



FONDACIJA  
HASTOR

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023





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# ● FOREWORD



Reflecting on the work and achievements of the Hastor Foundation in the period covered by this Annual Report reminded me of how I have followed its unparalleled progress and growth for the past 10 years, initially as one of its scholarship recipients, then as an employee, and now as the director. The guiding principle of the Hastor Foundation are the words of our founders: that the light of kindness never goes out if we share our flame with others. The years that have passed are proof that this light has truly never dimmed down but has grown with each new young person who found support in the Hastor Foundation. It is incredible to see this flame continue to grow every time it reaches those who need it most, and this is a sight that the Hastor Foundation has had the opportunity to witness for 17 years.

The Annual Report before you will confirm that the Hastor Foundation is the largest educational foundation in the region, as evidenced by the number of our scholarship recipients, which grows year by year the amount of annual scholarships, scholarships throughout all 12 months of the year with the possibility of a 13th bonus scholarship. In 17 years of continuous work and dedication, we have awarded almost 24,000 scholarships and, together with our scholarship recipients, contributed more than 1,700,000 volunteer hours. We are particularly proud of the last figure, as it represents 1,700,000 hours during which the most beautiful human values were instilled in our scholarship recipients, where their skills and knowledge developed, and where they contributed to the construction of a better society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to material support, mentorship, as the most specific form of volunteering, the Hastor Foundation provides its scholarship recipients with an opportunity for personal growth, development, and progress. It enables them to acquire skills not taught in school and pass on their knowledge and experiences to younger generations.

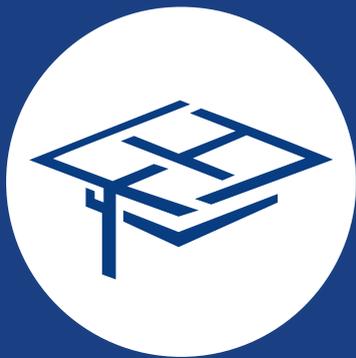
As in all previous years, our focus remains primarily on our scholarship recipients and finding ways to increase their numbers and provide support and financial assistance, as well as opportunities for learning, volunteering, and personal development. Our scholarship recipients are our greatest motivation, so we strive daily to create content that will be beneficial to them and ensure the transfer of knowledge and positive values from older to younger scholarship recipients. All of this, of course, would not be possible without what sets the Hastor Foundation apart from other educational foundations in the region – volunteering, which is our most important epithet and the best reflection of what we do. Inspired by this fact, we have actively worked in the previous period to create an even more purposeful, attractive, and high-quality volunteering model to allow our scholarship recipients to develop in various fields while doing good for their community. In an effort to share the positive stories that are constantly emerging within the Hastor Foundation and have been accumulated over its many years of existence, we have launched the Hastor Foundation Podcast. We have decided to share these positive stories in this way and inspire other young people to work on themselves and do good for others.

On the pages before you, you will have the opportunity to read about what has marked the 17th year of our existence, how the preparation for our new volunteering model has progressed, the story of the Hastor Foundation Podcast, and numerous inspiring success stories of our scholarship recipients and former scholarship recipients. I believe that after reading our Annual Report, you will be inspired to do good because, as our founders said at the beginning, the light of kindness never goes out if we share our flame with others, and the Hastor Foundation continues to prove this year after year.

*Lejla Donlagić*

Director of the Hastor Foundation

# ● ABOUT US



Since 2006, as a non-profit organization, the Hastor Foundation has been actively involved in empowering young people who are the drivers of positive change in their local communities and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ever since it was established in 2006, the Foundation has welcomed many promising and talented young individuals, as well as those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, in order to provide everyone with equal educational opportunities. The Hastor Foundation provides assistance to students from their early years in elementary school, guides them through their university studies, and assists them in securing their first jobs. The continuous support to students and scholars is what distinguishes us as a one-of-a-kind organization in the region.

In an era marked by the mass emigration of young people to other countries, thanks to its scholarship and mentorship program, for 17 years, the Hastor Foundation has offered young people a perspective within our own country. It gives them the opportunity to develop their potential and participate in the betterment of local communities. In this way, we are nurturing successful young individuals, creating new leaders, and strengthening Bosnia and Herzegovina. Numerous young individuals, who were once recipients of our scholarships, have been effectively equipped to face life's trials, including those in their professional endeavors, through the effectiveness of their formal education and volunteerism guided by our organization. They have continued to spread the values and mission of the Hastor Foundation diligently. We are proud to see our former scholarship recipients today in roles such as university assistants, professors, directors, HR managers, IT experts, doctors, company owners, and founders.

Over time, the Hastor Foundation has seen many accomplished young individuals, who have grown into well-rounded individuals with thriving careers and families, serving as a testament to the Foundation's achievements. What is common to every scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation is a developed sense of helping others and their local community, as well as a sense of responsibility, which is an extremely important aspect that every young person must recognize. This help is most evident through an elaborated and precisely organized volunteering system that directs scholarship recipients of different ages toward the best ways to achieve personal development and improve their local communities. Every scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation is equally important because each contributes to the overall society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Just as diligent ants constantly work for their anthill, scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation, with their small steps, improve their local communities, and even the entire country, making it more accessible and promising for all its citizens.

**From an initial three hundred scholarship recipients, the Hastor Foundation today counts more than two thousand scholarship recipients who enrich themselves through their volunteer engagements and provide hope for a better future in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**



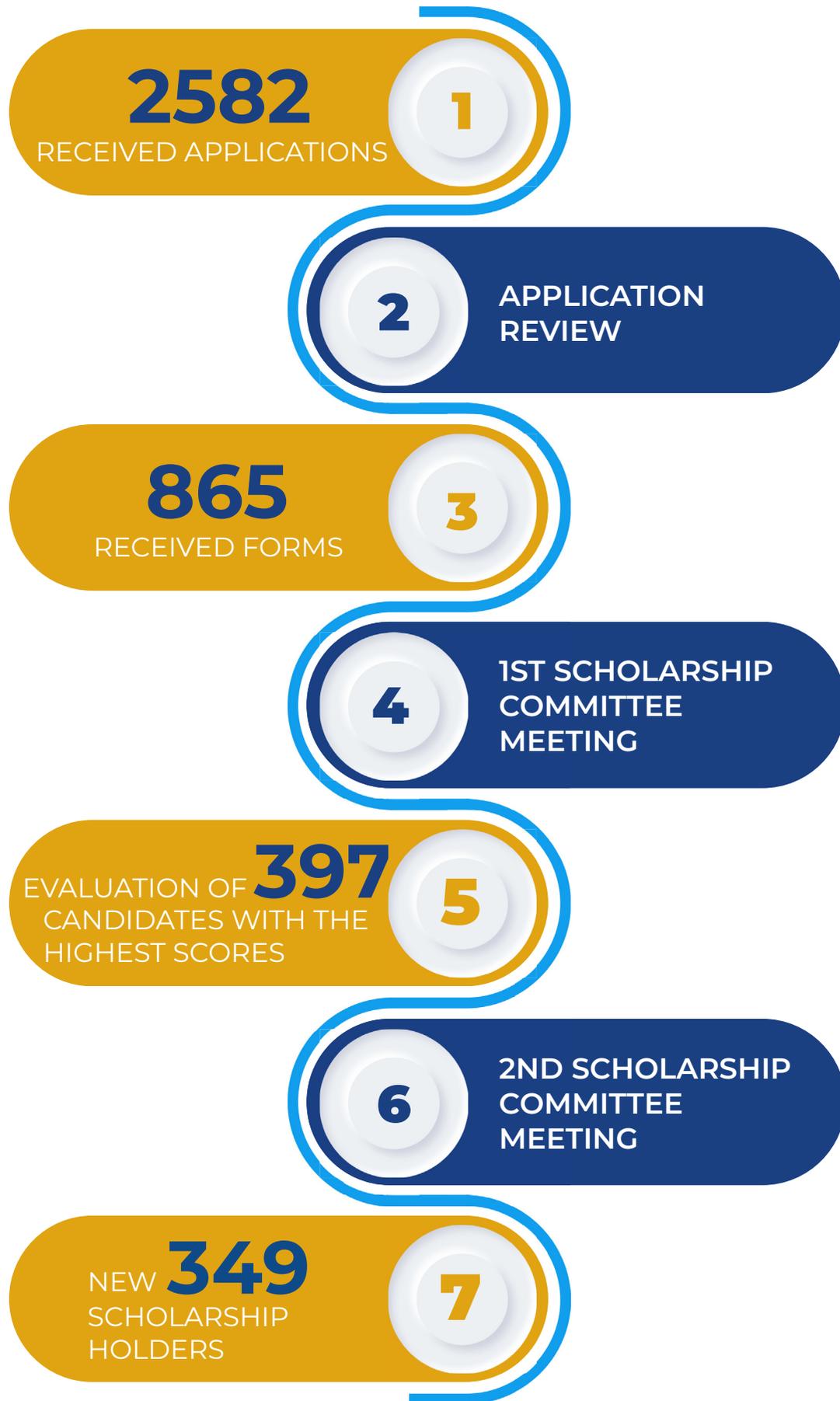
# SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS



The Hastor foundation is accepting applications for scholarships by elementary and high-school students in Bosnia and Herzegovina throughout the year, both in writing and electronically (with an online form on web-page of The Hastor Foundation). The applications consist of applicants' contact, a short description of the socio-economical conditions that the applicants are living in, and information about the achieved success in school. Processing of the received application is done once a year, in the period of February/March, after which applicants are sent a request that they need to fill out together with supporting documentation that can testify to the stated economic situation and achieved school success. Collected data is entered into the software that automatically creates a list of candidates. After assesment, scholarships are awarded to a certain number of candidates depending on the budget for the given school year.

