to be more successful in all fields. Through volunteering, I had the opportunity to learn and show others how much I have improved my knowledge and how much the Foundation has helped me in that. On this occasion, I would like to thank the Foundation for providing me with new life opportunities, new acquaintances, interactions, and socializing through monthly meetings and volunteering hours. My message to young people is that every effort ultimately pays off and rewards you.



Una Karabeg

Una Karabeg is a third-year student at SSST, Department of Economics and International Business. As one of the best students in the entire university, she received the "Annual certificate of exceptional academic achievements" for her average grade of 9.91 in 2020/2021.

As is the case with every Hastor Foundation scholarship holder, the financial assistance I received from them helped me immensely and for that, I am very grateful. Constantly having a chance to work on myself through various volunteering roles, while also developing my own, but also the competencies of other young people poses a challenge, but also gives great satisfaction. I am proud to be a part of a foundation that promotes academic achievements while giving a positive example to the coming generations whose stories will be written after ours.

Džana Vrabac

Džana Vrabac successfully graduated from her first-cycle studies at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo, Department of Social Work. According to the grade point average in her first-cycle studies, which was 9,85, Džana is the owner of the highest recognition of the University of Sarajevo – the "Golden Badge".



Certainly, the most beautiful thing that happened to me during my studies was that, in my second year of studies, I became a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation. The Foundation enabled me to acquire knowledge and skills that were useful to me during my studies and extracurricular activities. It was a great motivation for me during my studies and it enabled me to enroll in one more faculty. I am immensely grateful for the support they have given me all these years.



Ana Milijević

Ana Milijević completed her second-cycle studies with which she became a Master of Visual Arts. Thanks to her average grade of 9,9 during her studies, she received the "Golden badge" award from the University of Sarajevo.

The Hastor Foundation is a valuable meeting place for young minds where I had a chance to spend three years. That period was colored by our monthly meetings during which we encouraged each other with success stories. My true satisfaction was to be a part of great ideas that my colleagues presented, among whom I hopefully acquired some lifelong friendships. Along with our monthly meetings that left a lasting impression on me, the Foundation was the first place where I learned how to act in the business world. The collaboration with my colleagues produced a newsletter every month that proved as a decisive factor of my professional career path – graphics design. I can thank the Foundation for the fact that they helped me leave my comfort zone and realize the true vision of my future.

Alma Ćosić

Alma Ćosić is currently a third-year undergraduate student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the "Džemal Bijedić" University in Mostar. She is the winner of the "Dean's Award" for her second year of study based on the achieved grade point average of 8,60.



For me, the Hastor Foundation is much more than a scholarship. The Hastor Foundation is my second family that provides selfless support and love, both to me and every other scholarship holder. Through everything we do within the Foundation, we learn to be better versions of ourselves. They say that in the right environment we can achieve everything we imagine, and for me, the Foundation is the definition of that environment. When you have the opportunity to hear and read the stories of successful young people every month, it gives you enough motivation to be among those people and to inspire the younger generations tomorrow.



Belma Kapić

Belma Kapić is currently attending her second-cycle studies at the Faculty of Technical Engineering at the University of Bihać, Department of Textile Engineering. During her undergraduate studies, she achieved a total grade point average of 9,86. Thanks to her grade point average of 10,0 in the academic year 2020/2021, she won the award of the Federal Ministry of Education and Science for being the best student at the Faculty of Technical Engineering at the University of Bihać.

The Hastor Foundation has been supporting my formal education for many years through its scholarship. This type of financial and moral support enabled me to complete primary and secondary school, my undergraduate studies, and my current status as a graduate student. The years of scholarship have erased a sense of uncertainty and clarified my academic, career, and life goals.

Lejla Ajanović

Lejla Ajanović is a second-year student of second-cycle studies at the University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. She is a part of the Department of Machinery Production Engineering, Machinery Production, Automatization, and Robotics section. She received acclamation from the Dean for her outstanding results during the first year of her second-cycle studies with an average grade of 9.92.



