

NEWSLETTER

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HASTOR

Signed Contracts with new student scholars of the Hastor Foundation

The Hastor Foundation provides new opportunities each year to deserving young individuals and opens its doors to its extensive family. According to the rules and criteria, at the beginning of the current academic year, a competition was announced for awarding scholarships to regular students enrolled for the first time in the academic year 2023/2024. The right to apply was granted to students of accredited higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As always, this year, a large number of highly qualified candidates, applied for the Hastor Foundation scholarship. Consequently, it was very challenging to select those who would become members of our family. Year after year, the students' interest increases, and the number of applicants testifies to the fact that the Hastor Foundation is, indeed, a community that brings together young people with diverse interests and fields of study – from natural and mathematical sciences to humanities and social sciences – gathered around a single common goal – competing in doing good.

Based on specific rules and criteria, the Scholarship Selection Committee selected those who stood out the most in academic achievements, their volunteer engagements, and social contributions, managing to balance all obligations and maintaining exceptional academic success. Certainly, during their engagement with the Foundation, their volunteer activities will further develop and expand, something we especially look forward to.

After the conclusion of the competition, interviews were held, and contracts were signed with 23 new students. Ms. Lejla Đonlagić, Director of the Hastor Foundation, introduced the new members to the Foundation's values and mission, the benefits they receive by becoming a part of it, and their future volunteer engagement, through which they will have the opportunity to refine their skills while simultaneously contributing to their community. Moreover, the purpose, value, and significance of volunteer engagement in the Foundation, one of its most important components, were highlighted.

The Hastor Foundation doesn't just assist individuals but also the entire community of Bosnian society with its resources. Volunteer activities are geared toward societal progress. More young members of the family imply more volunteer hours, and these volunteer hours mean more steps toward progress and success.

Therefore, one of our imperatives is to continually spread and permeate the idea of goodness and competition in doing good whenever we have the opportunity. Knowledge never diminishes. We congratulate the new scholarship recipients and hope that through their volunteer engagement, they will justify the trust and uphold all the values of the Hastor Foundation. We eagerly anticipate introducing you to our new scholars, and you will have the chance to read about them in upcoming editions of our Newsletter.

Prepared by: Amina Bašić
Translated by: Ajlla Hadžimuratović

Indira Džanić



Scholarship students of the Hastor Foundation who have the mentor status have an immensely important task, role, and responsibility because through their positive examples, they serve as role models and inspiration to younger scholarship holders within the Foundation and the surrounding community. This month, we introduce you to our twenty- two-year-old Indira Džanić, who comes from Ćoseti, a small settlement near Brčko. Indira completed her high school education at the Agricultural and Medical School in Brčko and is currently attending the Medical Faculty at the University of Tuzla. As a holder of the Hastor Foundation scholarship of thirteen years, she currently volunteers as the leader of the mentor coordinator team.

Indira signed her first scholarship agreement in the fifth grade of elementary school. The experience gained as a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation is something that has accompanied her throughout her education, significantly shaping her personality. Over the years, she has met many people in the field of medicine and various other areas, considering it one of the greatest advantages of being a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder. Spending countless hours studying different topics has contributed to her becoming a versatile person with broad perspectives on the world. Volunteering throughout these years has been diverse. Constructive discussions, conversations with peers, travel, various lectures, and navigating unpredictable situations helped her master public speaking skills, lecture preparation, and conducting various types of training.

Volunteering in the local community made her aware of characteristics such as humanity and the importance of helping others. As she herself expresses, she often finds herself in situations where she conveys the motives and goals of the Foundation to those around her. Through dialogue with Indira, we understood that this is, among other things, one of the main goals of the Hastor Foundation – spreading kindness and helping others!

Indira currently volunteers in the Foundation as the leader of the mentor coordinator team, whose role is to support mentors in the terrain. Their goal is to optimize students' volunteer engagement and highlight ways to maximize the use of volunteer hours. Additionally, her team oversees the productivity of student volunteering.

