

NEWSLETTER

September 2023



FONDACIJA
HASTOR

THE FOUNDING ASSEMBLY OF THE ALUMNI CLUB WAS HELD HASTOR FOUNDATION



On Saturday, 16.09.2023. In 2008, the Founding Assembly of the Hastor Foundation Alumni Club was held, where numerous generations of extremely successful young people gathered in one place.

For the Hastor Foundation, this year has been extremely productive, colored by new ideas, projects and new beginnings, among which was the ceremonial establishment of the Hastor Foundation Alumni Club.

The gathering was held symbolically on the date on which the first scholarship agreement was signed 17 years ago with the first scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation. With the first contract, the foundation stone of the fortress of goodness, humanity, support and love was laid, and each of the scholarship holders selflessly left their threads in that fortress throughout all these years to make it what it is today. The previous successful work behind the name of the Hastor Foundation is especially confirmed by the impressive numbers of thousands of young people, former and current scholarship holders, whose education has been facilitated by the Foundation, providing everyone with equal opportunities for progress and personality development in order to initiate positive changes in our society and our only Bosnia. and Herzegovina.

At the Founding Assembly, the first leadership of the Hastor Foundation Alumni Club was elected, with the following composition: Marizela Hadžić (President of the Assembly), Emina Sijahović (Vice President) and Alem Merdić (Secretary), who represent a bright example of Hastor Foundation alumni who use their resources and made available after the end of the scholarship, in order to improve the work of the Foundation for all the young generations who are now, and also for those who will become its scholarship holders.

The gathering sent a message of unity, unity and deep connection to all former scholars, and on the occasion of the establishment of the Alumni Club, the founders of the Hastor Foundation sent their congratulations to the management and members and told them:

“The light of kindness never goes out if we share our flame with others. Like a single spark that spreads through dark moments, our nobility can bring warmth and hope to those who lack it. Through our acts of kindness and compassion, we can light the way for others and show them that the world is full of beauty, solidarity and opportunity. Every little inspiration we give to others can start a chain of positive change that will continue over time. So, let our light not go out, but let it be a guiding light that moves others to join in creating a world filled with kindness and understanding. Together, we will leave a legacy that radiates beauty and hope for future generations.”


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Alumni klub

See photos from this event in our Lens section!

THE BEGINNING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW MODEL OF VOLUNTEERING IN THE HASTOR FOUNDATION - HELD PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR MENTOR COORDINATORS

As we all know more than well, the Hastor Foundation has stood out in the past 17 years of its work and activities for its carefully designed volunteering program of its scholarship recipients. All this time, the Hastor Foundation has been continuously working on supporting education, professional training, and improving its volunteering process. One of the extremely important, and perhaps the most important, aspects of volunteering within the Hastor Foundation is certainly the mentoring work of scholarship students with younger scholarship students. Trying to help and facilitate our scholarship holders as much as possible and listening to their needs and ideas, in the previous period we actively worked on creating a new model of volunteering at the Hastor Foundation.

The new model of volunteering, the implementation of which has already begun, in addition to mentoring work with students, will be additionally enriched with new volunteer activities, as well as specialized clubs. In this way of working, our scholarship holders, students of primary and secondary schools, will have multiple benefits. At volunteer meetings with their mentors, they will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that will be useful in their everyday life, during joint volunteer actions with their mentors, they will be motivated from an early age to do good deeds, spread beautiful human values, and will have they will have the opportunity to do useful things in their local community, and the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of school subjects and be as successful as possible in school through specialized clubs for different subjects and areas. The main task of these clubs will be to provide inclusive workshops and classes to scholarship students who have difficulties with some school subjects, and those who are especially gifted and talented in certain areas will have the opportunity to further develop their skills by working with scholarship mentors who will lead our specialized clubs .



With the aim of even more significant advancement and improvement of this type of volunteer engagement of scholarship holders, and better preparation of mentors for quality work with students, the Hastor Foundation, in cooperation with experts from the fields of psychology, pedagogy and education and rehabilitation, organized training for mentor coordinators in the previous period. during the next academic year, they will be in charge of improving the volunteer engagement of student mentors, and the trainings tried to cover all the important branches of science that are specialized in working with children of primary and secondary school age.

