

NEWSLETTER

March 2023



FONDACIJA
HASTOR



News

Contracts signed with 30 new scholarship students of the Hastor Foundation

The Hastor Foundation opens its doors to new hopes of Bosnian society every year. Based on the rules and criteria of the Hastor Foundation, a competition was announced for the award of scholarships to full-time students enrolled for the first time in the academic year 2022/2023. Students who are eligible to apply are full-time students enrolled in accredited higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Like in previous years, a large number of applications were received by the Foundation, making it difficult to select a specific number of scholarship holders. It is of great satisfaction to see that the interest of students in the Hastor Foundation scholarship is growing every year. This number is the best testimony that for almost 17 years, the Hastor Foundation has successfully grown into a community that gathers young people who are willing to be useful members of society.

Based on the rules and criteria, the Commission for the Selection of Scholarship Holders selected those who demonstrated readiness to become part of the Hastor Foundation family and who will have the opportunity to work on their own, as well as on the development and improvement of their local communities.

At the end of February and the beginning of March of this year, meetings were held and contracts were signed with a total of **30 new scholarship students**. The Director of the Hastor Foundation, Mrs. Lejla Donlagić introduced the new members to the values and mission of the Foundation, the benefits they receive when they become a part of it, and their future volunteer engagement through which they will have the opportunity to improve their skills, and at the same time contribute to their community. They were informed of the purpose, value, and significance of volunteer work in the Hastor Foundation, which is also one of its most important components.



It should also be emphasized that by increasing the number of scholarship holders every year, the Hastor Foundation not only supports individuals but also the whole community. Namely, the volunteer activities of scholarship holders, in addition to contributing to the scholarship holders in many segments, are significantly aimed at social progress. By increasing the number of young people that the Foundation supports, the number of volunteer hours also increases, and thus the number of steps taken towards improvement. Although scholarship holders work to improve the community, their individual values are never neglected. Each of them is given the opportunity to show their talents and skills, but also their willingness to work in their community.

At the end of the day, the most important thing is that the idea of good is constantly spreading among young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Each scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation has a role in building the unity that prevails in the Foundation. These words are a kind of congratulations to all new scholarship holders who are slowly becoming part of the Hastor Foundation community. We hope that through volunteer work, they will become close to the values that the Foundation nurtures and ready to preserve its ideas even after they stop being scholarship holders.

Prepared by: *Hana Hajrić*

Translated by: *Ajla Hadžimuratović*



Introducing new scholarship holders

The Hastor Foundation always enthusiastically introduces new scholarship holders, thus expanding its circle of support for young people who want to work on themselves and improve their community. We believe that ambitious young people who became scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation this year will make a significant contribution to achieving philanthropic goals. **We are proud that the Hastor Foundation is able to support talented and motivated individuals**, helping them on their academic and life journey. Below, we present the first group of our new scholarship holders.



The Hastor Foundation represents a treasure trove of talents from various fields, and its treasury from the field of musical art has been enriched by one of our new scholarship holders - **Iva Lazić**! Iva is originally from Tuzla, and currently resides in Sarajevo, where she is attending the third year of the Music Academy at the Department of Piano, Percussion, Harp and Related Instruments, majoring in Piano. About how she found out about the Hastor Foundation and decided to apply, Iva says:

I found out about the Hastor Foundation thanks to my friends. Guided by the saying that good returns good, I already enjoy volunteering with younger scholars, I try to support them through various activities and I look forward to new challenges that, I believe, will significantly affect my development!

Iva Lazić



Tea Gluvačević, another new scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, comes from Kiseljak and is 21 years old. She is a student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo. Studying product design creative work, research, learning new skills, and practical work are just some of the activities that bring her joy. She learned about the Hastor Foundation's scholarship competition through her friends and decided to apply. When asked about her thoughts on the Hastor Foundation and her expectations as a scholarship holder, Tea responded:

I consider it a great honor to be part of such a story, and I believe that this community will have a significant impact on my professional and personal development. I look forward to everything that awaits us in the future.

Tea Gluvačević



Sedina Hodžić is 21 years old and was born in Tuzla. She graduated from the Civil-Geodetic High School in Tuzla, and continues her academic education at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Tuzla, at the Department of Primary Education, as a third year student. She learned about the Hastor Foundation through friends, and when asked about how she likes to spend her free time and where she sees the Hastor Foundation in her life, Sedina says:

My free time is usually related to my chosen profession. Although I'm not a sporty type, I ride a bike very often. I enjoy sharing time, space, thoughts and emotions with children, which, I believe, will significantly and positively affect my communication with children within my mentoring group. I am happy for the experience that awaits me considering that I will have the opportunity to apply my knowledge and improve it with new experience, and therefore I have no doubt that becoming a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation is an exceptional privilege.