As favorite moments, Indira cherishes the smiles she manages to bring to the faces of people she encounters with her colleagues during volunteering. The feeling that accompanies her through volunteer obligations for her is an irreplaceable driving factor towards improving her personality, but also the environment in which she lives.





Indira has nurtured a great love for the world of science since childhood. She consistently highlighted her special passion for studying the processes of the human body, considering it a perfect mechanism that we should preserve and nurture in the best possible way. The humane aspect of this profession is one of the main factors that has tied her to the medical field.

When asked about the decision-making process for choosing her college, she mentioned that she never had any doubts because, in the third year of high school, during her first contact with specialized and clinical subjects, she decided that medicine was the right choice for her and her life's calling.

This brave and ambitious student believes that, for any job, it is crucial to find the thread that will connect us to it:

I believe that healthcare professionals, whether doctors, technicians, pharmacists, or any other group of healthcare workers, must possess two qualities: a desire for learning and understanding the human body, and a desire to help. Through high school and practical experience, I discovered these qualities within myself, and I couldn't find a better way to leverage them than by embarking on the journey of medicine.

As Indira puts it, medicine as a scientific field offers an opportunity for constant growth, learning, and self-improvement, allowing the exploration of oneself through understanding the (dys)functioning of the human body,

listening to the body, and optimizing one's own and others' lives. Moreover, studying various medical fields provides an opportunity for personal and character development across countless spheres of life. Daily exposure to different challenges and facing numerous difficulties teaches us the true values of life and emphasizes the importance of seizing every minute and each day as if they were the last.

Besides her academic responsibilities and volunteering, Indira spends her time in the gym and explores nutrition to improve her health and well-being. She shares this content on the TikTok social network to motivate others. In conclusion, she sends a powerful message:

My message to all scholarship recipients is to seize every opportunity life offers, embrace all good chances and opportunities. Through the Foundation, we have the chance to develop into strong, capable individuals with high self-confidence and to form friendships that will mark our lives. Let's learn to enjoy life, and we can truly do that with the Hastor Foundation!

Prepared by: Hana Kolasević
Translated by: Elmina Huseljić



Amina Bašić

The section of active youth dedicates each month to commendable scholarship recipients who selflessly engage in activities that contribute to the community. They are those who, through every action, strive to be better children, friends, students, mentors – in short, better human beings. Being a good person means doing good whenever the opportunity arises.

Kindness knows no limits, neither in time nor space, and it doesn't solely rest on direct contributions to people. It can also manifest indirectly, often seen in how we love, respect, and represent our homeland. Therefore, this time, we present to you our Amina Bašić, a person who has fulfilled all the criteria mentioned above as an altruist and philanthropist.

Amina Bašić hails from Hadžići, near Sarajevo. She graduated from the First Bosniak Gymnasium and currently attends her third year at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo – Department of Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian language, and the Department of Literatures of the Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is the author of several academic articles in the fields of philology, linguistics, political, and legal sciences, published in print and electronic journals. Her first research work on diplomacy (NATO integration) was published in November 2022. Furthermore, she's involved in translating and digitalizing a collection of old manuscripts. She actively engages in diplomacy, leadership, presentation, and rhetorical skills, having

completed various training courses in these areas. She has moderated numerous project presentations and has been a lecturer, speaker, and participant in various conferences.

She began her volunteer engagement working with students, highlighting how this work with young scholarship recipients has been an invaluable professional experience – an excellent preparation for her future profession: teaching. Accordingly, she emphasizes the importance of community as a crucial factor influencing the development of an individual's personality:

We are created to function together and within a community because as individuals, we find it very challenging to make significant progress in society.

In October of this year, Amina visited the People's Republic of China, specifically in the Fujian province, as Bosnia and Herzegovina's representative at the Northeast Asia Youth Camp on Sustainable Development 2023 Fujian. Kanita Hamzić and Amina Bašić were the only representatives from Europe.





The camp's goal was to explore different economic potentials in the cities of Xiamen, Wuyishan, and Fuzhou, visiting companies whose main business frameworks are based on sustainable development principles. Visits were accompanied by meetings and lectures related to these themes. Alongside diplomatic activities, Amina had the opportunity to acquaint herself with the rich Chinese culture, art, history, literature, and the diplomatic continuity of these cities.