Scholarship recipient Irma Lipovac conveyed her impressions from the training, emphasizing the following:

“ This training was especially useful and certainly gave strong messages of support and motivation to us students as future mentors and coordinators of the Hastor Foundation. In addition, it has laid a strong foundation for every form of our growth and upgrading in this noble role that we will have in the time ahead.



What I especially liked about the training was that it was like an open platform for discussion, where we could ask questions from various areas and in this way we managed to remove numerous ambiguities that we had. This is precisely one of the most important factors, because of which I believe that the training helped us to get rid of many fears that we had before it, and I believe that it prepared us very well for the new form of our volunteer engagement. I hope that my colleagues and I will carry out the roles before us as responsibly and efficiently as possible.”

The main goal of this training was to prepare mentor coordinators to be better mentors to students who volunteer with younger scholars. Mentor coordinators are a new segment of the volunteer program of the Hastor Foundation, which is designed to increase the volunteer engagement of student mentors who strive to create creative and educational content for younger scholars every day. Therefore, mentor coordinators will have the role of coordinators who have gained a lot of knowledge and adopted new skills during this training so that the volunteer work with scholarship students will be even more effective.

Following the advice and instructions of experts from the above-mentioned fields, our scholarship holders are significantly prepared for the extremely responsible tasks that await them in the future. It should be noted that the scholarship students who followed the training and who will assume the role of mentor coordinators were chosen carefully, taking into account their interests, preferences, characteristics, and one of the important factors in the selection was the field they study. Therefore, the mentor coordinators will be an important support and help to student mentors due to the acquired knowledge they bring from this training, which will directly improve their monthly meetings with students. In this way, the cyclical transfer of knowledge to younger generations of scholarship holders is enabled, who in the future will be able to recognize challenges and face them.

Inela Hodžić was part of this training and as a scholarship student who will have the role of mentor coordinator, she highlighted the content and benefits of the training:

“At the training session with the pedagogue, we had the opportunity to hear different ways in which interesting classes and workshops for children can be organized, we received advice related to keeping students' attention, and we had the opportunity to learn techniques and methods for encouraging students' critical thinking. Personally, these lectures were really useful for me, and I got more ideas and activities that I would do with my students, and which I will try to transfer to the mentors who work with their groups. The workshop with the pedagogue was followed by the workshop with the psychologist. In this workshop, we focused more on correctly solving the problems we encountered during our volunteering with students. In the end, we heard from experts in education and rehabilitation a lot of useful things that we can use in working with children with developmental difficulties, from approaching children, establishing contact with withdrawn people to devices and methods that we can use to achieve easier communication with children.”

Taking into account everything previously highlighted, all the information that was conveyed by the experts during the training, the participants of this training will be able to implement in other aspects of their activities, but also within the framework of the future profession, which is why they will have multiple benefits. As we have already emphasized, they are prepared for responsible and important tasks and will play a major role in working with students. With this model of volunteering, we want to help students even more to develop their personality, work on themselves, create their dreams and recognize their skills so that in the future they will become more self-aware and responsible members of Bosnian society.

Finally, we would like to thank our lecturers: Irma Pašić-Muhović, Nejra Bašić and Selmir Hadžić for taking their time and holding this very important training for our scholarship holders. We want to point out that the held training and the new model of volunteering is not only a significant step for the Hastor Foundation, its work and mission, it is also an extremely important step towards creating a better and more promising future for our country, which makes us particularly happy and motivates us to continue working on education and improvement. skills and knowledge of future generations.

ADISA SALKIĆ

George Eliot says, "Blessed is the influence of one true loving human soul on another." Within the framework of our Hastor Foundation, the concept of love is realized in many ways, with the most special being demonstrated through a commitment to volunteer engagement. Thanks to a carefully crafted volunteering system, scholarship recipients have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of altruism. In the "Scholar of the Month" section, we aim to highlight individuals among them who, with their selfless dedication and activism, significantly enrich our community on a daily basis and contribute to the achievement of our goals. Adisa Salkić is an inspiring example of a scholarship recipient who, with her contribution to the Hastor Foundation, has rightfully earned the title of Scholar of the Month.