I am a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder since February last year. For my success in the previous year, I have to thank the Foundation as well. To be a part of this great family is an honor for me and it gives me new motivation to work and perfect myself. I've learned many things, improved many skills, met new friends and acquaintances, and most importantly, I learned that work and effort always pay off.



Azra Smajić

Azra Smajić comes from Konjic and currently studies at the Faculty of Information Technologies in Mostar, at the first-cycle studies. Last year she received the "Dean award" for her average grade of 9.64.

I am a part of The Hastor Foundation since high school. Other than the fact that the Foundation gives me economic support during my education, they are also a great source of inspiration. The members of our great family, whom I've gotten to know during our meetings, taught me to always fight to be the best version of myself. I hope I will become that in the future.

Ajla Tubok

Ajla Tubok completed her studies at the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education at the University of Sarajevo. She currently attends second-cycle studies at that Faculty. Thanks to her high average grade of (9,02), she received the "Silver badge" of the University of Sarajevo.



I am a scholarship holder for a long string of years, and I can safely say one very important thing: the Foundation is my second family, power, motivation, desire, will, work and effort. I frequently think about how happy I am for having them as a family that took care of me all these years and gave me so much love and support throughout my education. I will always be grateful and I hope to justify their trust.



Amela Džidić

Amela Džidić completed the first cycle of physiotherapy studies at the Faculty of Health Studies, University of Sarajevo. During her first-cycle studies, Amela achieved a grade point average of 9,0 and won the "Silver badge" award at the University of Sarajevo.

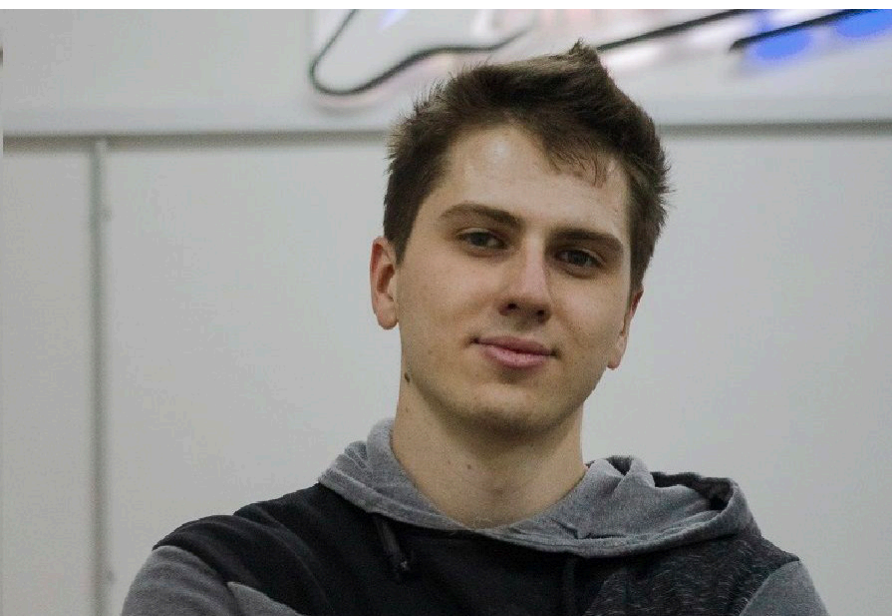
The Foundation is largely responsible for my success because if it were not for the Foundation, I would have not been able to study, and thus not achieve this success and be what I am today. Apart from the financial part, it also helped me build myself as a person and improve my social skills, work habits, meet students from many parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and make new friends. Dear Hastor Foundation, I can never thank you enough.

Amina Abaspahić

Amina Abaspahić is a student of second-cycle studies at the Faculty of Philosophy's Department of History, University of Sarajevo. She is the best student in the department and as such, she was awarded the "Silver badge" of the University of Sarajevo. Her average grade is 9.36.



Along with the financial aid that the Foundation provided, they also provided something more valuable – the possibility to volunteer through different aspects, space to act effectively, and rare-to-find chances for my further development that stimulates me to be the best at what I enjoy doing. Even though my entry into the Foundation was conditioned by my prior successes, the Foundation gave me additional stimulus that used to be the main driving force of my path to success.