Although Amina has proven to be a true friend, mentor, and philanthropist, she demonstrates her skills by volunteering as a lecturer within the Hastor Foundation. Amina expresses her satisfaction in sharing the knowledge gained from the Department of Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian language and the Department of Literatures of the Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the readers of the Hastor Foundation Newsletter:

I must say I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to practically apply everything we learn in our studies and what we are being prepared for. The work of a lecturer is very demanding, but simultaneously, I feel immense satisfaction that I can contribute to the Foundation in this spectrum.

In conclusion, Amina advises young people and everyone reading this at any point in their lives to work on themselves repeatedly, strive for lifelong learning, bravely defend their views, and always maintain dignity. The battle, unfortunately, does not end overnight; it is omnipresent and inevitable, but it is also the only path to truth and justice.

Prepared by: Aldina Šaljić
Translated by: Fadil Merdić



Sanela Avdibegović

Despite the calendar indicating winter and low temperatures, the editorial team of the Hastor Foundation brings warmth to the hearts of readers with the uniqueness of this month's newsletter. Alongside other sections, as we reach the middle of our newsletter, aiming to captivate your imagination, evoke emotions, and motivate, we present the story of another one of our alumnae. You are already well aware that the Hastor Foundation is a family, and its impact on scholarship recipients is felt for years after the end of their scholarships. The Hastor Foundation and its scholars remain connected with the strongest and most special roots throughout their lives, applying what they have learned through years of volunteering in their professions, jobs, and basic life principles. After hearing stories from their current lives, we realize that what we do at the Foundation has immeasurable and inexplicable value. This gives us even greater enthusiasm for further work and progress. To conclude a successful year, we bring you the story of Sanela Avdibegović. Destiny truly writes strange stories, and this one is no exception.

Sanela lived in Foča, where she completed the first and second grades of elementary school. However, unfortunate events disrupted her peaceful childhood and the beginning of her education, forcing her to move from her hometown due to wartime events. At the beginning of the war, she relocated to Goražde, where she still lives and works today.

After completing high school, she enrolled at the Faculty of Economics in Sarajevo. She claims to have had a strong connection with numbers, particularly calculations and has always enjoyed addition and subtraction. Currently, she works as a clerk

for administrative, financial, and accounting tasks at the "Hasib Hadžović" Technical High School in Goražde.



At the beginning of her career, she had numerous opportunities to try new things and take on different roles in the same institution where she currently works. She started working in the school's secretariat and later became the president of the Trade Union Organization, a member of the Canton Committee, and temporarily served as the director for six months. Additionally, she had the opportunity to hold a very responsible position as the director of the Directorate for Roads of the Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde.



Sanela fondly remembers the time when she was a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation. She learned about the Foundation through a friend, and her entry into the Foundation's family dates back to 2006 when she became one of the first scholarship recipients. Today, Sanela is a very successful and fulfilled woman.

All our alumni highlight one thing that is particularly significant from their volunteering period within the Hastor Foundation, namely building special friendships that last to this day.

Sanela did not hide how much the Foundation helped her in self-improvement, striving to achieve goals, and strengthening her personality. The Foundation became a space where Sanela became more open and courageous. Before volunteering with the Foundation, she was reserved and lacked self-confidence. Individuals she met through the Hastor Foundation helped her confront her fears.

Unfortunately, during the war, Sanela lost her parents, and everything that happened afterward greatly affected her. She withdrew into herself to protect herself and created her own world where she felt safe.

She mostly spent her volunteering time at the Foundation with children, although she also volunteered in the administration offices of the Hastor Foundation. She fondly remembers the monthly meetings she had with high school students from Goražde, considering them a particularly special experience and something she would recommend all current scholarship recipients to experience. In conclusion, she wanted to address everyone directly and send a motivating message:

Believe in yourselves! Take advantage of what the Hastor Foundation offers you – it is unique. Usually, when you receive a scholarship from other organizations, you are not obligated to volunteer, but precisely this volunteering within the Hastor Foundation teaches us to be socially responsible, and empathetic, and how a small act to help someone can change someone's life.