Adisa Salkić comes from Čelić and has been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation for the last four years. Her interests are focused on natural sciences, medicine, foreign languages, literature, and other forms of art, as well as social activism, with a particular emphasis on humanitarian work. During this year, she graduated from the Study of Medical Laboratory Diagnostics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tuzla. She excelled as a student even in primary school, actively participated in the implementation of many projects, contributed to the work of various sections and clubs, and initiated humanitarian actions while achieving outstanding results in competitions in various fields.

Adisa has, considering the implementation of the new volunteering model, actively participated in the development of a manual for mentorship in volunteering. She views this responsibility not only as an honor but also as an opportunity to leave an mark on the Hastor Foundation through her hard work and knowledge.

Several other scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation also participated in the manual's creation, and my main involvement was in the section titled "How to Prepare for a Volunteering Meeting and the Qualities Every Mentor Should Possess."

“ I shared my experiences gained from working with children, both in the local and wider community. I believe that the most crucial aspect of preparing for a volunteering meeting is to be responsible and creative. Responsibility is essential because it involves learning how to respect and time and deadlines, as well as having expectations for the students to demonstrate responsibility. This means that mentors, in every sense of the word, are educators and practitioners of a code of conduct that is both respectful and responsible. Creativity is one of the key aspects of volunteering because with new and innovative ideas come greater community interest in participating in the philanthropic mission promoted by the Hastor Foundation. ”

Adisa has achieved remarkable results in her role as a lecturer in various workshops, and her speaking and expressive abilities have opened doors and stages for her. The educator aspect she has explored is closely connected to her role as a mentor within the Hastor Foundation.

“I am most proud of the fact that, in my role as a mentor, I have accompanied numerous generations of wonderful and successful young people who have themselves become mentors and left a mark on our society. In the behavior and speech of the people I worked with, I have noticed gratitude because I never allowed them to give up or succumb to seemingly insurmountable obstacles. I taught them how to apply their knowledge and skills in their everyday lives and in education. I focused on helping them overcome the fear of public speaking and not be afraid of addressing large audiences, taking oral exams, presenting business ideas, and more. I made an effort to prepare them for their career paths and to enter the job market confidently, without any fear or tension. However, most importantly, I tried to be their friend and role model, to extend a friendly hand to each student individually and show them that they are of great value and that they can find their worth and purpose in this world.”

Adisa mentions that her competencies and ambitions reached a higher level when she became a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation:

“I became a mentor to younger scholarship recipients, elementary and high school students, and I can freely say that every child I mentored became my family. I selflessly endeavored to impart the knowledge I possess, as well as to prepare them for life's challenges and educational hurdles. My still unfulfilled wish is to become a lecturer or professor, and during volunteer meetings, I had the opportunity to step into the shoes of a teacher and experience that magical feeling of imparting knowledge to others. Every time I stood in front of my students to share something, present, or conduct a workshop, my satisfaction was at its highest level because I saw the eagerness in the eyes of my young audience to learn from me, and I felt that they saw a role model in me.”



Since its inception, the mission of the Hastor Foundation has been to spread knowledge among young people. However, an equally important component is active support for the local community. Inspired by the volunteer activities of the Hastor Foundation, our Adisa, in collaboration with several other scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation, successfully organized a series of philanthropic initiatives. These initiatives included fundraising to purchase school supplies for first graders, collecting clothing and footwear for children from lower socio-economic backgrounds in the municipality of Čelić, gathering food products for families in need, and participating in the maintenance and renovation of playgrounds and recreational areas.

Adisa recognizes the following as the key role of the Hastor Foundation:

“Being a part of the Hastor Foundation is a special level of satisfaction. It helped me enhance my skills and graduate with high honors and tremendous self-confidence, fearlessly facing any challenges, and most importantly, being a compassionate human being. Initially expecting only financial support, I received much more, something I couldn't even dream of – life education that can't be acquired in any school and knowledge that can be passed down to all generations.”

HAMZA TURULJA

In one of the favorite rubrics of the Hastor Foundation Newsletter, we present every month those scholarship holders who are role models to their peers, but also to our readers. This rubric is an opportunity and a space to give special recognition by proudly writing and talking about those who stand out in their academic, sports, or other activities. This month we tell a remarkable story about a young student-athlete, Hamza Turulja, whose journey from a dojo to a university classroom left an indelible mark in the world of sports and education.