Students can become scholarship recipients of The Hastor Foundation if the foundation announces a public competition for the admission of new students. The public competition is announced at the end of the year. An application for the public competition is done exclusively online. Software automatically creates a ranking based on the success of the candidates in college and based on the economic situation in the family. Candidates with the largest number of points are invited to an interview with the members of the commission for selection of scholarship recipients.





# ● THE SEVENTEENTH PAGE OF OUR STORY

A series of successful years that stand behind the name of the Hastor Foundation serve as a testament that a lasting story could only be built up on noble intentions. Throughout these years, the Hastor Foundation has demonstrated that their story is exactly that – enduring and everlasting, persistent in the pursuit of creating and ensuring a safe and motivating environment for many young people. We are undoubtedly sure it is not a coincidence that the first lines of its story were written in April – the month of awakening and hope, in spring – the season of new beginnings. From its very first year, and now all the way to the seventeenth, the Hastor Foundation has been precisely that – hope and a new start. This April marked 17 years of our story, 17 years of the existence of an unwavering organization, whose foundations have not been shaken by time, but strengthened.

**Seventeen years of successful work that stands behind the name of the Hastor Foundation is particularly confirmed by the impressive numbers of thousands of young people, both our former and current scholarship recipients, to whom we have facilitated their education, providing everyone with equal opportunities for progress and personal development, and changing their lives for the better.**

Along with the continuous financial and mentorship support they receive, our scholarship recipients are also privileged with a unique opportunity to network with young people from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina by forming numerous acquaintances and friendships within the large family of the Hastor Foundation, composed of over 2,000 young individuals. The consistency in adhering to our long-established mission and proactive efforts to achieve our goals have, over the course of 17 years, resulted in more than 1,700,000 volunteer hours, and the initial team that came together with the figure of 304 scholarships awarded, through continuous and selfless work and dedication, have increased that figure to nearly 24,000 annual scholarships awarded in 135 municipalities and cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Year after year, our story is enriched and expanded by new heroes. We take pride in the fact that over the course of seventeen years of continuous support for children and youth, the Hastor Foundation has achieved impressive numbers. Over these 17 years, there have been a multitude of successes, friendships formed, beautiful memories, smiles, and dreams realized. All these pages have been written by the young people of this country, their hours were spent volunteering and helping others, their successes were achieved and smiles provoked, and their dreams were fulfilled. The Hastor Foundation has been growing for seventeen years because of the humanity, joy, kindness and success of these young people who have been part of it and continue to do so as its scholarship recipients. This is precisely why we look forward to all the pages that we have yet to write.

In our country, smaller towns are often neglected, and children from less developed municipalities have fewer opportunities to showcase their skills and knowledge. The Hastor Foundation has made an effort to break down the barriers that stood as obstacles for these children by actively collaborating with over 135 Bosnian-Herzegovinian municipalities. By tearing down these barriers and providing equal opportunities to young people from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Hastor Foundation has become a symbol of diversity that, united in its variety, is writing this extraordinary story.



Over the past 17 years, the Hastor Foundation has brought out many successful individuals. They are living examples of the quality of everything the Foundation represents and does, and through their achievements, they demonstrate daily that volunteer work has strengthened their will and desire, as well as their sense of humanity and progress in all fields. All our scholarship recipients have contributed to the progress of the community through their individual growth and have become an inspiration to those around them.

The anniversary of the Hastor Foundation, for 17 consecutive years, represents the anniversary of all those who have inscribed their lines in its story, of all those thanks to whom it still provides an opportunity for young people to write their own lines in that story. The Foundation has been and will undoubtedly continue to be the cornerstone of Bosnian-Herzegovinian youth, as well as their path and means for progress. We now close our seventeenth page and, with great pride, open yet another, ready for all new successes, joys, and realized dreams.



# HASTOR FOUNDATION IN NUMBERS



# ● THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 2022/23

## ➤ The signing of the scholarship contracts with student-scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation for the school year 2022/23

One of the more important activities for the Hastor Foundation is surely the signing of scholarship contracts with students-scholarship holders which was done at the beginning of the 2022/2023 school year. The Hastor Foundation is one of the few that provides scholarships to pupils and students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina over all 12 months of the year, and therefore, the signing of the contracts with elementary and high school students was a long process which included going to many cities and places in our country.

We can proudly say that pupils and students from almost all of Bosnia and Herzegovina receive the scholarship of the Hastor Foundation. Each of these cities has its representatives, diligent students who are to be proud scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation in the following year. By signing the contracts, scholarship holders undertake to be diligent and exemplary students and strive to have empathy for other people from their surroundings. In that way, they all learn at an early age the importance of helping those in need, and that is one of the most important objectives of the Hastor Foundation. In addition to that, student scholarship holders will have the opportunity to spend their volunteer hours with their mentors by talking about numerous topics about current events that are important. Therefore, every student will have a mentor who will be their support throughout the activities in the Hastor Foundation, but also throughout their education.



## ➤ The signing of the contracts with the student-scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation for the academic year 2022/23

**“The greatest hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.” – Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus**

In November of 2022, by signing the scholarship agreement, the Hastor Foundation, together with its scholarship students, opened the first page of another new book, which, like all the previous ones, will undoubtedly be filled with new and inspiring stories.

More than 500 student-scholarship holders signed the contracts, and among them, there were students who have been scholarship holders for 16 years which goes to show that the Hastor Foundation remains by its scholarship holders until the end of their educational path. A true example of this is the story of our scholarship holder Semra Islamović for whom this was her 14th scholarship contract.



***I have been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since 2008. Then, being only eight years old, I still had not been aware of the fact how lucky I really was and what all that meant for me, my parents, and my further education. From the very beginning, the Foundation has been a tremendous source of support for me, and every time I reached out to them, they were always ready to offer assistance and help, both to me and to all other scholarship recipients. I met a lot of people through my volunteer work, made friends, became more independent and more creative, and more ready to work in a team. I exchanged many different experiences both with children and my mentor colleagues.***



## ➤ **Scholarship contracts with 30 new scholarship recipients accepted as part of the Competition for gifted students signed**

Each year, the Hastor Foundation opens its doors to the new hopes of the Bosnian society. At the end of 2022, based on the rules and criteria of the Hastor Foundation, a competition for the allocation of scholarships for full-time students who enrolled for the first time in the academic year 2022/2023 was announced. The students who had the right to apply were the full-time students who were studying at accredited higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It was a great pleasure to see the interest of the students in applying for a Hastor Foundation scholarship increasing year in and out. This number is the best testimony to the fact that the Hastor Foundation has successfully grown over the past 17 years into a community that gathers young people who are helpful members of society and contribute to it by volunteering in various ways.

The scholarship selection committee has chosen 30 of those who stood out with their volunteering activities and socially useful work, and simultaneously, they also maintained outstanding academic results. What should be emphasized is that by increasing the number of scholarship holders every year, the Hastor Foundation supports not only individuals but also the entire community.



## ➤ Celebrating the 17th Anniversary of the Hastor Foundation with a Special Program

The best way to celebrate successful work and fantastic results is by bringing together the young driving force – students who are scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation – in a place that tightly connects them all, at the premises of the Hastor Foundation. In collaboration with our student scholarship recipients, we marked and celebrated the 17 years of the Hastor Foundation's existence and successful operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a collective gathering and a special program, reminiscing about the initial steps of our journey. The primary focus of the event was nurturing the potential of our young members, who have enriched the anniversary celebration with their activities in what they do best. The event also featured the solemn announcement of the best literary works on the theme, *How the Hastor Foundation Changed My Life*.

The uniqueness of celebrating the seventeenth year of the Hastor Foundation's operation, as highlighted during the event, can be seen in the 125 socially beneficial projects that our scholarship recipients, primary and secondary school students under the mentorship of student scholarship recipients, have realized to commemorate World Good Deeds Day. Motivated by their desire to make selfless contributions to their local communities, they represent shining examples of Bosnian society.

Through a series of activities and reflections on the achievements of the past years, we demonstrated that, by supporting the educational process through continuous financial and mentorship support, we have been a solid support to the youth of Bosnia and Herzegovina, making their journey to success easier and reaffirming year after year that Education is the choice of winners!



## > World Good Deeds Day at the Hastor Foundation



In April of this year, more than 2,000 scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation completed 125 diverse socially beneficial projects in their local communities to commemorate World Good Deeds Day. The spirit of the Hastor Foundation was felt throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, from Krajina through central Bosnia, all the way to sun-kissed Herzegovina. It showcased the true strength propelled by a large family of young individuals who are eager to lead by example in changing the mindset of our society. The aim of all these actions was to foster a sense of humanity, empathy, and kindness in our scholarship recipients, and to demonstrate that unity, selfless dedication, and providing equal opportunities for all are key components in building a better future. Through the implementation of these projects, our scholarship recipients carried out actions of various kinds, from assisting those in social need to inclusive projects for children with developmental difficulties and children without parental care, as well as ecological initiatives. They didn't forget the abandoned animals either.

The stories and good deeds that our scholarship recipients carry out and spread every day testify to Bosnia and Herzegovina having a solid foundation built on benevolence. Our scholarship recipients are truly remarkable young individuals who help others, do good, and uphold the mission and values of the Hastor Foundation.

Spring 2023 at the Hastor Foundation was truly productive and inspirational for all its scholarship recipients, and through all our activities, we may have written the most beautiful pages of our books of good deeds to date.