Sedina Hodžić



A new gem in our treasury is twenty-two-year-old **Iman Pojskić**! Iman comes from Zenica, but currently lives in Sarajevo and is a third-year student at the Faculty of Medicine. One special activity that Iman highlights is her volunteering during summer vacation in Slovenia! Iman learned about the Foundation through social media and has been actively following our community's work and activities for two years! The reasons for applying are numerous, but Iman especially highlights the following:

I liked that the Hastor Foundation encourages young people to volunteer and contribute to the development of their community through their work. In this way, in addition to financial support, the Foundation provides young people with the opportunity to improve themselves, make new acquaintances, and make changes in their environment. Moreover, I appreciate that the Foundation provides continuous support to its scholarship holders, thus having a significant impact on their lives.

Iman Pojskić





Adnan Kevrić comes from Visoko and is currently studying at the International Burch University at the Department of Graphic Design and Multimedia. Since the age of seven, he has been in love with sports, specifically basketball, which, as he says, brought him many friendships, including the person through whom he learned about graphic design, and because of this, he considers her a very important factor in his upbringing.

Adnan, as he points out, learned about the Hastor Foundation from his college colleagues who inspired him to apply for the scholarship:

I learned about the Hastor Foundation at the university from other colleagues who encouraged me to apply for a scholarship by sharing my positive experiences and highlighting how this community had an impact on them. I am happy that now I myself got the opportunity to gain really valuable and useful experiences within the Hastor Foundation.

Adnan Kevrić



Tuzla is a rich treasury of talents and young role models! One positive example is our new scholarship holder **Maja Ibrčić**! Maja graduated from the Language High School and is currently a third-year student of Political Science, with a focus on International Relations and Diplomacy at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tuzla. In her free time, Maja likes to engage in ecological activism and is a member of the Center for Ecology and Energy. In this organization, Maja and other members have the opportunity for various forms of education, participation in various workshops, as well as engagement in all segments of society. These activities have been part of her life for several years. Also, Maja is a member of the Youth Advocacy Committee „Proi“. She revealed to us how these organizations influence the life of a young person and where she sees the Hastor Foundation in all of this:

Through numerous education and engagement in the local community, I have developed leadership skills, improved my communication skills, and public advocacy for social and other changes. I see the Hastor Foundation as an opportunity to improve and elevate all of my previous experiences to a higher level.

Maja likes to spend her free time in nature, writing, reading, and traveling.

Maja Ibrčić





Iman Hasanović was born in Sarajevo and is currently a second-year student at the International University in Sarajevo, Department of Psychology. Iman is a student who has numerous academic and volunteer successes. Her volunteer experience is marked by over 500 hours of volunteer work, resulting in numerous awards for her efforts and work. Iman also trains in rhythmic gymnastics, which has also brought her numerous awards and successes.

When asked how volunteering has influenced her, Iman replied:

My previous academic, sports, and volunteer experience has built me as a person. I have gained various knowledge and skills and improved my precision. I consider myself a communicative, ambitious, and dedicated person who is ready to work in a group and collaborate.

Iman highlights the following about the Hastor Foundation:

In the Hastor Foundation, I recognized the ideals and values that I share and the opportunity to raise awareness through volunteer or mentoring engagement on how each of us can be active members of our local communities and how we can contribute to others with our knowledge and skills. Being a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder is a kind of reward for everything I have done so far and an incentive to continue doing so in the future, which is to be a prospective self-aware individual who will share her knowledge and skills with others, motivating them to change.

Iman Hasanović



Layla Jusko is also a new scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation. She was born and lives in Sarajevo. Currently, she is a third-year student of Political Science and International Relations at the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology. She chose this faculty to have the opportunity to work in the field of public policy, specifically public health and climate change. In her free time, she is dedicated to activism and working on creating policies and initiatives that are essential for improving the environment and the health of young people, as well as all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. When asked about her view of the role of the Hastor Foundation in her life, she responded as follows:

I see the Hastor Foundation as my safe place where I work with young people who share a love and dedication to learning, both formal and informal. Thanks to my friends, who developed within the Foundation, I decided to apply and become part of this diverse family that participates in the building and development of its scholarship holders.