Emir Bakunić

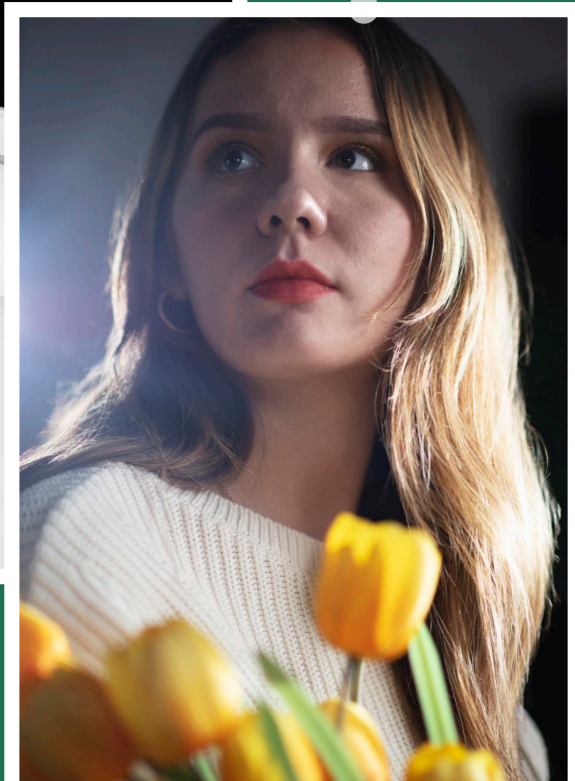
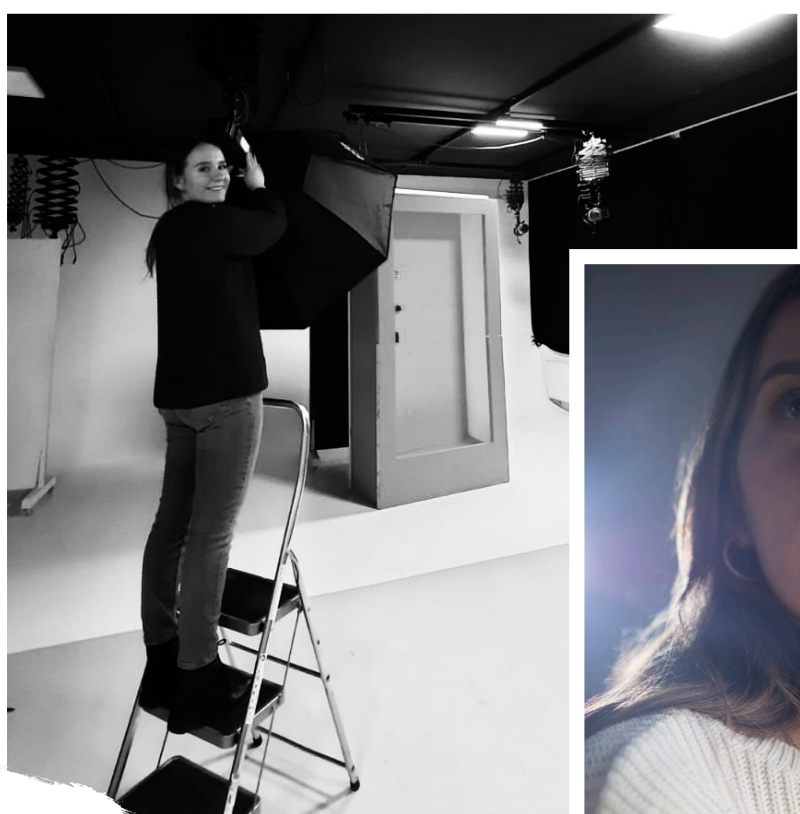
Emir Bakunić studies at the University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Vehicle Engineering. He is currently attending the second cycle of studies and he received the "Acclamation for outstanding academic success" from the Dean of the Faculty for his high average grade of 9.17.

The Hastor Foundation helped me a lot and was an inspiration for my effort that finally resulted in success. The Foundation acted like the wind that propelled me forward without which I could not have succeeded.