**Environmental actions**

**Inclusion of children with developmental disabilities and children without parental care**

**Educational workshops**

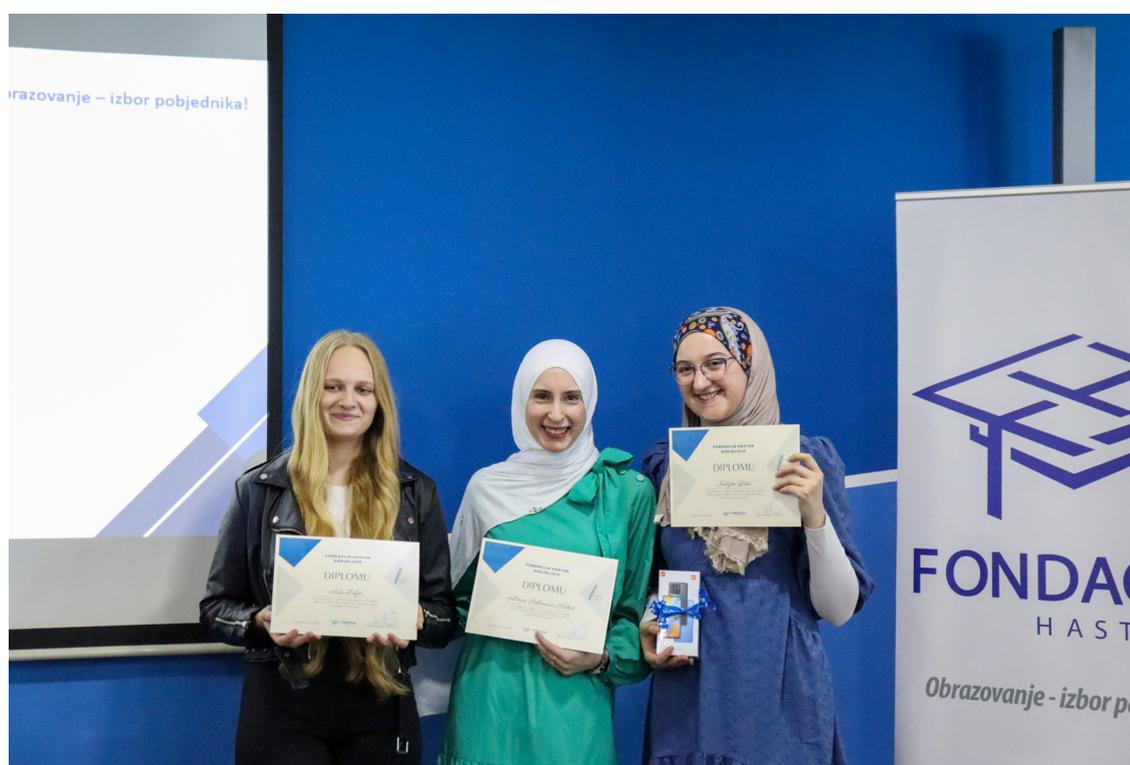
**Actions to help the population in a state of social need**

## ➤ Contest Held and Diplomas and Awards Presented for the Best Literary Works on the Theme *How the Hastor Foundation Changed My Life*

To mark the seventeenth anniversary of the Hastor Foundation, we organized a competition for the best literary work on the theme ***How the Hastor Foundation Changed My Life***. We received a significant number of creative and original submissions, demonstrating that the Hastor Foundation can truly be proud of the talents within its family. The works were filled with emotions and sincere messages from our scholarship holders, showcasing their love and devotion to the Foundation. All scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation had the right to participate in the competition, and entries could take the form of prose and poetry.

A large number of scholarship holders submitted their literary works for the competition, and the expert jury tasked with selecting the best literary pieces had no easy job. From the multitude of submissions, filled with pure emotions, expressions of love, respect, unity, and gratitude, the best ones were chosen. The written words of our scholarship holders, which reached us, serve as a reminder of our mission of providing assistance and doing good.

During a gathering of scholarship holders from the Hastor Foundation, a solemn ceremony was held to announce the winners. The first place in the literary competition was awarded to our scholarship holder **Almina Šabanović-Kokot**, and she received an electric scooter by Ninebot KickScooter as her prize. Second place was secured by scholarship holder **Nedžma Latić**, who received a Xiaomi Redmi 10c mobile phone as her award. The third place was won by scholarship holder **Aida Suljić**, and she was presented with a TESLA LED television.



## ➤ **“ASA Bolnica” and “ASA Gradnja”, in collaboration with the Hastor Foundation, organized and rewarded the winners of the Contest for the Best Visual Artworks by Hastor Foundation Scholarship Holders**

After celebrating the seventeenth anniversary of the Hastor Foundation in April with a literary competition and valuable awards, shortly thereafter, in collaboration with “ASA Gradnja” and “ASA Bolnica”, we decided to delight another group of scholarship holders—those with a talent for visual artworks. This period once again confirmed how valuable, talented, and imaginative our scholarship holders are.

All Hastor Foundation scholarship holders had the opportunity to participate. Nine valuable prizes were evenly distributed among scholarship holders who are elementary and high school students, as well as those in a student status. Scholarship holders could showcase their creativity in any medium, thereby demonstrating the uniqueness of their artistic work. Another benefit was the freedom to choose the theme, allowing them to express their emotions in their own unique way, without any restrictions on their artistic expression. While we can rightfully say that each work was infused with special emotions, subtle nuances led the committee to reward a specific group of deserving and creative scholarship holders.

In the category of university students, the first place was awarded **Edna Đuliman** (Faculty of Information Technology Mostar, 2nd year), the second place went to **Saleha Redžepi** (Faculty of Medicine Sarajevo, 6th year), and the third place was secured by **Nejla Dedić** (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Sarajevo, 2nd year).

Among high school students, **Lamija Tokić** (Vaso Pelagić Gymnasium Brčko, 2nd grade) won the prize for the best work, while the second place was taken by **Selma Salkić** (Petar Kočić High School Center Zvornik, 1st grade), and the third place was claimed by **Medina Baraković** (Dr. Mustafa Kamarić Gymnasium Gračanica, 2nd grade).

In the category of elementary school students, the first place was awarded to **Naida Omerović** (OParsovići Elementary School Konjic, 9th grade), the second place went to **Lejla Omerović** (Prva Elementary School Srebrenica, 8th grade), and the third place was secured by **Almina Mumić** (Gornji Rainci Elementary School Kalesija, 8th grade).

The prizes for the winners in all categories were as follows: 300.00 KM for the first place, 200.00 KM for the second place, and 100.00 KM for the third place.

On the final note, it's worth highlighting how proud we are of all the submitted artworks by our scholarship holders. Through their art, they have expressed their perception of the world and welcomed us into the marvelous landscapes of their imagination. Their works will adorn the walls of “ASA Bolnica” in Sarajevo, and we believe that they will leave a lasting impression on others and convey important messages. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to “ASA Gradnja” and “ASA Bolnica” for the valuable prizes they provided to the winners and for giving our scholarship holders the opportunity to showcase their talents.



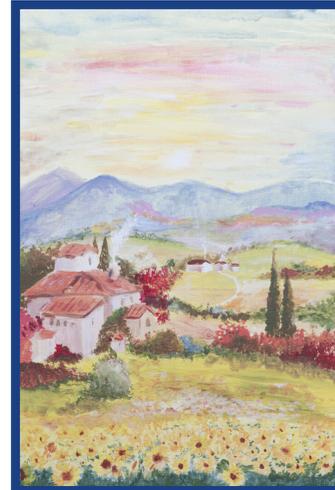
## The winning art pieces in the category Students



1. Edna Đuliman



2. Saleha Redžepi



3. Nejla Dedić

## The winning art pieces in the category High school



1. Lamija Tokić



2. Selma Salkić

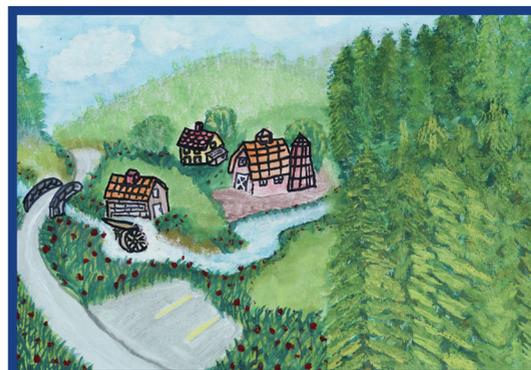


3. Medina Baraković

## The winning art pieces in the category Elementary school



1. Naida Omerović



2. Lejla Omerović



3. Almina Mumić

## > Founding Assembly of the Hastor Foundation Alumni Club



On Saturday, September 16, 2023, the Founding Assembly of the Hastor Foundation Alumni Club was held, bringing together numerous generations of highly successful young individuals in one place.

For the Hastor Foundation, this year has been exceptionally productive, marked by new ideas, projects, and new beginnings, including the solemn establishment of the Alumni Club of the Hastor Foundation.

The gathering was symbolically held on the date when 17 years ago the first scholarship agreement was signed with the first scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation. This initial agreement laid the cornerstone of a fortress of goodwill, humanity, support, and love,

and each scholarship holders has selflessly contributed their threads to this fortress over the years, making it what it is today. The Foundation's outstanding work is particularly evident through impressive numbers, encompassing thousands of young people, both former and current scholarship holders, to whom the Foundation has facilitated their education, providing equal opportunities for progress and personal development in order to initiate positive change in our society and our beloved Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the Founding Assembly, the first leadership of the Hastor Foundation Alumni Club was elected, composed of **Marizela Hadžić** (President of the Assembly), **Emina Sijahović** (Vice President) and **Alem Merdić** (Secretary), They serve as shining examples of Hastor Foundation alumni who have made their resources available after completing their scholarships, with the aim of advancing the Foundation's work for all the young generations who are currently its scholarship holders, as well as those who will become its future scholarship holders.

