

NEWSLETTER

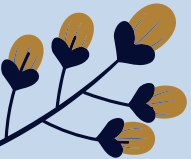
february 2024



FONDACIJA
HASTOR

Olga Dobić

The Hastor Foundation introduced a new program to support gifted and talented students at the beginning of 2024



For almost 18 years, the Hastor Foundation has been working on creating ways and programs to help as many young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina as possible, aiming to provide continuous support on their educational paths. Since its beginning, the Hastor Foundation has opened its doors to numerous students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, helping them grow into responsible and valuable members of society, thereby empowering the entire community.

Continuing its mission, this year the Hastor Foundation has decided to take a step forward and, in addition to the regular competition open to all students, announced in January a Competition for Gifted and Talented Students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Namely, the regular competition, through which the Hastor Foundation has awarded scholarships to thousands of students during its many years of operation, was intended for all students, with the greatest focus on the socio-economic status of students, while the new support program focuses on gifted and talented students who achieve outstanding results both in academic and extracurricular activities. In this way, the Hastor Foundation has opened its doors to yet another group of students and shown that it is a great support to students living in extremely difficult socio-economic conditions, as well as to gifted and talented students who work diligently and are ready to improve their own lives and the lives of others through education.

We are proud to announce that an exceptionally large number of gifted students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina have recognized this opportunity and applied to our competition, receiving nearly 2,500 applications. Special attention should be paid to the fact that the Hastor Foundation is one of the few organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina that, through this competition, has provided scholarship opportunities to students who excel in the fields of sports, arts, and science, in order to support them in achieving their goals.

In this way, the Hastor Foundation aims to provide an opportunity and support to all students of secondary and primary schools to confidently and self-assuredly achieve their successes and dreams. The number of applications received and their quality are evidence that the Hastor Foundation is recognized as a community in whose embrace young people from Bosnian-Herzegovinian society want to grow and mature, striving for daily progress, which we are extremely proud of.

Presenting new scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation

As announced in the previous, in this month's Newsletter, we present several more of our new scholarship recipients. In this way, we strive to demonstrate our enthusiasm for expanding the scope of support for young individuals who play a significant role in achieving the altruistic goals of the Hastor Foundation. We are pleased to emphasize that the Hastor Foundation has the opportunity to support gifted and ambitious individuals in their academic and personal development. We also take this opportunity to warmly welcome them to our large family!



Ilma Spahić was born in Zenica. She is a third-year student at the Faculty of Computer Science at the University SSST. For Ilma, computer science is not just a discipline, but also a way to create a positive impact and change the community:

I learned about the Hastor Foundation through LinkedIn, where I was inspired by stories of its work and impact on young people, which encouraged me to join them. Through my engagement, I want to help others achieve success in education, develop their potentials, and actively participate in volunteer activities. In this way, I want to support the vision of community development through the development of young people's education.



Hana Burović is a second-year student at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo. When she was choosing whether to attend the Faculty of Law or the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, she realized that legal sciences reflect her interests and skills. Regardless of her choice of faculty, she emphasizes that her love for animals will always be an integral part of her, as well as the goal to reach people's hearts and raise awareness of responsibility towards animals.

I learned about the Hastor Foundation for the first time by watching their podcast, and I became particularly interested when I watched an episode in which my assistant Lejla Ramić spoke. After further research on the Hastor Foundation, I decided to apply because I was particularly attracted to the unusual and extraordinary way of working of the Hastor Foundation. Namely, in addition to financial support, I recognized that the benefits we receive as Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients are invaluable, as we have the opportunity to contribute to the progress of our community through volunteering, as well as work on personal development, make new acquaintances, and gain experiences that are priceless.



Emir Šarić comes from Bihać. He is a second-year student at the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Bihać, Department of Electrical Engineering. Emir's interest in mathematics and computer science contributes to his decision to choose the Computer Science and Informatics program at the same department. In an effort to improve his knowledge and achieve academic goals, he decided to apply for a scholarship from the Hastor Foundation.

Being a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation, in addition to financial assistance, gives me the opportunity to pass on my knowledge and skills to others, improve my interpersonal skills, and contribute to the development of society through volunteering. I am determined to approach my activities within the Foundation with great determination, and I believe it will significantly help me achieve my goals.



Ena Milković was born in Sweden. She is a third-year student at the Faculty of Computer Science at SSST University. She is motivated by her affinity for algorithm development and solving computer challenges, which inspired her to enroll in this faculty. She sees the Hastor Foundation as an excellent opportunity to achieve her goals and personal growth.

I learned about the Hastor Foundation from inspiring girls at the faculty who are also scholarship recipients. The mission of giving back to the community and helping young people seemed appealing. I believe that I can contribute to achieving these goals with my knowledge and skills and make a contribution to the community towards a better future.