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

The Hastor Foundation can boast of diligent, ambitious, and successful scholarship holders who achieve notable results in the fields of education and science. The Foundation's team 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 the Scholarship Holder of the Month. Read below about the scholarship holder who won the title this month!

Edna Porča



This time, we bring you the story about Edna Porča, a young designer from Visoko. Edna is 20 years old and is a third-year student at the Department of Graphic Design and Multimedia at the International Burch University.

As a student of graphic design, she devotes much of her time to her works, especially the ones related to the photography, web-design, and art direction. Edna enjoys experimenting with her works and creative expression. This is precisely the reason for her choosing graphic design as a profession. Edna considers graphic design to be one of the ways for efficiently communicating important topics in the society. An example which supports this statement is her last project which dealt with the topic of violence against women.

Besides college-related commitments, I believe it is also very important to be an active community member and to use one's knowledge to help others. It is precisely due to this reason that I work on monthly projects which focus on young pupils and students.

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

One of the projects that Edna has started was a charity campaign for the members of the public facility "The Center for Children and Adults in Bosnia and Herzegovina", where she organized promotional materials and contacted different companies based in Visoko and Sarajevo with the aim of encouraging them to donate resources. Edna has been organizing this project for one year already. A result of this work is the fact that, at the end of the last year, she successfully collected gifts for over 30 children which contained basic hygiene products and necessities.

Edna plans projects in accordance with her skills; but, as we see, creativity surely is her virtue. She expanded her knowledge and experience through an exchange program in the US within the framework of the "YES" program. That was an occasion where she received an opportunity to expand her knowledge of the English language, but also to present her experience and ideas to others. A result of these learning activities was a club which Edna organized. Namely, that was an English-speaking club named "English to Youth"; on this occasion, she was having weekly meetings with four students from elementary and high school where they worked on improving grammar, enriching the vocabulary, and practicing speaking in English. Edna's activities didn't end there. In 2021, she started a book club named "Between the Lines", where she organizes meetings with eight club members once a month in order for them to talk about an author and a book which they previously read. This has given the members a possibility to broaden their horizons regarding various social circumstances we deal with. The activity encourages young people to read, helps them with forming and presenting ideas, and it also educates them about the basics of literature. Edna sees her free time as a chance to read, because, as she says, reading is her favorite activity.



All scholarship holders have different views about the Foundation, but all the views are within the scopes of praise and gratitude. Edna says this about the Foundation:

For me, the Hastor Foundation is a guide that directs and encourages me on my way to success. It provides me with the motivation that I need so that I could bring my profession to perfection; and it also gives me opportunities to develop both in the personal life and the professional aspect. One of the most important lessons which I have learned through volunteering activities at the Foundation and on the team for graphic design is about the importance of responsibility. When we take responsibility for our actions, we let our coworkers know that we will follow deadlines and have respect for them and their time.

We hope that Edna will once again make us happy with her graphic design which she prepares with her colleagues and we wish her the best of luck in all of her endeavors.

RAM – RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

RAM is, by definition, the working memory of a computer. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, "the working memory" are the proactive and hard-working young people who stand as an example of the people our country needs. This rubric is intended to introduce the active and young scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, who, besides volunteering activities, do other amazing things, and, by doing so, represent the Foundation in the best light possible!

Volunteering is part of almost every civilization's history, and, because of its immeasurable benefits, it deserves special attention; the attention which, if directed properly, can lead to the spreading of positive ideas and actions from the local level to the historical level, maybe even the level of civilization. Nowadays, volunteers play an important role in the progress of developed countries, developing countries, and within national or other programs for humanitarian aid, technical cooperation and the promotion of human rights, peace, and democracy. The pride and the basis of many non-governmental organizations, professional communities and similar organizations are precisely the people who voluntarily direct their work towards the activities which have as their goal achieving harmony in the community and the society in which those people live. One of those volunteers engaged in the local community is our scholarship holder, Nejla, whose story you can read below.



The scholarship holder Nejla Suljević comes from Brčko. She is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Dentistry and its clinics at the University of Sarajevo – where she currently lives, as well. This is her third year as a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, which is something that she is very proud of, especially because it was the University of Sarajevo that recommended her for receiving the scholarship on the grounds of her being one of the most successful students at the Faculty of Dentistry.