The gathering conveyed a message of unity, togetherness, and a deep connection among all former scholarship holders. On the occasion of the establishment of the Alumni Club, congratulations were extended to the leadership and members by the founders of the Hastor Foundation, who also conveyed the following message:



*"The light of kindness never goes out when we share our flame with others. Like a spark that spreads through dark moments, our benevolence can bring warmth and hope to those in need. Through our acts of kindness and compassion, we can illuminate the path for others and show them that the world is full of beauty, solidarity, and opportunities. Every small inspiration we provide to others can set in motion a chain of positive changes that will continue through time. So, let our light not be extinguished, but let it be a guiding light that inspires others to join in creating a world filled with goodness and understanding. Together, we will leave a legacy that radiates beauty and hope for future generations."*

## > The Launch of The Hastor Foundation Podcast

This year, we launched the Podcast Team of the Hastor Foundation, formed as one of the most effective tools for promoting positive human values and successful young individuals. Through their life stories and ideas, this podcast will serve as motivation for young people and the entire Bosnian-Herzegovinian society, which is in great need of positive examples and positive results. Given the multitude of such examples and stories within the Hastor Foundation, we decided to realize all of this through the currently most popular medium – **podcasts**.

In the Hastor Foundation, we have many such stories, and we've chosen to present them through the currently most popular new medium - Podcasts. Through the stories of our current and former scholarship holders, we aim to provide inspiration and motivation to young individuals who are facing significant life challenges, with the hope that the inspirational stories of our guests will offer additional support and guidance in their personal development.

In the first season of the podcast, we hosted numerous successful young individuals, scholarship recipients, and alumni of the Hastor Foundation, who have excelled in various fields. Through conversations with them, we covered many useful and interesting topics, as well as shared positive and inspirational stories that can serve as guidance for young people in their process of maturation, progress, and finding opportunities for volunteering, student engagement, internships, employment, and more. Since the greatest driving force of the Hastor Foundation lies in its current and former scholarship holders, the podcast was realized thanks to this collective strength. They actively participated in conceptualizing, planning, and producing the podcast. Serving as the hosts of the podcast are two valued scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation: Dženana Zulum, a student at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo, and Amina Zorlak, a student at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sarajevo.



## > Commencement of a New Volunteering Model Implementation

Seeking to provide more assistance and support to our scholarship recipients while listening to their needs and ideas, we have actively worked on creating a new volunteering model within the Hastor Foundation in the recent period. The implementation of this new volunteering model began in September, and it not only introduces new volunteering activities but also enriches the experience with specialized clubs. This way, our scholarship recipients, including elementary and high school students, will benefit in multiple ways. During volunteer meetings with their mentors, they will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that will be useful in their daily lives. Through collaborative volunteer actions with their mentors, they will be motivated from a young age to perform good deeds, promote positive human values, and engage in meaningful activities in their local communities. Moreover, they will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of school subjects and excel academically through specialized clubs focusing on different subjects and fields. The main task of these clubs will be to provide inclusive workshops and classes to scholarship recipients who are struggling with particular school subjects. Those who are exceptionally gifted and talented in certain areas will have the opportunity to further develop their skills by working with mentor scholarship recipients who will lead our specialized clubs.

In order to further improve this type of volunteer engagement of scholarship holders, the Hastor Foundation, in cooperation with numerous experts from various fields, organized training for students who, during the next academic year, will be in charge of improving the volunteer engagement of student mentors and will have the role of mentor coordinator. The training for mentor coordinators was held by experts in the fields of psychology, pedagogy, education and rehabilitation, which tried to include all the important branches of science that specialize in working with children of primary and secondary school age. The task of mentor coordinators is to transfer the acquired knowledge to other mentors and to be supportive at every moment of their mentoring process, with which we want to ensure that every hour spent working and volunteering with our scholarship holders is as high quality, and as purposeful as possible, leaving a significant mark on the development of all our scholarship holders.



With this model of volunteering, we want to help students develop their personality, work on themselves, create their dreams and recognize their skills in order to become more self-aware and responsible members of Bosnian society in the future. 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 especially happy and motivates us to continue working on education and improving the skills and knowledge of future generations.

## > Summer Vacation in the Netherlands 2023

In addition to a multitude of successful projects, the Hastor Foundation can proudly showcase the project “Summer Vacation in the Netherlands,” which it carries out with great pleasure each year in collaboration with the Dutch organization “Stichting Kinderhulp Bosnië.” The idea of the project is to provide children from rural areas with a disadvantaged socio-economic status the opportunity to visit the Netherlands, forge lifelong friendships, and gain memorable experiences. In the current year, the project was implemented in June, and 28 children from Kačuni near Busovača, Opara near Novi Travnik, and Novi Travnik had the opportunity to visit the beautiful tulip country.

Given the large number of applications received, the administration of the Hastor Foundation faced the challenging task of selecting the scholarship holders who would travel to the Netherlands. After careful consideration, we entrusted this role to our scholarship holders Amila Glamočak and Edna Porča, who eagerly took on the role of accompanying our young travelers.

The days spent in the land of tulips were very exciting for the children, as well as for our scholarship holders Amila and Edna. We take pride in having the opportunity to bring joy to numerous children every year and provide them with unforgettable experiences that will adorn the pages of their childhood.

Amila and Edna expressed their special gratitude to the Hastor Foundation for this opportunity, as well as to the wonderful members of the “Stichting Kinderhulp Bosnië” organization who diligently worked with the aim of helping children.



This effort demonstrated the strength and importance of community and allowed the children from Bosnia and Herzegovina to be part of an unforgettable experience. They mentioned how they gained many skills and learned about a new culture during this trip. They also had the opportunity to witness the happy faces of younger scholarship recipients and admire the children’s joy from traveling and gaining new experiences, which, they said, was particularly fulfilling. They emphasized that through this journey, they once again realized that the Hastor Foundation has contributed to the children’s happiness, which they will undoubtedly remember forever. We are proud of our scholarship holders who, with their care and responsibility, contributed to making this year’s “Summer Vacation in the Netherlands” project an unforgettable experience for 28 children who brought back only the most beautiful memories and friendships from the Netherlands.

# ● SUCCESSES OF OUR SCHOLARS



## **Sports achievements of our scholarship holder Amar Mehanović**

Versatility is a trait that adorns many scholars and of which the Foundation is extremely proud. Amar Mehanović is a scholarship holder from Capard who has been achieving remarkable results for two years in a row with his football club "Memići". Amar is currently in the second grade of Mixed High School in Kalesija. He has been training football since he was seven years old, and in 2021 and 2022 he was declared the best football player in the municipality of Kalesija. For Amar, the foundation represents hope and the opportunity to build in every sense and inspiration to work on pushing his own limits every day. As he says, the Foundation helps its scholars to achieve the goal they have set and through various activities enables them to mature and get a good and quality foundation for the future.

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***Through my hard work and belief in myself, I have achieved many significant successes. Football as football represents something unique to me. I have to admit that I really enjoy every moment when I'm on the field. When I became a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, I knew that something new was coming into my life. I learned first of all how to be useful to my community, but also to society. I enriched my vocabulary and became a more communicative person. I try to be better every day in order to prepare myself for what awaits me in the future, and I am immensely grateful to the Hastor Foundation, which helps me significantly in this.***



## **The artistic paths of our scholarship holder Lamija Šišić**

Fourteen-year-old Lamija Šišić is a scholarship student who makes us proud again and again because of her work and success. She is currently in the eighth grade of primary school and the fifth grade of primary music school. In addition to violin and solfeggio lessons, Lamija also participates in rehearsals with the orchestra, and she is also excellent at painting, so she ventured to attend a painting school and an art colony. She is the state violin champion in classical music. As a young talent of Bosnia and Herzegovina, she played with the Mostar Symphony Orchestra. She is a participant in many festivals and solo concerts of a humanitarian nature, for the purpose of promoting art. She points out that one of her favourite performances is last year's classical music concert of a humanitarian nature, which she held with her sister at the Bosnian Cultural Centre in Sarajevo in the

month of May in memory and honour of the innocent victims of the Sarajevo Canton. This is not the only act of showing humanity and nurturing the true values of our scholarship student - Lamija recently donated her hair to children with cancer, showing her maturity and willingness to show solidarity with others and to recognize other people's worries and problems. All of these values are embedded in the core of the existence of the Hastor Foundation, and we are more than proud that our scholarship holders convey and demonstrate them at every opportunity. Lamija says about the Hastor Foundation as an important part of her educational journey:

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***I am very grateful to the Foundation for everything they have done for me, and I am eagerly waiting for the first opportunity to visit the Foundation and meet many wonderful and inspiring people. I already feel how much everything they remind us of in this community has a positive effect on me.***



## The inspiring and amazing path to success of our karateka Ajla Kahrić

Ajla is a primary school student with impeccable grades and outstanding achievements in sports activities. At first, she joined a folklore group at the age of five, but her attention was soon captured by the sport that today represents her greatest joy and brings great satisfaction - karate. Her first competition took place in 2019, and just two years later, in 2021, she won participation in the national championship, thanks to her placement at the federal championship, which was followed by a number of important competitions, among which the Balkan Championship stands out. Her path to success continues and she soon achieved placements in many important competitions, among which one of the most prestigious tournaments in the Balkans stands out - Ilidža Open, where she won a gold medal, which she is particularly proud of, as well as the great results achieved this year: gold medal at the Balkan Championship in Sarajevo, third place at

the National Championship, etc. It would be difficult to count all the medals and awards that Ajla won in an extremely short period of time, so we can only imagine how much sacrifice, effort and discipline her path to these successes required. Ajla is truly the best of the best. Finally, we recorded another sentence from our interlocutor, where she emphasizes the importance of the Hastor Foundation in her life:

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***Thanks to the Foundation, I made new friends and with the help of the scholarship, I pay the membership fee for sports and competitions myself, depending on whether I have these expenses during that month.***



## Competitive successes of Amer Šabić

That our Foundation is a treasure trove of young talents dedicated to science, volunteering, as well as numerous extracurricular activities, is proven by our nineteen-year-old scholar Amer Šabić, who comes from Ključ. He graduated from the “Professor Omer Filipović” Mixed High School in Ključ. Amer Šabić won first place in the school competition in mathematics, at the same level he also achieved first place in physics, after which he qualified for the cantonal competition (field A – mechanics and thermodynamics), where he also won first place. His path to success continues with his participation in the federal physics competition. In addition to the above, he also won first place in the school competition in informatics and first place in the cantonal competition in the same subject. Amer is the best proof of how important the role of a mentor is for all our scholarship recipients!