Hamza Turulja is a 22-year-old student in his fourth year of studying at the Faculty of Sports and Physical Education in Sarajevo. His life is a testimonial of a marvelous coalescence of academic pursuit and athletic ability, and his achievements are to be admired greatly. Hamza says that karate is his lifelong passion, a journey that has lasted for an incredible 15 years. His unshakeable commitment has brought him to the peak mastery in martial arts – the wanted black belt which is a symbol of countless hours spent polishing his skill. For the last nine years, he has been a member of the national karate team and has been representing his nation in various age categories, from the children's category to the senior one. In the 15 years of playing sports, Hamza has achieved the following titles: he is a seven-time champion of Bosnia and Herzegovina in karate, an impressive four-time Balkan champion individually and as a part of the team, he is also the world vice-champion and vice-champion of the world university games.

In addition to everything we mentioned above about our Hamza, he is also the winner of World Series A and the proud bronze medalist at the Mediterranean Games. The crowning moment of his successes is being named the best young athlete of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2019.

Hamza has been Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder for two years already, and this is how he describes his special relationship with the Foundation:

“Whenever I speak about the Foundation, I am overwhelmed by the positive and good memories because it has been part of my many achievements. With the Foundation, my results in the senior competition are written in golden letters. I always feel welcome in the Foundation, and I get lots of support for my competitions as well as a chance to introduce myself to the public and the members of the Hastor Foundation through social media and the podcast which I truly enjoyed being in.”

We continue to follow Hamza in his activities hoping and wishing for him to only continue achieving good results. Finally, we convey his message to our readers:

“I would tell young people to be patient and not think that success comes overnight. Good things take a lot of time, and each new day offers us a chance to work and be the best version of ourselves. Using sports terminology, I would say that life is a marathon and not a sprint, so one should remain “grounded” regardless of whether we are doing good at that moment or not.”

The life of a professional athlete is not easy in the slightest. Hamza trains every day, travels a lot, and his free time is filled with athletic and academic improvement. Since many participation fees and accompanying costs of his competitions are not paid for by the state, Hamza says that, in addition to everything the Foundation provides, the financial assistance he receives in form of a scholarship is of great importance for maintaining his career.

SELMA SKOPLJAKOVIĆ HUBLJAR

That continuous work and the desire to improve are necessary for success in the business, but also in the private world, **Selma Skopljaković Hubljar** is an example in addition to our many former and current scholarship holders!

Our former scholar Selma was born in Zvornik, grew up in Tuzla, where she completed primary and secondary school, and graduated from the Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Sarajevo at the Department of Theoretical Computer Science.



She was a part of the Hastor Foundation for a total of four years, and through our conversation she was happy to reveal details about her current employment, as well as her previous work experience:

“I am currently employed as a software engineer in a German company. I started working as a student and have already gained valuable 12 years of experience. I worked in several companies on the domestic and foreign markets, in addition to being engaged as a professional associate at the Department of Mathematics at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Sarajevo. It is important to note that there is no universal recipe for a successful career. Successes and failures are inevitable, and the key is to work on yourself, acquire new skills and constantly improve.”

She found out about the Hastor Foundation through an ad shown to her by a friend from college. At that time, she was looking for financial support due to the challenges of student life. She was invited to an interview which, as she says, was more than successful, although she pointed out that there is a possibility that she will not be able to volunteer if it would affect her study obligations in any way. But today, when she looks back at that time, she realizes that she was only afraid of the unknown world that was waiting for her and that her volunteer work fit perfectly into her duties and helped her organize her time better and do something at the same time. Good for the community.

Selma also revealed to us how she managed to balance between university duties and volunteering: I volunteered for a year in the field around Tuzla and for three years in the administration of the Foundation. Although volunteering was challenging along with studying, I gained significant experience in administration, communication and teamwork. Today, I highly recommend volunteering during schooling because it provides an opportunity for personal growth and preparation for the future.