Layla Jusko





Aldina Šaljić comes from Sjenica, but lives and studies in Sarajevo. She is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sarajevo at the Department of Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian Languages and the Department of Literature of the Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I didn't even know that I had this much love for language and literature, although more for language, until I enrolled in this department. This turned out to be the best calling and choice for me. When I just think that I will pass on the knowledge that I so carefully collect from professors to others, my happiness is endless.

When it comes to the Hastor Foundation, Aldina points out that she was most attracted by the fact that the Hastor Foundation, in addition to financial resources, also offers young people the opportunity to volunteer and contribute to their local communities in various ways. She points out that the Hastor Foundation focuses on the local community, which is very important for individual and group development.

The foundation has enabled me to contribute to society in many ways, but my favorite contribution is to young people, in the way of contributing to their knowledge. I really enjoy imparting knowledge, and the Foundation made it possible for me to do so through volunteering with younger scholarship holders, and therefore I feel privileged.

Aldina Šaljić



Lejla Brešić is a scholarship holder from Visoko, she is a third-year student at the International Burch University at the Department of Information Technologies. She is a lover of technology and, as she states, she has always been intrigued by the way simple and complex systems work. Interest in this field arose in early childhood, and Lejla is impressed by how technology changes and improves the world.

About how she sees the Hastor Foundation and its role in society, Lejla says:

Each scholarship holder gets the opportunity to volunteer in their community and thus strives to contribute to their environment; has the opportunity to brighten someone's day, help someone, transfer knowledge, but also learn something new. I am proud to have become a scholarship holder of this great family and to have the opportunity to work and socialize with a large number of young and inspiring people.

Lejla Brešić





Emira Imamović comes from Miričina near Gračanica and is a second-year student at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Sarajevo. As Emira states, out of a sincere love for dentistry, she entered the Faculty of Dentistry with the aim of becoming an expert in her field and bringing joy and smiles to people in Bosnia and Herzegovina with her knowledge and skills. Emira is a lover of literature, she devotes herself to reading and writing, and pays special attention to poetry as a way to fill her free time. Emira states the following about how she found out about the Hastor Foundation:

I learned about the Foundation from a former scholarship holder, he had positive experiences and nice stories, that motivated me to apply and join this great community. As a young and ambitious person, it is my privilege to be a scholarship holder of the successful Hastor Foundation. I am eager for knowledge and improvement in many segments of life, and I believe that the Hastor Foundation will facilitate my path to my ultimate goal and provide numerous opportunities for progress.

Emira Imamović



Lejla Ferić comes from Zenica and is a third-year student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zenica, Department of Cultural Studies. As she states, she chose this major because of its multidisciplinary and the wide range of subjects covered. Lejla is a versatile and curious person who seeks constant mental stimulation and believes that this department is ideal for people who share similar worldviews with her.

I decided to apply for a scholarship from the Hastor Foundation primarily because of the new experience and expansion of acquaintances, but also because of the financial assistance that the Foundation offers during my studies. I am grateful to the Hastor Foundation for choosing me and I must point out that the scholarship really means a lot to me. The opportunities offered by the Foundation mean just as much to me because they help me gain new experience and build work habits. Through the Hastor Foundation, I can help younger generations and do good deeds for young people and for my local community.

Lejla Ferić





Hana Kazić comes from Velika Kladuša and is a second-year student at the International Burch University at the Department of Graphic Design. Hana's interest in art led to the development of her hobby of drawing, where she focuses on realism, but at the same time does not neglect art that focuses on abstract concepts.

I found out about the Hastor Foundation when our professor Azur Avdić forwarded the information that the Hastor Foundation had announced a competition

for scholarships and suggested that we apply. I decided to apply because the Foundation offers numerous opportunities, not only to get a scholarship, but also to stand out in society with our work, effort and volunteering. Also, it allows me to help my family and become independent as soon as possible. I feel very honored to have become a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, it means a lot to me that they will support me in my further work. The Hastor Foundation also inspires me significantly to contribute to the community.

Hana Kazić



Amina Sabljica comes from Sarajevo and is a third-year student at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sarajevo. As Amina states, for her, medicine is a combination of love, empathy and science that pushes the boundaries. She points out that it is one of the most extensive fields that is constantly developing and is an excellent calling for people who like to learn, do research and are inclined to help people.

I am very happy to have become a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation. Why? The Hastor Foundation connects gifted students in a large network of ambitious people and makes us a family. I expanded my acquaintances, and every day we learn how to support and motivate each other. I want to develop the best version of myself, and with the support of the Hastor Foundation, I am sure that I will succeed.