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***I discovered my talent and love for subjects such as mathematics, physics and informatics back in primary school when I started competing and from the 6th grade, I achieved significant results in these subjects. I prepared with the help of my mentors, who are largely responsible for my success. I am happy to be one of the pupils in her group and I like spending time at the meetings, where we covered and are still covering many interesting topics from which I learned a lot.***



## Neđada Ramić - athletics champion in various disciplines

Day by day, our scholarship recipients show remarkable progress and achieve high goals under the auspices of the Hastor Foundation. A clear indicator of exceptional ambition can be seen in the success of the young scholar Neđada Ramić, a student of the Faculty of Health Studies of the University of Sarajevo, majoring in Physiotherapy. As Neđada points out, athletics has always been her first love since childhood and she was always known for her energy. Despite certain challenges, Neđada made her dreams come true with a great deal of enthusiasm. Already in the first grade of high school, she showed incredible independence and courage when she decided to compete and won third place, which allowed her to go to the finals. She continued her journey and proudly won the bronze medal. She started her career by realizing her first dreams, creating foundations for new ones as a member of the AK Sarajevo club. She became the champion in 400 meters, 800 meters, cross country, relays 4x400 meters and 4x100 meters, all-around, where she was the senior champion two years in a row, and in many international competitions.

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***Athletics helped me to develop my character, to improve my physical abilities and to learn that the biggest battle is fought in the head, and that is the battle of man with himself. Through sports, I became interested in the study of injuries and rehabilitation, which is why I enrolled in Physiotherapy. The Hastor Foundation was by my side throughout my education. I have been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation for eleven years and I am most grateful for the support and additional motivation to achieve the best possible results both in the academic field and outside of it. Along with volunteering, I also gained a lot of knowledge and skills, as well as many friends and mentors who will always remain in my memory. The Hastor Foundation has opened many doors for me, helped me to constantly evolve, both as a student who studies and as a person who strives to be better every day, and I am extremely grateful for that.***



## Amin Lulić – a boy from the world of computer wonders

Childhood dreams have enormous value if growing up is accompanied by effort and the desire to achieve them. The Hastor Foundation encourages its scholarship recipients every day to follow their dreams and strive for their realization. One of them is fourteen-year-old Amin Lulić, who comes from Cazin. In addition to regular studying and schoolwork, Amin likes to spend his free time programming. He participated in competitions in mathematics, physics, and computer science. In the past school year, he won first place in school competitions in the aforementioned subjects. Although he likes to spend his free time doing tasks in physics and mathematics, the special nature of his relationship with computer science was also shown in competitions. Namely, he won first place in the municipal computer science competition and thus once again showed his commitment to his goals, which he had already set out, even though he is only a primary school student.

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***Since both of my parents are unemployed, the Hastor Foundation helps them and me by financing my education. It gives me boundless motivation to study even more and improve in what I love. The foundation shows its scholarship holders the true values that I try to build in myself and thus present them to the world by my own example.***

In the future, Amin plans to study at the Faculty of Information Technologies, where, as he points out, he will try to explore the depths of programming and acquire as many skills as possible so that he can later apply them in his work. In these years, he wants to lay a good foundation for the knowledge that has yet to be acquired. With his successes, he wants to repay his parents and the Foundation for all the support they provide him.



## Hamza Turulja - one of the best young athletes in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina can boast of numerous sports talents whose successes show that even small countries can be an inexhaustible source of extremely successful athletes. One of the best young athletes in Bosnia and Herzegovina is precisely our scholarship recipient Hamza Turulja, who has long since started to string his successes in the field of Bosnian karate.

Hamza is a third-year student at the Faculty of Sports and Physical Education in Sarajevo, and in recent years he has focused his energy on karate, a sport that, he says, fulfils him in a special way. He currently holds the title of master black belt for the third day, is a representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a seven-time national champion in fighting. In addition, Hamza is also a silver medallist at the Under-21 World Championship in Santiago, Chile in 2019 and a silver medallist at the

World Youth League in the junior competition. He is the recipient of numerous awards, and in 2019 he was chosen as the best young sportsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He says that on his academic and sports journey, he has the Hastor Foundation by his side, which cheers him on every day. He emphasizes that this community of successful young people is very important to him, because in it he finds inspiration to work every day to be successful and to reach the best version of himself. This year was the most successful in his sports career as he won third place at the Mediterranean Games in Algeria, second place at the World University Games in Turkey, first place at the World Series A in Indonesia and fifth place at the European Championship.

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***All these results would not have been possible without help and support. With my greatest support, parents and coaches and individual institutions, I would single out my Hastor Foundation. Given that all these competitions require a lot of money, and the state, unfortunately, does not support athletes enough, the scholarship from the Hastor Foundation was a great and significant help in financing the trip and the competition. Of course, this support is not only financial, the Hastor Foundation has always been there to help, support, encourage and give useful advice. Given that even before coming to the Hastor Foundation I loved volunteering and that I volunteered in a migrant children's camp, participated in a fashion show for the inclusion of children and people with disabilities, and organized sports events, through the Foundation I continued to do good, gained a certain continuity and continued to constantly remind himself how important it really is to help others. I would also like to single out the fact that I met so many wonderful young and successful people through the Foundation, so I can say that we are really one big family in the true sense of the word, says Hamza.***

# ● EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OF HASTOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARS

## Aleksandra Đukić

Aleksandra Đukić has been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation since February 2021 and devotes a lot of her free time to non-formal education. She has the title of national volleyball referee and often referees volleyball matches, which, as she points out, helped her to build her confidence.

Within the non-governmental organization “Humanity in Action” she had a number of activities that were of a volunteer nature. About the place and role of volunteering in her daily life, Aleksandra emphasized the following:

***Volunteering fills me emotionally because I know that I am giving a small part of myself that means a lot to others. I believe that with my activism and social involvement, I help the entire Bosnian society, I show that I care about the country where I was born and that I do not want to leave it, but to actively participate in building a better state that will welcome some new generations of young people. The Hastor Foundation has been actively with me for more than a year, and all the while, I look at it as a form of support that I needed on my academic journey. When many doors closed to me, the Hastor Foundation opened its doors and helped me, not only financially but also through the support I feel every day. I have made acquaintances with other young people who have the same or similar interests as me, and I consider these acquaintances extremely important, and I firmly believe that they will remain even after the end of my formal education.***



## Emrah Tepić

Entrepreneurship, commitment, willingness to work and dedication to volunteer activities are just some of the virtues possessed by our scholarship holders. Evidence for all of the above is the long-term scholar Emrah Tepić. Given that he has been completely blind since birth, he was constantly faced with various forms of discrimination and prejudice. Despite this, he never got discouraged and always went after his luck, and is currently a master’s student at the Faculty of Political Science.

Our scholarship student Emrah went through a difficult development path, partly due to the established perception of society and the numerous prejudices he faced during his education. However, Emrah found his support and great support in the Hastor Foundation, where he has been a scholarship holder for more than six years. For him, the Hastor Foundation is an extremely important part of his life because it has always been there for him and his family.



***I see the Hastor Foundation as one big family and another house. It played a big role in my life. Thanks to the Hastor Foundation, my confidence has improved, and I have gained an optimistic outlook on life. I hereby thank our Hastor Foundation for making us winners, great and successful people. It is always there for us and accompanies us throughout our whole lives,*** said Emrah.

Emrah points out that through the concept of the Hastor Foundation, he actually got to know volunteering and that those volunteer hours were a springboard for further volunteering, which is why he became a member of other associations such as the Association for the Blind of Sarajevo Canton, the Association “Dajte nam šansu” (“Give us a chance”), the Association “Samostalan korak” (“An independent step”) and the Student Support Office of the University of Sarajevo. Emrah has firmly decided to dedicate his life to doing the best he can for others and is happy to be part of a big family – the Hastor Foundation.

## **Aida Mujčin**

Aida comes from Sarajevo and is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Medicine at SSST University. In addition to her love for science and medicine, she loves art and photography and is a third-year student of the Department of Graphic Design and Multimedia at Burch International University. Although science and art are two different fields, she is able to maintain a balance and remain open to new life challenges. She holds the position of president of the MEDICA association, and her activities include humanitarian actions and educational seminars, as well as the SSST Med ReCon scientific and research conference.

She enjoys photography and has been doing it for many years. In addition to college and membership in the Hastor Foundation, she started her own small business and is engaged in photographing weddings and various events, plays volleyball, and reads books, and most of all she likes to spend time with her family.

***I would say that I am a responsible, persistent, and cheerful person. My love for volunteering dates back to elementary school, as a child my favourite thing in the world was the volunteer accreditation, which I always proudly and responsibly carried. Now, years later, I had the honour of being someone's role model and positive wind at my back. I found the greatest source of motivation for volunteering in the Hastor Foundation. In the beginning, I volunteered with scholarship students in elementary school, and my goal was for them to come out of each social gathering richer for something, whether it was knowledge, skills, or critical thinking. Now I'm in the graphic design team and I'm overjoyed because I'm doing what I love, and I can express my creativity and realize an idea.***

She points out that the opportunities offered by the Hastor Foundation to young people are extraordinary and are certainly small steps towards a great and better future for all of us. Aida believes that the Hastor Foundation also provides us with the opportunity to have a positive impact on our community. The very idea of the Foundation, which encourages ambitious young people to make a change, has always been and will remain, as she says, very important to her.