Nejla started writing the pages of her story of volunteering and activism as early as when she was in the elementary school, realizing then that an important part of development and education is to learn how to give and help. Some of the first organizations whose work she joined were: SEECEL – Southeast European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning, Red Cross, Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and PRONI Center for Youth Development.

One of her favorite projects that she oversaw lately was the one realized with the Youth Center "Vermont" in Brčko when charity campaigns for children who work and/or live on the street were organized.

Volunteering and working with children at the Daily center were surely some of my most notable activities. A need to open a center of this kind had existed for a long time, so that all children could have a safe place for studying, playing, and growing up. Spending time with children, teaching them how to read and write, was a great privilege and an indescribable pleasure.

By arriving in Sarajevo and by becoming a member of the Foundation, she continued doing most of her volunteer work in Sarajevo by giving private lessons. Still, out of the entire volunteer work, the activity that makes Nejla the proudest is related to her hometown located on the right bank of the Sava River.

RAM – RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I part-time joined the Foundation/Legata Ekmečić in Brčko; so, I would like to use this opportunity to share a few pieces of information regarding the work of this incredible institution. In Brčko in 2017, a rich exhibition of art legacy, paintings, drawings, graphics, statutes, publicist papers and scientific works was opened for the public, as well as a rich and valuable library of the Ekmečić family. Many individuals from this family, the Ekmečić brothers and the Morić cousins, left a notable trace on the culture and art of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region, and Europe; so, the role of this organization is highly important, because it represents a permanent reminder of the values and importance of culture, especially in Brčko, in the time when the importance of culture is marginalized.

At this Foundation, Nejla had a chance to assist in creating the first and unique souvenir of Brčko. That is the first artistic souvenir designed by the academic sculptor Sead Ekmečić in 1963. The souvenir was produced to mark the occasion of relocating "the Fountain of Youth – Gold Fish" to a new place. The souvenir is a replica of the fountain, completely identical to the original, produced with contemporary digital technologies, yet shaped manually.

Together with a few more volunteers from the Foundation/Legata Ekmečić, Nejla received a chance to learn from a professional art conservator and restorer who was doing the jobs of molding and producing the souvenir itself. The souvenir molding was done in a silicone kit, which was later manually refined and covered with bronze patina. After that, the souvenir was placed on a stand made from an autochthonous type of oak tree found around the Sava River which had been taken from unique forests of the pedunculate oak located around the Sava River, near Brčko.

It was a great privilege to watch and assist in such a big and important event for our city. For this reason, I believe that volunteer engagement will always be the most valuable in our own local community in which we live and work, because that is the way we can achieve the greatest effect. The community we live in is the one we know the best, which makes us aware of all the pros and cons which the life in it brings.



We can draw a conclusion from this example that our community is in a desperate need for the pillars of its identity. In the time when wrong values and vanity are being offered as the model of life, culture and art stand as universal values and strength which point to the right direction, light, importance, and identity.

When she talks about volunteering, Nejla relentlessly emphasizes its importance for the personal growth and development. She claims that volunteering helped her master the skills in all fields, starting from relieving herself from stage fright, over mastering her communication skills, all the way to building her self-confidence.

These occasions are even more valuable because of all of those experiences that we gather and friendships that we make; however, no matter what are our motives for volunteering at the beginning, I believe all of that is very quickly turned into solely enriching our CVs and working on ourselves. The real magic of volunteering and life in general is felt when we do something for someone who will never be able to repay us, and our only motive for that is empathy. At the end, she had this to say to scholarship holders: Things we do for ourselves die with us; things we do for others will remain and are immortal. Let us be proud members of the Hastor Foundation and do volunteer work!