Amina Sabljica



Anđela Barukčić comes from Odžak and is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tuzla, Department of Psychology. As Anđela states, her choice of this study comes from the desire for a deeper understanding of others, as well as herself, with the desire to help others in difficult life situations. As an expression of her own emotions, she enjoys writing in her spare time.

I found out about the Hastor Foundation through a colleague who showed me the Foundation in a very nice way. I decided to apply because the Foundation offers something that many others do not – support, the possibility of personal growth and development, and the possibility of giving back to your community and helping others. Being part of the Foundation means receiving support not only through education, but also throughout life.

Anđela Barukčić

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Translated by: *Fadil Merdić and Ajla Hadžimuratović*



SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH



Sara-Farah Materne

The Hastor Foundation can boast of hard-working, ambitious and successful scholarship holders who achieve notable results in the fields of education and science. The Foundation's team consists of young volunteers who contribute to its work by improving it with their knowledge and skills. It is precisely such values and dedication to volunteer engagement within the Hastor Foundation that earn scholarship holders the title of Scholarship Holder of the Month, month after month. Read below about **Sara-Farah Materne**, the scholarship holder who took home the title this month.



The writer André Gide says that **„a man cannot discover new oceans until he has the courage to lose sight of the coast“**. Many people today do not have the courage to embark on some new adventures that can bring them many benefits and positive and unrepeatable life experiences. The story of our scholarship holder of the month, Sara-Farah, shows that it is never too late to try to achieve something that we have been dreaming about for a long time, it is enough that we want it so much that we are ready to leave the security of the coast and surrender to what the sea brings us.

Sara-Farah comes from Sarajevo, where her entire educational journey also took place. She attended the First Gymnasium (language major) and the Secondary Music School (solo musician - flautist major) in parallel, and then she enrolled in the Faculty of Science and Mathematics at the University of Sarajevo, Department of Computer Science. She is currently a final year graduate student at the aforementioned faculty.



Although, in the end, she did not choose it as a profession, she says that music will always remain her first and greatest love. Through primary and secondary music school, she participated in many federal and international competitions where, in different categories, she won high prizes. Currently, she enjoys music more as a listener, and her favorite activities are going to various musical events. Although she has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since last year, she points out that she followed the work of the Foundation on social networks from the shadows throughout her university education, and today she speaks with sadness about how she regrets not finding the courage to apply for a scholarship earlier.

I started following the work of the Hastor Foundation when I was just starting my studies. Then, I would occasionally follow the Foundation's page on social networks and every time I would be delighted by the fact that there is an organization that not only provides financial support to successful young pupils and students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina, but is truly proud of them and promotes all their successes. Although I maintained a good grade point average since my first year of study, I had a certain amount of fear about applying for a scholarship because I was afraid of failure. However, last year (during the first year of my graduate studies) I decided to apply and from then on my journey within the Hastor Foundation began. From this perspective, of course, I regret not having done it earlier. Through volunteering, I had the opportunity to work a lot on myself, but also to help others, says Sara-Farah.

Sara-Farah says that she took her first volunteering steps towards the end of primary school and since then has often volunteered at various events. She points out how, in addition to all that, volunteering within the Hastor Foundation is personally significant and important to her. She recalls that, at the beginning, she did not know how she could contribute to her local community and choose appropriate volunteer activities, but later she realized that precisely through the effort to choose these activities independently, we get the incentive to listen and investigate the problematic situations we are surrounded by. Our Sara-Farah is guided by the motto that every great undertaking begins with small steps, and we will start making the world a better place if we start from our environment.



Sara-Farah, after becoming a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, first had the opportunity to volunteer as a **mentor to the students** of her volunteer group, which was, again, an activity that involved sharing knowledge, but also working on some skills such as presentation skills, talking with children, organization of meetings, etc. She believes that through tutoring and mentoring, she gained valuable experience that will certainly be extremely useful if she finds herself in the role of a professor or lecturer in the future.

Volunteering within the administrative team of the Hastor Foundation is currently the field in which our Scholarship Holder of the Moth seeks to expand her knowledge and skills. The administrative team is responsible for the continuous collection and organization of scholarship holders' documentation, as well as communication with all the Foundation's scholarship holders, of which there are more than two thousand in total. The activities of this team include recording scholarship holders' notifications, reviewing and accepting announcements and reports from volunteer meetings, and communication with third parties who provide answers to inquiries and requests, as well as general information about the Hastor Foundation, how to apply for scholarships, and the scholarship selection process. This team works very hard to make everything run smoothly.



