



NEWSLETTER

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FONDACIJA
HASTOR



The successful implementation of the project "EMPOWERING GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN THROUGH MENTORING SUPPORT"

Investing resources in education development and providing assistance to scholarship recipients nearing the completion of their education or transitioning to a higher level of education is a commitment the Hastor Foundation has continued this year as well. Guided by its longstanding mission, the Hastor Foundation, in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Bosnia and Herzegovina, successfully executed the project "Empowering girls and young women through mentoring support" during the past period.

The primary aim of the project was to promote gender equality through the education of girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This involved empowering third-grade female students from high schools across Bosnia and Herzegovina and educating them on topics such as the position of women in Bosnian society, improvement thereof, combating violence against women, the importance and protection of reproductive health, preparing young female students for university enrollment and the importance of choosing

the right profession, as well as fostering entrepreneurship among young girls. The implementation of project activities included granting scholarships to female students who, through educational workshops, engaged in non-formal education for 50 third-grade high school students. They aimed to raise awareness about crucial topics and provide clear and solid foundations for the further development of the students who attended workshops held throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, Zenica, Konjic, Mostar, Novi Travnik, Bijeljina, Živinice, and Zvornik.

The project aimed to contribute to the overall empowerment of women in Bosnian society, thereby allowing the Hastor Foundation to actively work towards initiating significant societal changes.

We take this opportunity to thank the Embassy of France in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the support provided in carrying out the project activities.



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*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



**FONDACIJA
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Translated by: Ajlla Hadžimuratović

Dženana Zulum

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once said: **„You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him“**, reminding us of the fundamental reflection on altruism as a crucial part of human nature. The volunteer engagement of Hastor Foundation scholarship holders is a key aspect, representing the realization of our core mission – the advancement of society through various spheres of action. Within the Hastor Foundation, volunteerism conceptually extends beyond individual contributions, reflecting a deeply rooted spirit of solidarity and unity. In line with these values, the main goal of the Scholar of the Month section is to encourage individuals whose initiatives affirm the fundamental principles of the Hastor Foundation. Dženana's outstanding contribution and dedication to volunteer activities are the subjects of this month's Scholar of the Month section, and below, we bring you her inspirational story.

Dženana Zulum is from Bugojno and has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for a solid decade. She is in the final year of her second cycle of studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo, specializing in Communication/Journalism – Public Relations and Public Affairs.

Her dedication to her work is evidenced by a strong commitment to philanthropy, with her primary area of interest expressed through the prism of communication. As Dženana notes, all of this stems from an awareness of the importance of effective communication skills, best implemented within the framework of social sciences. Throughout her three-year studies, Dženana has accumulated rich experience in various media activities. The management of acquired knowledge and skills has guided her towards the public relations sector, and her passion has found its reflection through activities within the Hastor Foundation.

The initial instance of her volunteer engagement was in the social media maintenance team, where she not only tried herself but largely found her place.

Given that I have been volunteering within the Hastor Foundation for a decade, I sought to seize the opportunity for professional development, and over these years, I have truly become attached to it. I witness its significance and the importance of its actions for the entire Bosnian-Herzegovinian society on a daily basis, something no one can remain immune to. From that moment, with my strength and dedicated heart, I am committed to volunteering in the Hastor Foundation, and that is truly what I am most proud of.



In addition to the social media maintenance team, the Hastor Foundation provided Dženana with the opportunity to expand her talents and passion for communication through hosting a podcast. This initiative not only contributes to knowledge dissemination but also allows Dženana to share her skills with the community. In the role of the host of the Hastor Foundation Podcast, Dženana has truly carved out a special place and found a „part of herself“.



This is invaluable professional development! We have a podcast that is at a high level technically, visually, and in content. In addition to all that, we use it for the best possible purposes – promoting young and successful individuals, as well as genuine social values. It is precisely these values and their promotion that make me, through this project, feel socially useful, not just as a host. Together with the team behind the camera and the guest sitting across from me, we contribute to the promotion of quality people, significant achievements, and inspiring stories. All of this proves that it is possible in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We abound with such extremely quality potentials, and they deserve to be heard because it is their voices that will motivate those who listen.

Prepared by: Semina Sadiković
Translated by: Elmina Huseljić

Inela Hodžić

Everything you can dream, you can achieve!



No matter where you are on Earth and how big your dreams are, never give up on creating your path towards their realization, and life will undoubtedly arrange the pieces and send you a true friend to help you along the way. Proof of this is our scholarship recipient Inela Hodžić, who comes from Travnik and is a student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Zenica.