## Omer Muminović

Omer Muminović comes from Teočak and has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for two years. He graduated from the Behram Bey madrasa in Tuzla with honours, after which he enrolled in the Department of Economics and International Business at the Sarajevo University School of Science and Technology (SSST). In his spare time, he enjoys reading, writing, and going out into nature, and when his duties permit, he likes to watch the new episode of the quiz “Millionaire”. Omer’s volunteer path starts from his native Teočak, where for a time he held the position of president of the Teočak Municipality Youth Council, and after enrolling in madrasa, he began to be active in the Tuzla Community Foundation in the “Youth Bank” program. After entering the faculty, he continued his volunteer work at the “Izvor nade” (“Source of Hope”) Foundation and the “Mladi za mir” (“Youth for peace”) Association, where he gained rich experience and learned how to unite and repair, rather than divide and destroy, the common heritage and cultural treasures of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He says that all this helped him become part of the Hastor Foundation, which brings together young people from all over the country who share the same or similar interests. In the past year, he was on a student exchange in the USA as part of the “Global UGRAD Student Exchange Program” at the University of Houston-Victoria in Texas as the only student from Bosnia and Herzegovina who passed the demanding selection process for this program. Our scholarship holder continued his volunteering in the USA, in the “Meals on Wheels South Texas” organization, where he helps pack and distribute meals for socially vulnerable people, which shows how much he cares about working to change society and the community with his small steps.



***The Hastor Foundation has helped me a lot in my personal and professional development. It gave me the opportunity to transfer everything I have learned so far through informal and formal education and various trips to other scholarship holders. If you, as a person, collect knowledge and experience, and you have no one to pass it on to, it remains only for you and there is no dissemination of it. It was through the Foundation that I managed to encourage others to be active and to move from place to place and to start achieving their personal goals, ambitions, and dreams, and it gives me great pleasure to see that I succeeded in my intention. The Hastor Foundation is a place that gives us the opportunity to come forward at any moment with an idea that it will generously and unconditionally support.***

## Amina Bukvarević

Amina Bukvarević is from Kalesija and is a third-year student at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Health Studies, majoring in Medical Laboratory Diagnostics at the University of Tuzla. She has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since 2012. In addition to the Hastor Foundation, Amina also volunteers in the Association “Žena, majko, sestro” (“Woman, Mother, Sister”) and the Association “Osmijeh nade” (“Smile of Hope”). As a person who loves children very much, she enjoys volunteering with younger scholars and children with developmental disabilities. She is cheerful and happy with every sincere smile of a child because she thinks that they are the sincerest beings in the world from whom one can learn the most important lessons in life. In addition to volunteering, she likes reading books whose subject is based on psychology. When she became a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, she was happy because she received financial aid for her education, not realizing how emotionally attached she would be to everything the Foundation is. She received moral support, wind at her back and motivation for everything she does in life. She became more confident in herself and more determined in achieving her goals. She started building new skills, and she started actively volunteering and helping others.



***The Hastor Foundation made me aware that I have one life given to me. In that life, I have many opportunities to help, do good and influence useful and positive changes in society. I must not miss those opportunities because each of us can contribute to creating a better future. The Hastor Foundation taught me that life is not valuable if we do not share, give away, help, and give, and so I thank her for that. My message to scholarship holders is that they should invest in their knowledge and education, be productive, help others around them, build new skills and thus be of use to themselves, the local community and society as a whole.***

## Anela Mušanović

Anela Mušanović comes from Sarajevo and is a girl who, when it comes to development and personal progress, knows no boundaries. Although life held her back in various ways, she came out of every trial stronger and more positive. At one year of age, she became ill with diabetes, with which she lives to this day, but that did not stop her from progressing and achieving outstanding results. In the meantime, she became part of the Hastor Foundation family. This year she graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Sarajevo and thus fulfilled her childhood dream. She is a great perfectionist, and in her spare time she likes to read books, especially in the field of psychology. She started her volunteer journey by volunteering at the Hastor Foundation, and then she combined her free time and her love for animals and volunteering into one perfect whole that now fills her life. In her third year of college, she started volunteering at a veterinary station in order to gain practical knowledge alongside her studies. Volunteering with children and acquiring new work habits are her daily routine. The fact that the younger scholars, with whom the scholars of the Hastor Foundation volunteer, become exactly what their mentors present to them and what they see in them inspires her to be responsible and dedicated to each child individually. She tries to have a good interaction with the students in his volunteer group and, above all, to be their friend, and only then a mentor. Exactly what scholarship holders at the Hastor Foundation learn anew every month.

***Our families, each for themselves, are based mainly on different postulates, and the Hastor Foundation is based on the same for each of us - selfless help, empathy, and good examples. There we learn to walk again, to talk and to spread our wings only when we are fully ready to fly. There are many of us, and yet we are one.***

She believes that we present our Foundation by presenting ourselves in the best possible way on the street, while we walk, while we protect the environment, while we help others, while we rejoice in other people's success as our own, while we become better versions of ourselves every day and compete with ourselves from yesterday.



## Izudin Beganović

Izudin Beganović comes from Sarajevo, and recently obtained the title of Doctor of Medicine. He has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for two years, and in the previous academic year he was a member of the administrative team of the Hastor Foundation. Volunteering at the Hastor Foundation is not his first experience in volunteering. During his high school education, he was a member of the "Izvor nade" ("Source of Hope") Foundation, where he gained his first volunteer experiences both with the younger population and in the local community. Izudin reluctantly admits that, after entering the Faculty of Medicine, he had to devote his time to his academic career as much as possible and was forced to reduce the scope of his volunteer activities. During the final year of his studies, when his duties at the university were less, he had the ideal opportunity to revive his previous experience and love for volunteering through activities at the Hastor Foundation. Lately, as he points out, Izudin tries to focus his work on volunteering and deepening his practical knowledge. The latest activity of this kind is volunteering in the Emergency Department. In this way, he tries to use freely by contributing to the development of the local community, and at the same time to upgrade and improve his knowledge, which many students, unfortunately, were deprived of during the period of the COVID 19 virus pandemic.

***Being a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation is a great honour and pleasure for me. Financial support is only one segment in the sea of things that she has made possible for me. The most important thing that the Hastor Foundation has done for me is that it has opened new perspectives on how much an individual can contribute to society. The experience of bringing together people from different fields and sciences, while everyone has only one goal - the selfless sharing of experience and knowledge so that everyone can progress together and improve our community - can only be experienced within the framework of the Hastor Foundation.***



## Andrej Gradina

Andrej Gradina comes from Sarajevo and is a fifth-year student at the Music Academy of the University of East Sarajevo in the Guitar Department. He has had a love for music since childhood and graduated from primary and secondary music school with the best results, winning a number of awards and recognitions at international, state, and federal competitions and festivals. He is a member of the vocal-instrumental ensemble "Oskar Danon", during which he performed a festive concert on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the existence of the Sarajevo Synagogue, and at the recent Guitar United international competition, he won first prize and received a registration fee for the "Transylvania International Guitar Festival" held in the city of Cluj -Napoca in Romania. One of the countless useful experiences he gained as a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation is volunteering. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking and has directed his volunteering in that direction and has been a volunteer at the Restaurant dobre volje (good will) at the non-profit organization Pomozi.ba for two years. He says that this volunteering gives him immeasurable satisfaction every day, and he volunteers as an assistant to the head chefs. In addition, he points out how useful and interesting the educational meetings he led as a mentor with a group of high school students from Čelić were. Of all the activities he had as part of the Hastor Foundation, he particularly emphasizes volunteer work with children who have visual impairments.



***The most valuable experience which Hastor Foundation gave me is volunteering with children that have partial or complete vision impairment. Through that volunteering I saw their potential, abilities and worked on their development. Thanks to getting to know them, I realized how meaningful it is that every one of us "grows" in motivating and safe surroundings, with support and motivation. Also, they showed me that disability isn't something which can be a bordering obstacle if we have someone who believes in us, who supports us and further guides us. After all of this I can freely say that my biggest motivation for regular activity in society is helping others in which I see the biggest beauty and inspiration for volunteer work,*** says Andrej.

Andrej decided to weave his love for music into his volunteering, considering it an excellent way to improve children's learning abilities, creativity, and fine motor development.

## Samra Đuderija

Samra Đuderija was born in Sarajevo, where she still lives today. She graduated from the Jezero High School of Medicine, majoring in Pediatric Nurse - Technician. She continued her formal education in the field of medicine by enrolling in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sarajevo. She points out that she chose this course because of her desire to help and make things easier for people and to restore their hope for a better tomorrow. As she is one of the best students at this faculty, already during her studies she was chosen as a demonstrator at the Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, for which she points out that the Hastor Foundation is also responsible. Because she loves children, she regularly volunteers at the "Al Isra" kindergarten. Looking at children, she realizes and understands how much love there really is between them, regardless of colour, class, or religion. It is probably Samra's escape from reality, from everything that is happening in the world. Children have the purest heart, and they remind her, as she says, to keep hers that way. Looking at them, she got the desire to be part of a generation that will work for a better future for all children. About volunteering in the mentioned kindergarten and the role of the Hastor Foundation, Samra states:



***I knew about volunteering even before I became a scholarship holder, but I had absolutely no idea where to start. I needed support and guidance, in short, I needed the Hastor Foundation. The foundation made me more responsible, more open, more dexterous and gave me the most important thing, support for my further future. It taught me to be a better person, to respect others and to always be a guiding hand for younger people. I try to present her in the best light, I tell my friends about her, and I present only one part of what she does for us.***

## Ajla Vrebo

The foundation plays a significant role in Ajla's life. Through her years of volunteering, she saw the Foundation as a guardian assigned to her because she was a hardworking and exemplary child. That same guardian still follows her closely and gives her motivation.