Deeply moved by this story, we once again reflected on what we want to achieve through volunteering and the connection of the Foundation with its scholarship recipients. The Hastor Foundation aims to support and empower children and young people with its work, and when we receive feedback from our former and current scholarship recipients, such as Sanela's, we know that we are on the right path to achieving our goals.

Prepared by: Hana Hajrić
Translated by: Zerina Kosovac



“A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability in you than you see in yourself and helps bring it out.”

Bob Proctor

It is a fact that our family has the greatest influence on shaping our personality. The family atmosphere is the first thing we encounter and it is the the initial environment in which our learning phase begins. Until we start nursery or school, parents and other family members are the only ones who can influence our behavior, thoughts, mindset, and learning. However, upon meeting new people, the influence on us, consciously or unconsciously, shifts from parental hands to others. Mentors and teachers play a significant role here.

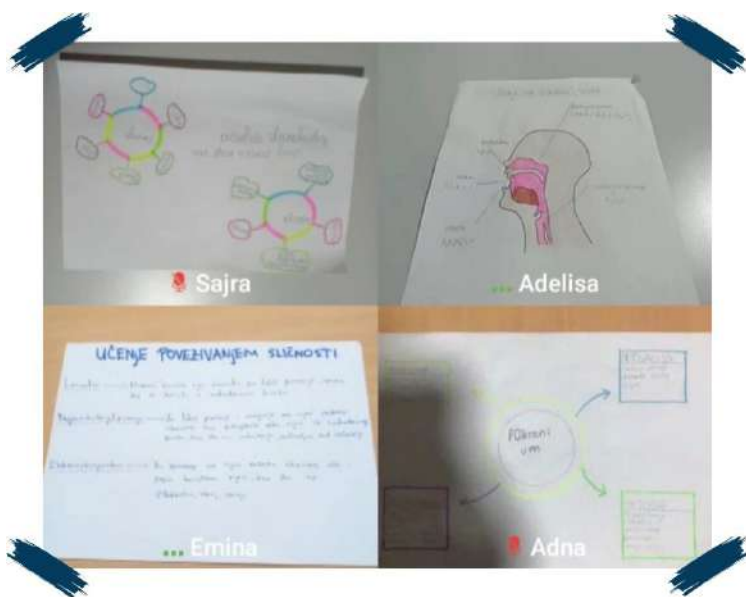
Mentors at the Hastor Foundation play an important role in the lives of younger scholarship recipients: apart from being mentors, they are teachers, guiding them in skills and serving as role models. The Hastor Foundation boasts many scholarship recipients who act as mentors to fellow scholars. This month, we introduce our scholarship recipient, Almina Ibrahimović, and her volunteer group.

Almina Ibrahimović comes from Srebrenica. She is a student at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sarajevo, and has been part of the Hastor Foundation family for four years.

The Hastor Foundation made a significant turning point in my life and education. Besides financial aid, it played a major role in expanding my knowledge. By engaging with the Foundation and participating in volunteer activities, I discovered many new things, met numerous wonderful people, some of whom were my mentors guiding me through high school education.

In the Foundation, Almina volunteers as a mentor for high school students from the Center for Blind and Visually Impaired Children, Sarajevo. Her group consists of three diligent, hardworking, and collaborative students. During their meetings, they tackle topics mainly aimed at raising awareness which are tailored to their age.

Almina and her group had the opportunity to explore the topic *Learning How to Learn: Methods and Techniques for Quick and Efficient Knowledge Acquisition*, covering the most important and successful learning techniques according to research. To prevent monotony and rote learning, Almina offered solutions for easy and effective knowledge acquisition. Moreover, the students themselves discovered various ways to apply these techniques in any area of interest.



One of the most effective techniques discussed was mind mapping – learning through drawing and coloring. Each member presented the most effective technique, in their case – mind mapping. Drawing and coloring visible pictures ease memory and learning. One student showcased a simpler and more efficient way of solving mathematical problems by breaking down complex numbers step by step. This technique effectively merges seemingly unrelated fields like art and mathematics, proving useful and intriguing, not limited to one sphere of interest.