Inela became a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation back in 2015, and she found out about it thanks to friends. She volunteered for four years as a student, and then, upon enrolling in college, she also became a mentor. Inela mentioned that the best effect of mentoring is, in fact, the fact that friendships are born there. She always tried to be a friend and a role model to her students. All mentors of the Foundation are guiding stars to the students they work with at some point. Inela wanted to selflessly impact young people and make them even better and more successful:

Through volunteering with high school students, I truly learned to deal with responsibility. I organized a large number of workshops and presentations through which I improved myself and overcame the fear and stage fright I had during presentations. Whether I liked it or not, I told myself that I had to do it for the students I was mentoring and, in a way, being a role model for. I was the guiding star for them during a certain period of their lives. I wanted to impact young people so that they could be better at everything than me at their age. I paid attention to what was a problem for me at that time and could not allow them to struggle with those problems, so I always tried to be both a friend and a mentor to them simultaneously.

As a student gifted in many areas, Inela decided to pass on her knowledge to younger generations through the STEM Academy, where she took a group of students to the World Robotics Competition in Panama in November of this year! Every time carries its burden, but also new experiences, knowledge, and feelings that build a better personality - of course, if we use it appropriately as our advantage. When asked how the competition in Panama came about and what her beginnings looked like, Inela told us:

Of course, at the beginning, it is never easy, and we all think that we will not succeed, that maybe what we are doing is not for us. However, when we make an effort and give our best, success is inevitable, and the satisfaction that comes with it is something that truly fulfills a person and motivates them for further work. Then we realize that everything we have worked for was not in vain and that we can draw a lesson from it and gain experience that will give us a boost.

Inela also emphasizes that, together with her group of students, she managed to see another part of the world, new cultures, and people, gaining significant experiences that will benefit her future work. The journey to the World Robotics Olympiad followed after winning first place in the national competition held in May of this year in Zenica.

With tremendous support and assistance from professors at the university, Inela and her group managed to step into the world of robotics. After a large number of training sessions, hard work, and solving tasks, they managed to win first place in the national competition and qualify for the world competition. We learn how the World Robotics Competition influenced Inela in the following:

When we truly dedicate ourselves to something we do, of course, we always expect good results, but I did not expect this much success. If someone had told me that my team led by me as a coach would win the National Robotics Competition, I would not have believed them, not to mention going to the world competition somewhere in Panama, which I always thought I would only see on the world map and in pictures on the screen.

For the conclusion of the interview, Inela expressed her desire to address younger scholarship recipients: *I would advise students who are soon entering the job market to fully dedicate themselves to everything they do and are assigned. When we take responsibility for ourselves, we need to meet expectations and what we stand for. We can all really do that if we are interested in something we do.*



Prepared by: Hana Kolasević and Hana Hajrić
Translated by: Zerina Kosovac

Ammar Biser

After completing their studies, The Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients are still tied to the foundation as a root to a tree. Those roots are not easy to pull out because of the connection that tends to be strong, unbreakable, filled with positive emotions and beautiful memories of the studies they completed. That is how former scholarship recipients of The Hastor foundation cherish their connection with the Foundation that was

often their main support in life. Time passes and people are faced with various changes and many memories fade away when they are replaced with new and more interesting events. Just one thing remains the same in the life of every scholarship recipients, no matter the age – The commitment to The Hastor Foundation. This month we present you a story of our former scholarship recipient, **Ammar Biser.**



Ammar Biser is a former scholarship recipient of The Hastor Foundation and currently he lives and works in Sarajevo. He finished music high school and Academy of music – University of Sarajevo. He became scholarship recipient of The Hastor Foundation as a part of one of the first generations, back in 2007.

Ammar today works as a guitar teacher in Elementary music school, Ilidža, which was, as he says, always his wish and ambition. During

his studies and at the Hastor Foundation, he stood out for his exceptional musical skills, which he often selflessly shared with other scholarship recipients. Namely, his involvement, among other things, was reflected in the fact that he performed for years in certain important events such as: Sarajevo Film Festival, Hastor Foundation anniversaries, promotions, concerts and many others.

Despite such engagement, preoccupation and lack of free time, Ammar always knew how to choose priorities which brought him to a place where he is today. He was always a responsible student completing his duties on the Academy, but also completing his duties in The Hastor foundation. His story shows us that The Hastor foundation during its existence always carried same thoughts, same mission, work. It is because of this approach that today it can boast of such successes of its scholarship holders.



The Hastor Foundation taught us that one does not exclude the other - we can be successful both at university and in other activities. It is important to be a successful student, but it is also important to be a good person. Moreover, that is what is most important.