She became familiar with the concept of volunteering after becoming part of the Hastor Foundation family, and it became part of her daily routine, and she became a member of various non-governmental organizations, one of which is the "Bravo" Organization, where she holds the roles of a member of the Board of Directors and a project assistant.



***I have been volunteering at the Hastor Foundation since the fifth grade of elementary school. I will remember my first meetings with my mentor Belma, with whom I am still in contact today. When I became a mentor myself, I knew what I wanted to achieve - to transfer as many positive experiences as possible to the group. Volunteering brought me numerous advantages, acquired new knowledge and skills, and when you try your hand at the role of a mentor, you develop skills that, among other things, served as support for my further development.***

As one of the advantages of volunteering at the Hastor Foundation, Ajla singles out the fact that when you get student status, you have the option to join some of the teams such as the administration, the monitoring team, etc., and such teams give a new and different perspective on the word volunteering and through them you can gain numerous new skills. Next to her parents, she considers the foundation to be the biggest support throughout the entire period of schooling, because it helped her and her parents a lot in the financial sense and was thus a wind at their back in another way.



# INTRODUCING BACHELOR AND MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023



## BACHELOR'S DEGREE GRADUATES

Abdelaziz Ahmed Hassan Aiša  
Arnaut Ajla  
Avdić Lejla  
Bahor Melisa  
Bajramović (Salkić) Adisa  
Barukčić Anđela  
Bašić Amina  
Breščić Lejla  
Bulić Semina  
Ćibo Amina  
Ćosić Daria  
Ćukas Nermina  
Đulić Edina  
Durak Azra  
Duvnjak Alema  
Džiho Melisa  
Đapo Lejla  
Đukić Aleksandra  
Ejubović Jasmina  
Elezović Merima  
Eminović Lejla  
Ergun Neyla Yasemin  
Fazlihodžić Aida  
Gačić Fatima  
Galijašević Nejra  
Geko Minela  
Gradina Andrej  
Grafo Nejla  
Hadžić Adna  
Hadžić Asja  
Hadžo Harun  
Halilbegović Šejla  
Hodžić Esmā  
Hodžić Inela  
Hopovac Smail  
Horić-Šabić Lamija  
Hrnjica Zerina  
Hrnjica Edis  
Husić Nihada  
Husić Selma  
Huskić Nadija  
Ibrahimović Saida  
Idriz Armin  
Jakupović Adna  
Jelić Gabriel  
Josipović Aleksandar  
Kahriman Amina  
Kamberović Sara  
Karabeg Una  
Karahmet Dalila  
Karić Dina  
Kasumović Fatima  
Kenjić Ivona  
Kolić Nadina  
Komarac Lejla  
Kozlić Nermina  
Krivokapa Rijad  
Krnjić Amna  
Kuduzović Sara  
Kukavica Vanja  
Mašić Lejla  
Mehmedagić Enisa  
Merdić Fadil  
Mešić Aida  
Muhamedbegović Aida  
Mujaković (Ahmetbegović) Dženita  
Mujanović Mejrema  
Muminović Omer  
Muratović Vanja  
Nuhić Amina



## MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES

Abaspahić Amina  
Aletić Hadžimejlić Jasmina  
Arifović Esmā  
Avdibegović Amela  
Bačić-Arifagić Melisa  
Baltić Amir  
Beganović Izudin  
Čamdžić Ajka  
Čaušević Mersiha  
Dudić Mersiha  
Fadžan Almedina  
Gagić Nikolina  
Hadžić Maida  
Hadžifejzović Merjam  
Halilović Jasmina  
Halilović Jasmina  
Halilović Sevleta  
Harbaš Lejla  
Helać Hanna  
Helvida Amina  
Hrnjić Dženita  
Hrvat Ajla  
Hurko Indira  
Huseinbašić Vedad  
Islamović Semra  
Kadušić Ajdina  
Karić Anisa  
Kutlovac Almina  
Latifović Mustafa  
Martinović (Džalto) Luciana  
Materne Sara-Farah  
Mehanović Ešref  
Mehmedović Alija  
Memić Ajdin  
Mlivo Emira  
Mušanović Anela  
Nešust Semra  
Omerović Almedina  
Otuzbir Hadžo  
Pušina Amra  
Redžepi Saleha  
Smajić Irmela  
Šišić Čaluk Majra  
Tepić Emrah  
Terzić Amel  
Zenkić Adela  
Zorlak Amina  
Zukić Aldijana

## Amra Pušina



Amra Pušina comes from Ilijaš and became a doctor of medicine after graduating from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sarajevo. During her studies she earned a spot on the Dean's List five years in a row, and she also won the award of the Federal Ministry of Education and Science. Amra joined the Hastor Foundation in her fourth year of studies, and she has fond memories of her time in the Hastor family.

***Besides the financial help, the Hastor Foundation creates a network of young, successful, hard-working and empathetic people who promote education, social and moral values and who have each other's backs. I've formed countless friendships, especially with the younger scholarship holders who were my mentees. Even though the role of mentor was a particularly responsible one, I'm glad that I had a chance to share knowledge, experience and be a support to those young people, because ours is only what we give to others.***

## Majra Šišić Čaluk

Majra Šišić Čaluk graduated with a Master's Degree in Theoretical Physics from the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Sarajevo. All throughout her studies Majra volunteered at the Association of Physicists where she prepared gifted students for international physics competitions on which they would represent Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanks to her high GPA and numerous achievements during studies, Majra got offered a position of TA at the Department of Physics at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics. She accepted the offer and she's starting with work soon. Majra shared with us her plan to apply for a PhD at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Zagreb, next year.

***The Hastor Foundation has been on my side since my third year of studies and is an extremely important part of my life. Besides the financial help, I learned crucial lessons with the Hastor Foundation: what helping others means, what the feeling of belonging and community mean, what altruism means... I'm thankful to the Hastor Foundation and proud to be a part of its big family.***



## Vedad Huseinbašić



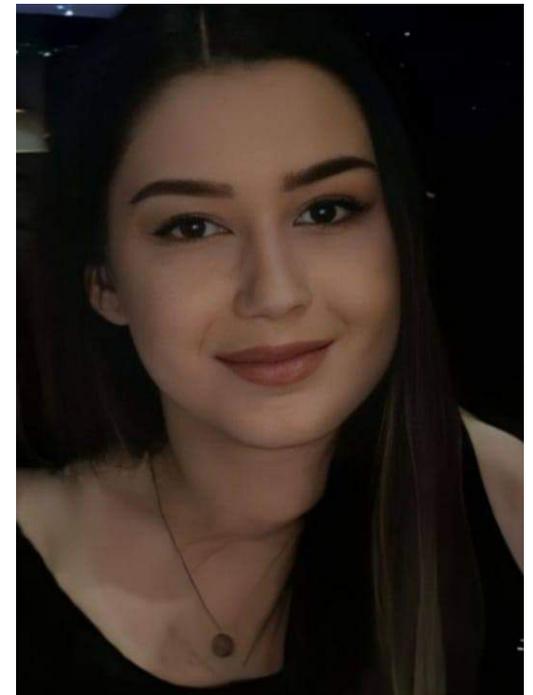
Vedad Huseinbašić graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sarajevo and was a diligent student who achieved great success during his studies. He was a member of the Medical Students' Association (BoHeMSA) and the International Medical Students' Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, he organized numerous conferences and actively participated in several student exchanges in other countries. Vedad is also a co-author of the paper "Recognition, Assessment, and Treatment of Patients with Brain Trauma" which was presented at the Tuzla Brain Week Congress in 2021. He successfully completed an advanced course in surgical suturing and proudly held a scholarship from the Hastor Foundation for a full 12 years. He plans to continue his academic and professional development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with ophthalmology being the branch of medicine in which he can definitely see himself in the future.

***When people talk about success, they often refer to academic achievements. However, I would like to focus on personal growth, character, stability, emotional intelligence, leadership, teamwork, solidarity, and kindness as fundamental things I have developed and improved through my involvement with the Hastor Foundation. I am truly grateful for all the opportunities provided to me through my Foundation, for all the new individuals I have met, for every bit of assistance, and, in particular, I am pleased that the Foundation serves as an example of how a small group of people can accomplish great things.***

## Anisa Karić

Anisa Karić is from Sarajevo and is currently completing her master's thesis at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo. Architecture has been her passion since childhood, and her future plans are closely tied to this creative world she enjoys every day. She had the opportunity to practically apply her knowledge gained at the university by contributing to the interior design of Hastor Foundation's spaces.

***One of my most special and significant experiences was the opportunity to receive a scholarship from the Hastor Foundation. In a way, this allowed me to take my first professional steps, which is a great honor for me. I am happy that, in some way, I managed to express my gratitude to the Hastor Foundation, which has always been by my side, supporting me in my education and life. I am thankful and fortunate to have been a part of the extended family of the Hastor Foundation, where I met wonderful and ambitious people who are proof that kindness is the most important virtue. When we believe in ourselves and support each other, there is no obstacle we cannot overcome.***



# ● ALUMNI CLUB ASSEMBLY

This year at the founding meeting of the Alumni Club of the Hastor Foundation the first assembly of the club has been chosen, and those are: **Marizela Hadžić** (president of the assembly), **Emina Sijahović** (vice president) and **Alem Merdić** (secretary). This assembly will lead the Alumni Club for the time being and in the following paragraphs we present to you the members of the assembly.

Marizela Hadžić became a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder in its first years since its inception, and she has witnessed the Foundation's growth and continuous progress. Marizela is a graduated engineer of traffic and communications. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree at the Department of Communication Technologies, and she is currently working as a senior consultant at the AudIT Company. Marizela emphasized the fact that it was the Hastor Foundation who helped her make first steps in her professional life; the Hastor Foundation has always supported, motivated and greatly influenced her to build her self-confidence and achieve her personal potential.