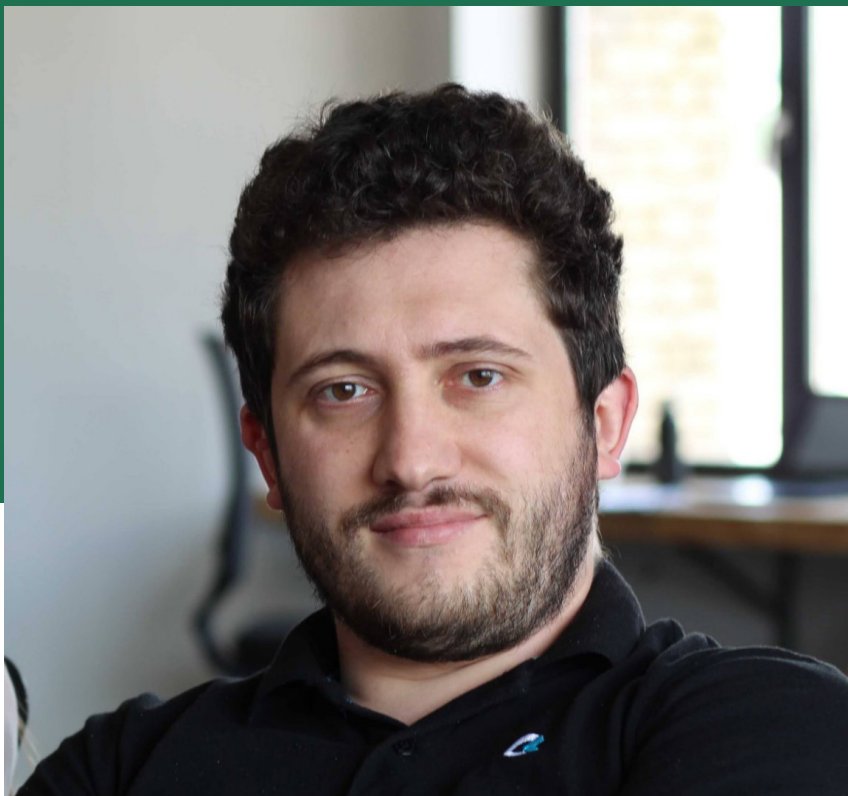
ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation remain part of this large family even after finishing school. Their successes delight donors, members and all those who consider themselves part of the work of the Hastor Foundation. With each project and progress, they are one step closer to realizing their dreams and achieving the success that the Hastor Foundation is undoubtedly proud of. One of our alumni helped our work immensely so we dedicate the text below to him.

Sanel Delić's story begins in Bugojno, where he graduated from the Technical High School, majoring as a construction technician. He became a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation at the beginning of the second grade of high school, in 2008, and he maintained that status until the end of his studies, in 2016. After graduating from high school, Sanel enrolled in the Department of architecture at Burch International University where he received a bachelor's and a master's degree. During the second cycle of studies, he became an employee of Walter BIM Solutions, which in the meantime grew into a group and split into two companies, so that Sanel is now part of Walter Code. The status of a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder helped him a lot during this period, partly because of the scholarship, but above all because of the acquired skills and habits during volunteering and work in the administration. The skills and work habits he acquired during that period helped him during his studies, while looking for a job, but also now while he is working.

Although Sanel officially stopped being a scholarship holder of the Foundation 5 years ago, he is still involved in the work of the Foundation because during his studies he learned to program independently, both out of curiosity and out of necessity, and created a web application currently used by scholarship students to record volunteer hours. What he is especially proud of is the fact that over 12 thousand reports have been sent through the application and over 200 thousand volunteer hours have been recorded.

Sanel Delić



I would like to advise current scholarship holders to be proactive and as much as possible involved in various projects and activities inside and outside the Foundation, not to wait for opportunities but to create them themselves. Volunteering and active participation in activities, both in the Foundation and in local communities, is almost as important as education. Through these activities, additional opportunities and possibilities open up for us and we make new friends and acquaintances.

It is nice to see that Sanel's commitment to the Hastor Foundation did not end once the financial aid stopped but continues to this day as a sincere friendship. Our scholarship holders have wonderful examples that will be their role models once they become part of the alumni.