Engagement as part of the administrative team requires responsibility, accuracy and high concentration. Although I recognized all these qualities in myself, I have always considered myself quite an introvert. This was also the main reason why, at the beginning, I didn't know how I would manage to communicate with the rest of the team, scholarship holders and their parents, whom it is necessary to regularly inform, to ask them for information, etc. However, over time, I managed to free myself from all barriers in communication, so that today I consider myself a much more relaxed and open person, Sara-Farah points out.

For many scholarship holders, the Hastor Foundation scholarship represents much more than material things, including for Sara-Farah. Although her journey within the Hastor Foundation did not start long ago, she says that in the last year it was one of the main incentives for her to work harder and study more regularly. As the Hastor Foundation gathers the most successful young people from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina, for her, she points out, it is a great honor to be among them and she says that being a part of the Foundation brings with it a kind of responsibility, but it is also one of the most important motivations for her to do as well as possible to fulfil her academic obligations. Sara-Farah emphasizes the importance of networking with other scholarship holders and spending time with young people, which, she says, is valuable in itself, but it gains additional weight when we know that they are ambitious young people from whom it is

possible to get useful advice and exchange experiences with them.

I believe that through the mission of the Hastor Foundation and its continuous activities, a community of young people is created who are the initiators of positive changes in society and on whose shoulders this country can truly remain. At one of the volunteer meetings, we concluded that even after we formally cease to be scholarship holders of the Foundation, we always carry its values with us, which we continue to adhere to and cherish.



I would tell the other scholarship holders to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way in life and not to be afraid of failure. I would especially tell the younger ones that knowledge is the greatest wealth and that education is truly the choice of the winner. I would advise that everyone on their educational journey strives to be the best in what they do. Also, I advise scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation to contact one of the older scholarship holders if they have any difficulties or doubts related to continuing their education, because they must not forget that the role of the Foundation is, among other things, to be their support and guide in life, concludes Sara-Farah.

With herself as an example, Sara-Farah shows all young people how important it is to „throw ourselves into the fire“ and get out of our comfort zone, which can hold us back and limit us in many ways. By stepping out of her comfort zone, this scholarship holder opened a new door in her life that provided her with new opportunities and now she is boldly stepping towards new successes.

Prepared by: Aleksandra Đukić
Translated by: Nežra Galijasević

RAM

RUBRIC OF ACTIVE YOUTH



Lejla Hasić

The rubric of active youth is the rubric in which we present the most valuable scholarship holders of our Foundation each month. These are the ones who, day after day, strive to invest their time and energy in higher goals and thus improve themselves and their society. RAM (working memory) is a part of the computer without which its work cannot be imagined. In the same way are our scholarship holders who, in addition to volunteer activism within the Foundation, work extremely diligently in their local communities, a part without which our work would certainly not be the same. RAM is a rubric dedicated to those who actively work every day to improve their society and improve themselves, therefore it is our pleasure to talk about one of them each month, and this time that honor went to Lejla Hasić. Lejla especially justified her title this month by volunteering for the victims of the earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria. Lejla Hasić has been a Hastor Foundation

scholarship holder for two years. She comes from the Una-Sana Canton, specifically from Bihać. She is a fifth-year student at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sarajevo. She speaks Turkish and English fluently.

Lejla describes herself as a creative and responsible person, and says that the Hastor Foundation contributed in many ways to her life. She is persistent in her goals and in her desire to be the best in what she does, and precisely because of this, she successfully organizes all her private and university obligations. As she herself told us, she decided to study medicine because she wants to help people and be there for them, and this is the goal that the Hastor Foundation reminds its scholarship holders of every day.

Until now, Lejla was a mentor to a volunteer group of high school students from Bijeljina, however, she has recently been volunteering with a group of high school students in Sarajevo. She points out that volunteering with children fulfills her, makes her a more responsible and organized person. Her goal is to motivate scholarship holders from her group to bring their education to the highest level and to constantly strive to become better people. At all meetings, she gives her maximum and repeatedly finds interesting methods for holding the meeting in order to win over and motivate the younger scholarship holders with whom she volunteers for cooperation. She often combines her life path with volunteer hours, so she described to us one of her most interesting meetings.