Since the other two students were unfamiliar with applying this technique to mathematics, they were glad to learn it during their volunteer sessions at the Hastor Foundation. Besides, knowledge can be acquired while listening to favorite melodies. Converting unfamiliar words into texts using entire words or their initial letters and learning them along with a beloved melody helps in holistic memorization. All three students composed lists of hard to

remember words and learned them to the tune of their favorite compositions – in this case, Beethoven's *Für Elise*. This technique is useful for everyone, especially those involved in or planning to pursue music. As they learn new musical notes, they can also acquire new words. This is just another example of how the Hastor Foundation connects the beautiful and the practical.

Towards the end, Almina emphasized how with each new volunteer meeting, she realizes the importance of her role as a mentor in young people's lives. She sees how they influence each other and grow together. This motivates her to continue developing her skills and passing them on to younger generations, grateful for the opportunity provided by the Hastor Foundation. This meeting was just one of the many examples of how Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients work together from a young age, sharing their knowledge with others, aware that this is the only way knowledge gains its final and complete meaning.

Prepared by: Aldina Šaljić
Translated by: Ajla Hadžimuratović

International Volunteer day

They say that beauty lies in the eyes of a beholder. What kind of beauty do volunteers see as they contribute to the development of their communities and help those who need it most?

A volunteer is not only a person who works as part of a humanitarian organization, every individual who does something for the benefit of their community is also a volunteer. Volunteers surround us, and even if they are sometimes seemingly invisible, the results of their activities are more than noticeable in society. Considering the above sentence, we can freely point out the historical fact that in 1985 the UN General Assembly declared December 5th the International Day of Voluntary Work for Economic and Social Progress, and in our public, this date is known as the International Day of Volunteerism. Today, people have many opportunities and ways to volunteer - from various camps, and seminars, to independent involvement in the local community. The Hastor Foundation is one of the organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina that offers the possibility of volunteering and tries to point out its importance. The basic idea and goal of the Foundation is to give young people the chance to participate in the development of local communities and their resources through their successful education and volunteer work.

Voluntary work is the most representative component of the Hastor Foundation, and scholarship holders have achieved more than 1.700.000 volunteer hours through almost 18 years of existence, through which the most beautiful human values were instilled and developed.

Scholarship recipients of the Foundation have had the opportunity to volunteer in various ways for years, among which mentoring work with scholarship students, volunteering within local communities, instructive work with children through specialized clubs,

and developing skills through various teams stand out. In this way, as scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, young people have the opportunity to bond more closely with their communities, but also develop a sense of helping others from an early age.

Many of us are not aware of the benefits of volunteering. The feeling when we have the opportunity to experience the usefulness of investing our free time to achieve a certain goal is priceless. Being a part of something like that and working on yourself and your skills can greatly influence everything we do in the future. All scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation have the opportunity to experience that feeling and to look at volunteerism from a slightly different angle.

Volunteering is an ideal activity through which you gain experience, which, in addition to personal satisfaction, also brings numerous benefits during employment. An individual in the role of a volunteer has the opportunity to discover a whole new diverse world. That world is full of special, beautiful, and unexpected events.

We can point out that volunteer work means consciously donating your free time, skills and resources for the benefit of other people and the community. A volunteer can be a person of any age at the moment when the desire to volunteer arises. Every day we have an opportunity to do a good deed, but it is up to us whether we will miss it or accept it - the Hastor Foundation has been taking advantage of these opportunities for years because, as Jimmy Doolittle says, **nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer.**

Prepared by: Aida Suljić
Translated by: Maida Avdić

Whisper

In the hidden chaos
within yourself put an end
Let it be
a concluded thought of
fantasy
Let the birds of paradise
out of your mind-forged cage
The undrunk cup of coffee
replace with a warmer one
Look out the window
your chaos
in the form of winter idyll
Don't frown on Sundays
Dance to a song
of complex rhythm
and let the emotions
play outside
with the season
that's parallel
to the (un)rest within you

Semina Sadiković



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