INTERESTING FACTS

World's most famous religions

Religion occupies an extremely important place in the history of human civilization. It is believed that the first form of religion originated when our primitive ancestors could not explain natural phenomena such as drought, rain, thunder, so they attributed them to higher beings. Today, religion also occupies a significant place in our societies and, as evidenced by numerous world studies, there are about 4,200 religions, churches, religious groups and cultures.

Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity are some of the largest religions in the world and read about some of the lesser known in our area below.

Sikhism

It is a religion that originated in northwestern India in the 15th century and is based on the teachings of Guru Nanak and his 10 followers. Nanak taught that God is one, and he called God Sat Nam (true name), however, Nanak retained the belief in reincarnation and karma (which is practiced in Buddhism and Hinduism). Those who practice this religion are called Sikh people, and the name derives from the word Sikh which means "one who seeks the truth", and Sikhism is based on true life. Sikhism is practiced by about 25 million people worldwide.

Cao Dai (Dadoism)

This hybrid belief system originates from Vietnam, on whose soil it was founded in 1926, and is described as a true national Vietnamese religion. The belief was founded by Ngo Van Chieu, a former administrator who believed he had received a supernatural message from a deity during one session. Cao Dai relies on the ethical precepts of Confucianism, various Taoist practices, theories of karma and reincarnation from Buddhism, and a hierarchical structure from Roman Catholicism. This religion today has over 4 million followers who pay great attention to universal concepts such as justice, love, peace and tolerance.

Taoism

Taoism originated in China about 2,000 years ago, and the first philosopher of this religion was Lao Tzu, who is believed to have written the main text of this religion called the "Dao Daing" (Tao te ching). After the publication of this book, Taoism soon began to spread to Japan and other surrounding countries, where it woven into many aspects of life there such as art, literature, medicine and even politics. There are about 12 million followers of this religion, and it is characterized by a diet based on all-day fasting based on veganism. Nutrition is extremely important in Taoism because it is believed to contribute to a person's psychological well-being.

Munism

Munism is a religion also known as Sinism, Shingyo, or Korean shamanism, and is closely associated with traditional Korean culture and history. The key characteristics of this religion are the belief in the existence of spirits, souls and gods as well as the belief that they inhabit the spiritual world. The spiritual leaders of Munism, known as the "Mundazni", are usually women who act as intermediaries between gods and men. Worldwide, this religion has about 10 million followers.

THROUGH THE LENS



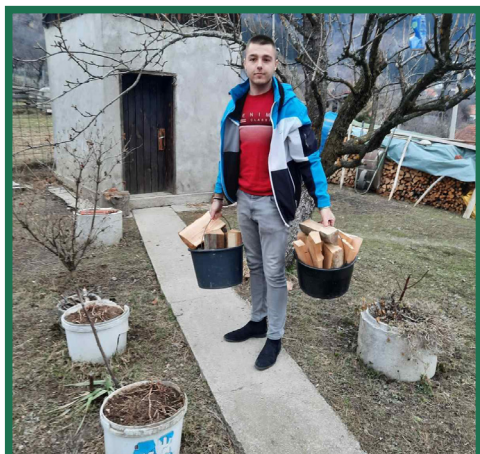
Anisa Selimić



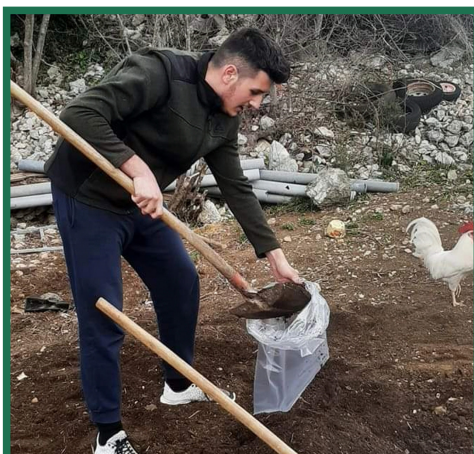
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Emina Kulenović