***From its inception till today, the Hastor Foundation has been the backbone of positive stories and good people. To be part of the Foundation while growing up and going to school has had a significant impact on me as a young person who was just starting out. I developed my social skills and learned more about social responsibility and solidarity strengthening through the volunteer projects and helping others in the Hastor Foundation. At the end, the Foundation has given me an extraordinary opportunity to network and form the most precious friendships, which is something I'm incredibly thankful for.***

## Marizela Hadžić



Emina Sijahović comes from the city Maglaj, and she is currently working as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science, University of Sarajevo. Emina became a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder in her third year of studies and ever since then, as she pointed out, the Hastor Foundation has been in her life in unique ways. As a student she got familiarized with countless benefits of volunteer work and through the volunteer work in the Hastor Foundation, Emina got her first job experience. She had made a number of friendships that have lasted till this day, which is definitely a fond memory Emina will forever have of the Hastor Foundation. Even though she completed her higher education by getting a PhD at her Faculty, Emina feels like she still has to learn a lot and she cites lifelong learning as her most important motivation.

## Emina Sijahović



***I met the best people and made the best friends while I was in the Hastor Foundation which inevitably influenced many of my life decisions and was there for me when I needed it the most. That's why the Hastor Foundation became an essential part of my life story. Today I'm very happy and thankful that I took part in all the various types of volunteer work that we did in the Hastor Foundation because I gained plenty of useful knowledge along the way, which meant a lot to me later on in life. All of those volunteer roles felt natural to me, and I truly enjoyed in all of them because I knew that I was doing good and beneficial things for my community. I have to mention how happy it makes me to see on social media young people who were my mentees that I met in the Hastor Foundation, but who are now building a successful professional and private life for themselves.***



Alem Merdić has a PhD in Economics, and he is currently working as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Economics, Zenica. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in the Department of Accounting and Audit Management from the Faculty of Economics, Zenica, as a most accomplished student of his generation. Alem was rewarded various acknowledgements for his extraordinary accomplishments during his studies. In the academic year 2015-2016 he was declared the best student with the GPA 10.0 on the undergraduate and graduate level of studies of all the public faculties of economy in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Alem was offered a job at the Faculty of Economics in 2014 and since then he has been working as an assistant professor. In his academic work till this day he got two books published as university press books, and he has written a dozen of scientific papers that were published in indexed journals and conference proceedings from local and international conferences. He also participated in the realization of local and international scientific research projects and projects in the field of economics. Alem is a permanent court expert witness in the field of economics, too. He graduated with a Master's Degree with the GPA 10.0 in Economics and Business in 2022 from the Faculty of Economics, University of Tuzla.

## Alem Merdić



***I became a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder at a time when I seriously needed financial help so I could continue my studies. However, besides the financial help, being part of the close-knit family that the Hastor Foundation is means having constant moral support and encouraging environment that inspires you to put in more effort, give more, create and work for the sake of society as a whole. It also means contributing to achieving the mission and vision of the Hastor Foundation and contributing to personal and professional development. Being a member of the Hastor family doesn't only mean getting a scholarship. The Foundation teaches us responsibility, humanity, patriotism, solidarity. It also teaches us goodness. Today I'm living the idea and values of the Hastor Foundation, deeply aware that those values are universal values that create goodness, regardless of the time we live and work in.***

# ● STATEMENTS FROM CURRENT AND FORMER SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

*The Hastor Foundation seemed like a concept that could change my life.*

*The arrival of the Foundation in my life represented the arrival of new hope and a ray of sunshine.*

*I believe I wouldn't have even enrolled in college if it weren't for the Foundation. Not only did you make my life and education easier, but also my mom's, sister's, and brother's. They all felt the support I received.*

*The Hastor Foundation has undoubtedly made my school days brighter and easier.*

*Before I became a member of the Foundation, I didn't even know what being a volunteer meant. Thanks to the Hastor Foundation, I've come to love volunteering, and it's one of the things that fulfills me. Thank you for performing miracles just by your existence.*

*The Hastor Foundation is a representation of what we, students and scholars, should be.*

*Most importantly, I've learned to help others and support them without expecting anything in return. This is one of the most beautiful qualities to take away from our years of friendship!*

*I found help and emotional support in my mentors, some of whom I truly consider my friends.*

*The role of the Hastor Foundation in my life was decisive in breaking down mental barriers that were preventing me from showing my potential.*

*The Foundation taught me that every effort pays off and that goodness always prevails and returns even better!*

*It made me realize that there is a solution for every problem and that there is someone I can always turn to to share both good and bad things. It made me feel like I'm part of a big family, today, tomorrow, and forever.*

*It provided me with the opportunity to be a responsible and dignified academic citizen today.*

*The Foundation is an example of the desirable Bosnia and Herzegovina in miniature, where society members warmly help each other, where everyone is respected regardless of their status, and the desire for progress is genuine, and more importantly, shared.*

*Without the Hastor Foundation, my life would surely be more complicated, stressful, and negative. The Hastor Foundation has provided many opportunities for students from rural areas like me. Through the foundation, I've gained completely different and very positive perspectives on life. Through the scholarship, I've acquired socially responsible qualities for which I will be grateful for life.*

*Since I studied in Sarajevo and was close to the Foundation, I felt like I had one family there, even though I was far from all my other loved ones.*

*The Hastor Foundation is synonymous with a true friend.*

*I am grateful for everything, but the qualities of empathy, solidarity, love and humanity that the Hastor Foundation instilled in me are priceless.*

*I had the feeling that someone was "watching my back" throughout my entire education, making everything easier to overcome.*

*The support, which is hard to describe in words. Walking as a member of the best organization of young and talented people, the Hastor Foundation, is a special feeling. Being recognizable while carrying the FH bag, as if chosen by the best, growing into a great person, not just through financial assistance but through all forms of support, means a lot. And what's most important? The Foundation doesn't forget about its scholarship recipients even after everything. That's called love.*

*The Hastor Foundation will always represent a guiding star in my life and how I would like to live and act in life.*

# FRIENDS AND DONORS CLUB



Throughout its seventeen years of existence, the Hastor Foundation continually advances its activities and mission to invest in education and build a better and more prosperous society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanks to the dedication of all those who are connected to the Hastor Foundation, primarily its team, it has grown into the most significant and largest foundation of its kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. Today, as the Foundation proudly counts more than 2,200 scholarship recipients, it has the support of numerous friends and donors who recognize the Foundation's mission and actively contribute to it. Through their selfless support and commitment to redirecting their social responsibility toward investing in education, our friends and donors make the long-term mission of the Hastor Foundation possible, with the belief that positive changes in society and a brighter future come through collaborative efforts, knowledge, and successful education.



## VOLUNTEERS OF HASTOR FOUNDATION

Aganspahić Sead	Kučuk Adisa
Ahmetović Edin	Kulo Begić Emra
Bašić Nejra	Manov Ismira
Broz Zoran	Mašnić Selma
Čerkez Timur	Merdić Alem
Čivgin Nihad	Milinović Linda
Dedić Amela	Morankić Feđa
Delić Sanel	Moro Haris
Dumanjić Samir	Musić Indira
Đapo Haris	Mustafić Samir
Đonlagić Lejla	Palić Safet
Glavović Džejla	Pašić Rabija
Hadžić Edin	Planinčević Nermina
Hadžić Marizela	Pulić Mirza
Hadžić Mehmedalija	Redžepović Aida
Hadžiselimović Eldin	Redžepović Samir
Hajdarević Dželila	Rizvo Marizela
Hasanović Merima	Rustemović Anida
Haskić Samira	Sarajlić Haris
Hodžić Adnan	Sijahović Emina
Huseinović Šukrija	Smajkan Aldijana
Husnić Maida	Šesto Muniza
Jalimam Emir	Tabaković Dino
Jusufović Rasim	Tahirović Jasmin
Kiblić Alma	Vrabac Džana
Kovačević Mirsada	Vuk Edina

**... and many, many others, please don't take offense.  
We would need at least 50 more pages to write about all  
the love and energy we receive from all our volunteers.**

# JOIN US

The Hastor Foundation is an organization that has been operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a full 17 years by investing in the education of children and young people, especially those who are marginalized due to their challenging socio-economic circumstances and the environments in which they live. Driven by the idea of facilitating education and improving the living conditions of children and young people, the Hastor Foundation has so far awarded nearly 24,000 annual scholarships throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since the very beginning, we have encouraged elementary school, high school, and college students to join the large Hastor Foundation family. However, considering that we receive a significant number of scholarship applications daily, we are not able to accept and support all those who reach out to us, even though we genuinely wish we could. The selection of candidates is one of the most challenging tasks for our committee because we reluctantly must reject a certain number of applications. Therefore, we need support from others to provide many young and promising students the opportunity to pursue their dreams and aspirations. Our mission year after year is to secure funding for a large number of students' scholarships. Moreover, the Hastor Foundation stands firmly by each scholarship recipient, offering all necessary support and assistance until they complete their education and find employment, which is the primary goal for each scholarship recipient. Through this message, we invite all individuals, companies, and organizations to become a part of the Friends club of the Hastor Foundation and help us provide numerous students with the opportunity for successful education by contributing in their way to secure financial resources for the education of children and young people throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Join our mission so that together we can realize the dreams of promising students and young people who need our help!



**If you wish to support the work of the Hastor Foundation,  
you can make a donation to one of the following bank accounts:**

**ASA Banka dd Sarajevo 1346101000825159**

**Unicredit Bank dd Sarajevo 3389002201775656**

**Raiffeisen Bank BH dd Sarajevo 1610000055230065**