Ammar says how The Hastor Foundation and volunteering work helped him greatly with the job he does today. Because he was a mentor to younger scholarship recipients for years, he gained skills of communication with the younger students, he learned how to draw their attention, but also how to teach them important things. Ammar says how, in school he works in, he just continued doing what he was doing in The Foundation – being a mentor, support and a friend to his students. The Hastor Foundation, as he says, helped him in developing empathy and mentoring skills.

Thanks to The Hastor Foundation I learned that being a good person does not depend on our function. It is important to be a friend, help and support, no matter what we do. Good knows no limitations of any kind.

Besides that, he says that the experience of being a mentor created a really special experience because the classes in Elementary music school, Ilidža, take place individually. For the end, Ammar tells young people to be authentic, to cherish true values and qualities and to be good people, that is exactly what The Hastor Foundation aspires us to be the whole time.

The greatest desire of man is to have someone by his side who will inspire him to achieve what he is capable of

Ralph Waldo Emerson

We witness today numerous challenging roles in the world, and one of them is the role of a mentor. Being someone's mentor, actively guiding, pointing out mistakes, and giving advice is by no means an easy task. However, the scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation have the opportunity to experience this role before stepping into more challenging and advanced aspects of life. Mentoring can be unpredictable and at times exhausting, but it holds within it great wealth and lessons that can be immensely valuable in the future.

Aleksandar Josipović is a scholarship recipient from Teslić and one of the valuable mentors of the Hastor Foundation. His biography is filled with praises and awards, and he does not lag behind in his volunteer engagement. He is a fourth-year student at the Academy of Arts in Banja Luka, specializing in Music Theory and Pedagogy. Aleksandar conducts his volunteer activities online, yet that does not stop him from having meaningful and quality meetings with his group of students. He volunteers with 25 students, both elementary and high schoolers, and emphasizes that despite minor obstacles during meetings, he maintains very good contact with the students. Consequently, they consistently attend meetings in large numbers and with satisfaction.

Among other things, he also tells us the following:

During volunteering, in addition to the mandatory monthly topics we covered, I always made an effort to be available to the students, just as other members of the Hastor Foundation were to me. In this way, I tried to instill in them a love for the Foundation while also giving them a sense of belonging to this big family. Through conversation and listening to their problems, I aimed to show them that in the Foundation, we are all indispensable links and that none of us is less valuable. By helping each other in any way, even by listening to their problems, we fulfill the fundamental principle of the Hastor Foundation.

At the last meeting, Aleksandar talked to his students about the Hastor Foundation. They reminisced about the initial, simultaneously challenging and sweet steps of the Foundation. Considering Aleksandar has been a member of this large family for a long time, we believe that he shared his experiences with the students joyfully, hopefully sparking the desire for mentorship in some of them. This dedicated mentor made an effort to familiarize the students as much as possible with the significance, work, and deeds of the Hastor Foundation. The goal of mentoring meetings is for mentors to instill positive values in children and thereby raise awareness about the importance of caring for the community and doing good. This is why Aleksandar emphasizes that he carefully selects topics for his mentoring meetings because he wants to leave his mark on the students, who often see him as a role model. He feels most proud in the moment when, through conversation, he recognizes progress in children in any field, or when they themselves express it. In his opinion, at that moment, all the effort somehow gains its meaning.





Aleksandar only has words of praise for the Hastor Foundation – besides financial aid, he highlighted the numerous connections he has made. Moreover, he says that through active dedication and volunteering, he has developed a desire, perhaps even a habit, to help anyone and willingly assist everyone.

The Hastor Foundation, through its various activities, aims precisely for that – to encourage young people and remind them that kindness towards others is the key to success and happiness in life. Also, Aleksandar says that being a scholar of this foundation is a great privilege, citing mentoring as the reason. According to him, he owes a great deal of gratitude to the Hastor Foundation itself because it provided him with the opportunity to participate in children's upbringing in a special way. Also, undoubtedly, some of them will consider him their role model in the future.

Finally, we asked Aleksandar for a message for all our current and future scholars, and he briefly stated the following:

Remain students as long as you have something to learn, hence, throughout your entire life.