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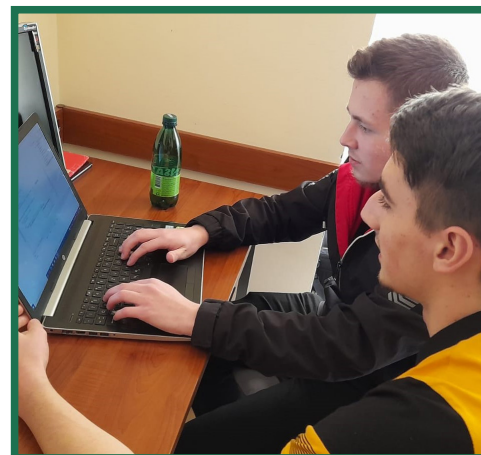
Vahid Idrizović



Smail Hopovac



Šemsa Avdić



Harun Hodžo

LITERARY WORK OF THE MONTH

INCLUSION IS NOT AN ILLUSION

Inclusion must not be an illusion. It doesn't take much to put it into practice – it's enough to start with ourselves and our prejudices. Can't we be tolerant enough to treat everyone the same way? Why do we have to "judge a book by its cover"?

We need to know that the value of something cannot be recognized only by what we see on the surface. Every child, everyone with a disability, every person different from others in any way, should be able to find their place within the society in accordance with their needs.

Should someone be ashamed if they have a disease that is not their fault? I am still a child, but I know that one should be ashamed only of theft, lies and cheating, and not of one's appearance or any shortcomings. We need to take a hard look into the mirror if we are insulting, swearing, belittling, or behaving badly towards someone, these are distorted values that need to be corrected.

Why would anyone among us feel bad or rejected if they have some developmental difficulties? Why would we distance ourselves from these people? Isn't, after all, the life of each of us full of various difficulties of any form? Some have difficulty solving math problems, some have difficulty writing their paper assignments, someone who has just passed their driving test might have trouble parking their car... It is known that this is perfectly fine and we accept it as normal. Then why is it wrong when someone has developmental difficulties, why can't our society accept him? Why in our society do children with disabilities not have the same opportunities and chances to develop their potential as other children?

The biggest obstacles to the inclusion of these people in society and the community are lack of information, prejudice, and preconceived negative opinions about someone based on one characteristic they possess, but we are not all the same. That is why inclusion is not an illusion. Many of us know that, for example, attending regular classes for children with disabilities at school is also good for children without disabilities because it teaches them social skills, tolerance and respect for diversity. Any association with people with disabilities makes us a better person, we learn to be patient, to share, to be more sensitive and considerate. Isn't it better to be patient and careful than impudent, rude and cruel?

Because of all that, I really think, and constantly repeat, that inclusion is not an illusion. The task of all of us is to get involved and help as much as possible in the fight against prejudice, to help develop tolerance and to fight against all forms of discrimination.

Here is a simple start: every time we pass a car parked in a place reserved for people with disabilities, even though we are young, we need to bring people's attention to that. Every time someone stops their vehicle with the front wheels on the sidewalk and the rear on the street, saying that they need to run to the store or the bakery for just two minutes, we need to warn them and point out that someone in a wheelchair won't be able to cross the path. We need to warn people not to do this, even if they're our own parents. We may think that it is impossible to solve the big problem of inclusion with such small things. However, such reactions may not reach every driver, but there are certainly those who would stop and think about what told them.

POETIC CORNER

Home

Standing. Waiting for the bus.
There's almost the whole world around me
And I don't know any faces.
God, where am I wandering?

Winter is very late here
There is no cold
Only the wind blows slightly
And applies raindrops
And I'm cold
Because of my trembling soul.

I know
After this ride, I'll go into my apartment,
Put my head on a pillow soaked by just my tears
And turn on the light.
And it will be dark again.

Walls and windows
And this colourful picture on the wall
Will never hug my body
Nor will their head on my shoulder.

I need walls that remember my father's words
And the windows from which my sister sees me off to college.
It's a speck of happiness when you get fed up with every house
That's not called home.
And not one is called home
Unless each corner smells like mother.

When I'm far away
No beauty is beautiful enough
And no pain hurts as much
And everything is pale, colourless
Except the memory of home
And my parents.

And if you ask what home is
It's not the walls,
Not the windows.
It's the heartbeats
And favourite hugs.

Nedžma Latić

Translated by: Amelina Čejvan