The best part of volunteering for Selma, as she points out, was the socializing. During her office volunteering shift, she met many scholarship holders and these are her fondest memories that still make her happy today. It is always valuable for us to hear the messages of our alumni who are full of support for the current scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, so Selma's message at the end of the interview is extremely valuable and motivating:

“While I don't feel like I have enough experience to give advice, I do want to share something: dream big, be resilient, finish college, and keep learning and working on yourself. The goal is to preserve health, achieve happiness and a sense of fulfillment in one's own way. Each of you will surely find them. Ups and downs are inevitable, but constantly moving forward and getting back up is key.”

KONJIC WOODCARVING – LOVE WOVEN INTO WOOD

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a rich treasury of civilizations, cultures, and traditions. Nevertheless, cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not consist only of the material heritage that is present around us, but a large part of it is made up of intangible heritage. One of the examples of intangible heritage, which deserves significant attention is Konjic woodcarving, which is registered on the UNESCO Representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity in 2017. Woodcarving skill was brought to this part of Bosnia and Herzegovina by settlers, farmers in the 19th century. Although they were primarily stone carvers, they began to transfer their carving skills to wood as well. As time progressed, Konjic became recognizable for this craft. Wood carvings, which include furniture, sophisticated interiors, and small decorative items, stand out for their recognizable hand-carved motives and overall visual identity. In that way woodcarving has become a valuable part of the culture of the local community, a measure of beauty and comfort of home interior and tradition that creates a sense of community and belonging. In travelogues from the region in the 19th century travelogues, there are mentions of beautiful wood carvings in the Konjic region, which testify to talent of local woodcarvers and their coexistence with nature, which is especially generous with forests and quality wood.

Retention of the artisan way of working due to the emergence of manufacturing production was very difficult for the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In order to prevent the dying out of craft activities, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy established the State Workshop for Crafts in Sarajevo where gifted village carvers were trained. The first was Ilija Arapović who, back in 1896, exhibited his works at the Millennium Exhibition held in Budapest. Thanks to in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the institutionalization of schooling came about, and a plan for education through courses in Konjic was drawn up, and the first woodcarving course was held by Ivan Ramljak in 1906. Five years later, Ivan opened his own workshop, from which educated woodcarvers came out and eventually opened their own workshops. In addition to education, the craft also spread by passing it down from generation to generation, and that's how two woodcarving families stood out in the golden age of wood carving in Konjic – families Mulić and Nikšić. Their collections of woodcarving products today are national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are four generations in the Nikšić family who are engaged in woodcarving, and the roots for this family's work dates back even further from 1927. When it comes to the Mulić family, their founder Ismail Mulić exported his works to 40 countries, even before the Second World War.

The carving process takes place in several stages, depending on the type of pattern. Three patterns are used: Bosnian, Arabic, and so-called deep pattern. The first stage in the carving process is to cut the wood to the desired size and imagined form. The second stage is drawing the motives on the wooden base, while the third stage is "knocking" or cutting the wooden substrate next to the outlined lines. The penultimate stage is deepening wood with other types of chisels to further highlight the motives, while the last stage it is called "digitizing" and represents decorating to the desired aesthetics. Wood carving motives can be symbols of grapevines, flowers, but also motives from medieval tombstones. The first Wood Carving Museum in Bosnia and Herzegovina was opened in Konjic in 2019 dedicated to woodcarvers in Konjic. Through museum exhibits such as traditional tables and chairs, wardrobes, chests of drawers and the like, the history of woodcarving is presented on these spaces. Therefore, it can be said without a doubt that the Konjic woodcarving heritage is exceptional contribute and express by preserving tradition with a specific cultural pattern from which today a past of this craft can be read.



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Do you remember I was here?

Do you remember I was here?

I used to walk the path you are walking now,
the sky you are looking at, until recently, I was looking at.

You have to remember I was here.

I smelled these same humming springs,
what you dream I have already dreamed,
I wrote a book, and you write yours now,

I know it won't be the same,
the words of my and your paper are different.

You don't remember I was here,
and I was.

Don't you see how the past has woven my traces on your path.

I am silent.

Silence plays the melody of my memories.

A scream is heard.

That's the train I took to leave from here.

The air still smells of the spring in which I crossed to the second platform,
and you don't remember, and you don't know that one day you will leave like this.

You will wish, I know, that someone remembers that you walked this path,
that you smelled these springs and that there were your traces,

and no one but you will remember...

Almina Šabanović-Kokot



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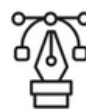
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