As the most interesting one, I would mention the meeting when I showed high school students the basics and methods of surgical suturing. I showed them how to hold surgical instruments and allowed them to make independent stitches on the skin preparation. The students were really interested in what I was presenting to them and what they were doing themselves, and they did not hide their impressions.



Lejla believes that the principle of volunteering with high school students strongly contributes to the formation of critical thinking and personality of these young people who will be the bearers of change in society tomorrow.

By investing in them, we get long-term benefit and security in the future. We must give them the opportunity to express themselves and for their ambitions to emerge and become goals that they will achieve. In order for them to achieve everything listed, we as mentors must show them by our own examples that it is really accomplishable.

As for Lejla's free time, she is currently a member of the Assembly of the USMF (Association of Students of the Faculty of Medicine) and the Association of Medical Students in Bosnia and Herzegovina "BoHeMSA", and she points out that she is an active member. She participated in the organization of numerous webinars, was one of the organizers of medical quizzes and participated in the creation of the page and its content on the weekly development of babies during pregnancy, which has recently been available on the Google Play market. Also, she represented the Faculty of Medicine in Rovinj at the "Humanities" – a sports competition between the faculties of the medical group of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

In order to achieve all of the above, good organization is truly needed. Lejla believes that good organization of time is one of the most important aspects for success. She allocates her twenty-four hours according to priorities and does not allow anything that is not primary to hinder her path to her set goal. University duties come first, but she successfully manages to find time for herself and amusement.



It is difficult to meet all the obligations, especially during the exam period, but I always try to pass the exams on the first dates so that during the summer and winter holidays I have more time for myself and my family and all my other obligations.

Lejla did her internship last summer at the Clinical Center in Graz and says that it has been her best experience so far.

As the most beautiful experience in my education so far, I would single out the one-month internship I did at the Clinical Center in Graz. There I had the opportunity to witness the performance of the most complex operations in the most modern conditions and I even assisted in several of them. I spent a lot of time in the department of surgery and plastic surgery, which only increased my desire to deal with those branches of medicine in the future. I had the opportunity to attend lectures by top experts who presented their discoveries and work methods, which motivated me for further scientific and research work.



Lejla tries to help people who really need it. So, despite all her obligations, she devoted the previous period to volunteering and helping the unfortunate people of Turkey and Syria. She believes that, in this way, she sets a positive example for her volunteer group. Lejla briefly told us how it all looked from her perspective.

As a member of the medical team of the humanitarian organization SOS Bihać, I participated in the gathering and sorting of aid that this organization personally delivered to Turkey. Also, I applied to go as a medical worker to help the victims in the cities of Hatay and Gaziantep. Our organization managed to deliver a truckload of humanitarian aid, clothes and shoes, tents, medical instruments and appliances. I am most proud of the fact that we equipped them with a fully equipped mobile hospital. Since I speak Turkish and English fluently, I also participated in the preparation of the necessary documents for transport so that the journey would pass without problems at the customs and borders of the countries through which the aid was supposed to pass, and I managed to deliver the part with the necessary documents to the ambassador on time, who provided us with support and gave permission to enter the territories of the Republic of Turkey. In addition to the aid we organized for Turkey, I also participated in the planning of ways and possibilities to deliver aid to earthquake-prone areas in Syria.

Although she has been a scholarship holder of the Foundation for only two years, Lejla has found support in it. She says that she shares happy and less happy moments with the Foundation. She believes that volunteering and engagement in the Foundation, as part of her CV, will provide her with many additional opportunities and facilitate her path to employment.

The Hastor Foundation is a motivation for me and a great wind in my sails in situations when I think that the obstacle I am facing is very big. In addition to financial aid, which all students desperately need these days, it gives me the opportunity to progress and to show all my qualities and to pass on my knowledge to the younger population.



Finally, Lejla's message for all scholarship holders has a special value.

My message to the scholarship holders of the Foundation would be to give their best in everything they do, even if it's small things. Study and work hard so that you achieve your goals tomorrow and always be the greatest motivation for yourself.

Prepared by: *Adelisa Begić*
Translated by: *Semra Islamović*

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Mujo Karić

After completing their studies, Hastor Foundation scholarship holders remain tied to the Foundation like the roots of their tree. Such roots are difficult to break because of the bond that can be extremely strong, unbreakable, and filled with positive emotions and wonderful memories of the period of schooling that was left behind. Thus, former scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation cherish their connection with the Foundation, which was often their main support and support in life. Time passes and people face various changes and many memories fade when they are replaced by new and more interesting events. Only one thing remains the same in the life of every scholar, no matter what age he is in - his commitment to the Hastor Foundation. This month, we bring you the story of our former scholar Mujo Karić.