The glass of lord Sanko Miltenović

Drinking vessels were the most common goldsmith's products of the medieval period, which, despite their large production, have survived in fairly small numbers. An exceptional example of 15th-century goldsmithing is a silver drinking bowl - hanap. Typologically, this type of vessel is of French origin, and sources mention them from the 13th century and call them hanap, Latin ciphus, which means a wide, shallow drinking vessel, ordinary, not of a ceremonial character, but intended for daily use. One such vessel from the Bosnian Middle Ages is the glass belonging to the lord of Sanka, which is kept today in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The Cup of Lord Sanka is a sumptuous piece of work from the second half of the 14th century and opens up new perspectives on Gothic influences in the Bosnian- Dubrovnik area. When it comes to the appearance of the glass, it is silver, circular in shape and decorated on the inside while an inscription runs on the outside.

The inner surface of the glass is decorated with a combined geometrical-vegetal composition consisting of a triangle, an inscribed circle and three semicircles whose diameters lie on the sides of an equilateral triangle. A stylized rosette with six petals is drawn in the middle of the circle, and an oak leaf is repeated in each petal. The corners of the triangle are also filled with oak leaves. Due to its entire composition, the cup represents an interesting example of goldsmithing from the second half of the 14th century, so it can be assumed that it was made in a Bosnian or Dubrovnik goldsmiths workshop. It is interesting that this cup also features a demon motif, a characteristic Gothic motif whose development can be traced from the 12th century until the beginning of the 15th century in the area of Western Europe in various branches of artistic activity. This motif is also represented in the gospel of Divoš Tihoradić, which indicates that this motif was attractive to the local craftsmen and that they used it in various types of artistic activity.



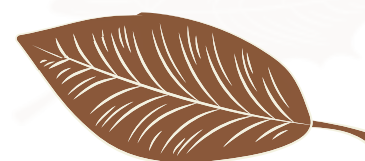
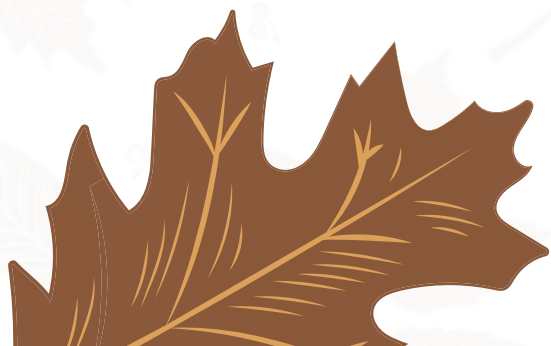


The oak leaf motif, which was also widely represented in goldsmiths workshops in these areas, enabled a closer dating of this glass because the way in which this motif was processed is actually specific to the area of the Balkan Peninsula, the Mediterranean, Spain and France in the 14th century. When it comes to the inscription itself, which is on the outside of the glass, it is written in Cyrillic letters similar to Gothic capitals. The inscription also contains the name of the owner of the glass (Sinakova glass shines) and although it is not resolved in historiography which Sanko this glass belonged to, given that there were several lords with the same name within the Bosnian Kingdom, the prevailing opinion is that it belonged to the Draživojević family, the later Sanković family, which was one of the most respected and economically strong Bosnian noble families, that is, to Sanko Miltenović, a faithful prisoner of Tvrtko I until 1366, when he rebelled.

Unusual and especially striking is the symbolic message on the inscription that followed immediately after the invocation of

the Holy Trinity: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, may God give joy to the one who drinks from it, but may he not forget the poor. There are conflicting opinions as to whether this glass was made in a Bosnian or Dubrovnik workshop. However, in any case, this glass represents an important contribution to the art of medieval Bosnia because very few such glasses have been preserved, and it represents a significant contribution to the knowledge of goldsmithing from the period of medieval Bosnia, especially from the second half of the 14th century, from which period only isolated and individual original ones have been preserved works, although based on archival material we know that similar glasses were produced in large quantities at that time.

Also, on the basis of this glass and many other artistic legacies from the Bosnian developed Middle Ages, it is possible to follow the development of the Gothic influence on the art of medieval Bosnia in various segments, due to which the works of medieval Bosnian art became much richer and more luxurious.



Flowers

*In the ardor of dreams
In the reverberations of lights
Hundreds of colors—none is mine
In the usually peaceful daybreak*

Go

*Distraught by her dusty hair
That's coming my way
Silver, alive, like ne'er before*

*To put my suitcase down in the ozone of lights
And leave behind great wishes
Is it nearby?*

*Here I am, even nearer
'Cause this blush mist
Brings me a bit of luck*

*Now I'm not afraid in the slightest
Not lying—no fear is there
In that where my steps want to go
In that dark chanson
There on the beige balcony
Tailored on the ruby
With deep soil*

*A little sunshine and cinnamon powder
An oblique light ray escapes to the east
Who wants to go to that blueness
Under the sky their heart is free.*

Jasmina Ejubović



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