Our former scholar **Mujo Karić** is currently working in Switzerland as a quality assurance team leader for the production of aircraft parts. Mujo graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Mostar and obtained the title of Master of Mechanical Engineering. He was a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation in the period from 2010 to 2013. At that time, he volunteered as a mentor to students from Konjic High School. He admits that it is not easy to single out one special moment from volunteering because all the activities that marked their meetings had special features that make them memorable.

When you are part of a big team whose mission is to help, guide and invest in young people, you can't help but feel how special every moment is when you were part of that mission. During the three years of volunteering, I volunteered with an average of 20-25 high school students who I remember as a great team. They were really great students with whom I had unforgettable friendships.



Former scholars of the Hastor Foundation cherish the connection with the Foundation, which was their main support and support in their lives on the way to education and personality development, which was confirmed by Mujo in the conversation, saying that he is still in contact with former and current members Hastor Foundation. Mujo especially points out that the financial and social support of the Hastor Foundation was of great importance to him during his studies. In addition, he emphasizes that through the process of volunteering, he improved many of his abilities, which still benefits him in many ways today.



Volunteering alone helped me to get rid of my nervousness and presentation in front of others, improve my social intelligence, perfect my communication skills, and become even better in terms of organization. I was a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation until 2013, when I got a position at the beginning of my master's studies as an engineer and munitions technologist.

We look with pride at every success of our alumni, knowing that the Hastor Foundation is at least partly responsible for it. Our alumni are a significant inspiration to current scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation who have proudly continued their journeys. We believe and are happy that one day they too will walk some of their paths of success carrying the Hastor Foundation in their hearts.

At the very end, Mujo tells our current scholars:

I would like to tell all scholarship recipients not to give up their goals, to be persistent, 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 and to use the meetings at the Foundation for socializing and learning new things. The Foundation is there for all of us and many of us, thanks to the Hastor Foundation, have acquired knowledge and skills that we still use and apply in our lives and professions. Through these activities, additional opportunities and possibilities open for us and we gain new friendships and acquaintances. Greetings to everyone and I hope to see you soon at one of the meetings.

The Hastor Foundation is a large and united family that consistently monitors, supports, and promotes its scholarship recipients' success in the process of formal education, but also later, when they start to build their careers ambitiously. It is always with great pleasure that we bring the inspiring stories of our former scholarship recipients, which are full of life achievements, experience, advice, motivation, but also the nostalgia that is a consequence of the past days when they themselves were part of the Hastor Foundation.

Prepared by: *Saleha Redžepi*
Translated by: *Maida Avdić*

CULTURAL HERITAGE



Staka Skenderova

- a revolutionary woman of the 19th

In the patriarchal system in which women were most often recognized by male family members as their wives, daughters, or sisters, one woman stepped forward and wrote history as an individual. Her name was Staka Skenderova, born in 1831. She made her greatest contribution to Bosnian society as the founder of and teacher at a women's school in Sarajevo.

Staka Skenderova learned to read and write at a time when there was no school for girls. With her behavior and courage, she deviated from the usual behavior of women in this period. In the second half of the 19th century, more precisely in 1858, she founded the first all-girls school in Sarajevo, which was located in the rented house of the Srskić family. However, before she founded the all-girls school, Staka resided in the company of women, read what she could get her hands on, was interested in folk poetry, and collected information about Sarajevo's past. In this way, the word about a young, bright, and smart woman spread among the people of Sarajevo population, but also more widely. Bosnian Vizier Topal Osman Pasha gave permission for this school to operate, and he enrolled his two daughters, which motivated other officials to educate their daughters. The basis of this institution consisted of courses in drawing, reading, mathematics and the Old Slavic language, as well as training for manual work. There were only two classrooms in the school. In addition to organizing the school and taking care of it, Staka Skenderova also held classes. She thus became the first woman of domestic origin in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who took the position of professor. At the end of the school year, regular annual exams were held. The exams were attended by citizens, parents of schoolgirls, government representatives and consuls. In these exams an exhibition of handiwork by schoolgirls was also organized, and a smaller cultural program was organized.

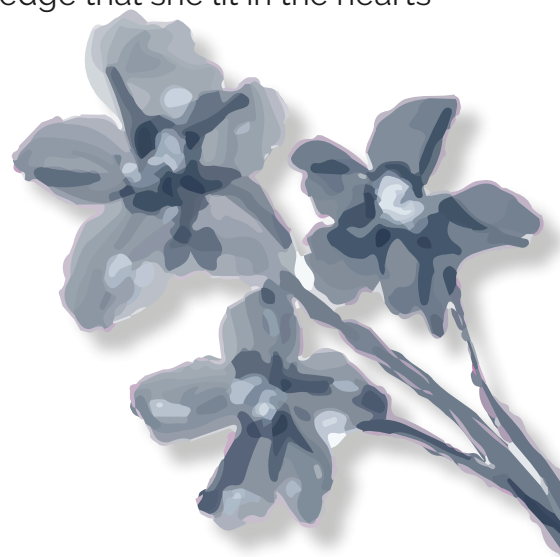
Although the all-girls school ceased operations in 1875 due to economic reasons, its importance is immeasurable. In addition to founding an all-girls school, Staka wrote the Chronicle of Bosnia in which she described in detail the political situations that happened from 1825 to 1856. Staka Skenderova brought the first torch for women who lived in the dark. The light of that torch of hers becomes much stronger if it is taken into account that Staka Skenderova is one of the few women who opposed the government and the existing social political order. A random passer-by through Sarajevo, who noticed the teacher and her school in 1868 noted the following:



In the middle of Sarajevo, where the weeds of savagery grow luxuriantly, a teacher, a girl, named Staka Skenderova, who seems to us like Diphone, who prophesies with lonely voices in some desolate cave living truths. That lonely woman in the desert, chased around the uneducated municipality, opened the girls' classroom by herself.

The first wave of feminism in these areas is associated with this woman since she promoted the same values that were advocated by the first wave of feminism in Great Britain at the end of the 18th century. Although, Staka Skenderova's greatest contribution to the cultural history of Bosnia and Herzegovina was reflected in her educational work, its importance in our history is not limited to that alone. Staka is also the first female social worker in our community. With her knowledge of the Turkish language and her authority in the eyes of the Turkish administration Staka used to solve many life issues of the poor in Sarajevo. Her house, during the market days, was open to women from around Sarajevo, to whom she gave advice, referred to doctors for those in need, and the like. Thanks to Staka, the first women from around Sarajevo entered the doctor's office. Staka Skenderova kept her identity and that of all women of that era. With her character, way of dress, behavior and knowledge, she deviated from the standards of the time, and she created a source of hope for the women she shared time with. The light of knowledge that she lit in the hearts of the girls of that era burns even today, for many years later.

There are many examples in history that show that the position of women was difficult and unfavorable. Through the example of Stake Skenderova we see that one child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world, like Malala Yousafzai once said. In this regard, just as Staka Skenderova made a strong contribution to female education in Bosnian society in the 19th century, over a hundred and fifty years later, the Hastor Foundation continues to set an example by advocating for the education of girls in all spheres of science. In this way, our Foundation continues and furthers Staka Skenderova mission by keeping the light of knowledge bright and lasting.



Prepared by: Nedžma Latić and Amina Abaspahić
Translated by: Omer Muminović



Lens



Ajlja Arnaut – helped a younger neighbor master geography school material



Muharem Jusupović – he gave math instruction to a student who needed help mastering school material



Lejla Breščić – She participated in the packaging of iftar that was delivered to citizens living in returnees' places throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina



Aida Mešić – she cleaned the green areas in the area of the Local Community of Poljice in Bugojno



Belmin Sakić – he volunteered at the City Library of Živinica

POETRY CORNER



To you, Cradle of the

Today, my Beauty,
Large and ominous snow is falling
On high flying flags
And over the land from which stećci sprout
On which stands the image of Your upright offspring.

This first of March is cold,
And this year,
Like outlaw hearts that egotistically dance on the borders of
Your sovereignty,
Freezing.

We resist our fears
Because who can harm You, my Only One?
We only feel sorry for them, the unfortunate ones,
Who did not know
The depths of Your love.

But today I will not regret,
I will not be afraid today.

I just want you to know,
My Bosnia, my Herzegovina,
As long as I am covered by Your heavenly dome,
I do not freeze,
Embraced by your mountains,
I do not worry,
Guided by the scent of Your lilies,
I am calmly looking forward to the future
Knowing that only You manage to survive,
Independent of the weak and unfortunate,
Sung praises by pure Bosnian souls
Filled with happiness and faith in God until their last breath.

Translated by:

Nedžma Latić *Sara Kuduzović*



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