Aldijana Hodžić comes from Sarajevo. She is a third-year student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Sarajevo, Department of Energy, Process Technology and Environmental Engineering. From an early age, she has been fascinated by the mechanisms behind everyday objects, and plans to continue her academic journey through advanced studies in mechanical engineering, with a focus on sustainable design and energy systems. She is particularly attracted to the combination of mechanical engineering and renewable energy technology and wants to contribute to the development of clean and efficient energy solutions that will shape the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I learned about the long-term work of the Hastor Foundation thanks to friends. What particularly attracted me was the support and mentoring they selflessly provide to students, as well as the potential friendships and acquaintances that can result from being their scholarship recipient.



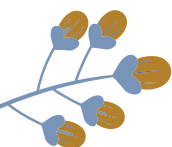
Kanita Obhodaš comes from Sarajevo. After completing Third Gymnasium in Sarajevo, she enrolled in social studies at two different but symbiotically connected faculties. She is currently a second-year student at the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Sarajevo.

Becoming a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient is an extremely important step for me, both for further education and for validating what I have achieved so far. I believe the Foundation will bring me many beautiful moments, successes, and friends, and this will always be a beautiful chapter in my CV and life.



Amina Halilović comes from Tešanj. She is a second-year student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tuzla - Department of German Language and Literature. Since childhood, Amina has had great affinities and nurtured a love for languages, and a significant step towards concrete work and active learning of the German language happened, as she emphasizes, when she enrolled at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tuzla.

Knowing that I have become a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation, I felt a great responsibility but also pride. I believe it is extremely important to provide support and guidance to young people in building their personalities, work habits, and social awareness. All of the above will certainly be useful to me in my daily work with people, better understanding of the social responsibility of each individual, as well as in building a career.



Elma Štalić comes from Tuzla and is a second-year student at the Academy of Performing Arts, University of Tuzla. In 2019, she joined the ensemble of the Youth Theater of Tuzla, where she successfully completed the initial and advanced stages of drama studies. She recognized the mission of the Hastor Foundation and noticed the positive aspects of volunteer activities, which prompted her desire to join the Foundation:

I volunteered in many places and in different ways. These experiences were also the main starting points for developing my passion for

volunteering, and I am grateful and happy to have become a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation. I believe that I will develop my existing abilities and acquire new ones, meet new people with whom I will collaborate, and thus expand my circles of people and build my knowledge through work in the Hastor Foundation.

Article prepared by: Semina Sadiković

Translated by: Zerina Kosovac



Irma Lipovac



The Hastor Foundation is woven from many memories that its scholarship recipients have been making since 2006. The majority of these memories consist of monthly volunteering activities, which bring numerous benefits both to the recipients and to the overall story of the Hastor Foundation. In the "Scholarship Recipient of the Month" section, we aim to highlight individuals among our volunteers who significantly contribute towards achieving our goals through their selfless dedication, enriching our community every day. In the following is the story of **Irma Lipovac**, who, as she emphasises, managed to build her personality the way she always wanted it to be through her volunteer work, effort and desire, and has earned the title of Scholarship Recipient of the Month for her selfless dedication.

Irma Lipovac comes from Konjic. In her hometown, she completed elementary school, while she continued her high school education at the Second Gymnasium in Mostar, specialising in mathematics and computer science. Irma emphasises that she has nurtured a love for technical and natural sciences since childhood and that upon completing high school, she knew that her next destination was the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Sarajevo. She is currently a second-year student in the Department of Automation and Electronics. Irma first learned about the Hastor Foundation six years ago from her friends who were already scholarship recipients.



When I heard about the mission and idea of the Hastor Foundation, I realized that I wanted to become a member, so as a freshman in high school, I received my first scholarship, but also the opportunity to engage in volunteer work and invest part of my time in helping my community and the people who live in it, says Irma.

At the very beginning, Irma was a student who had her mentors; however, upon entering college, a new chapter opened up for her – the role of a mentor. As she says, she enjoyed working with students and strived to motivate them to always be ready to work, to learn to organize their time properly, and to strive to be the best version of themselves, as these are the qualities of winners, but also what the Hastor Foundation teaches us. Having excelled in her mentoring work with younger students, Irma now volunteers as a mentor coordinator, assisting other mentors in better preparing and implementing their volunteer activities, thus becoming better mentors to their students.



Being a member of a large organization and family like the Hastor Foundation is definitely a very pleasant experience for me. What I always emphasize as my favorite aspect of the Hastor Foundation is that it provides pupils and students with opportunities to gain new experiences and make new friends, says Irma, adding that during her volunteering, she has also gained many friendships that become more significant for her day by day.

Furthermore, volunteering at the Foundation has taught her not to ignore or overlook the problems and difficulties of the society she is in, but to always try to solve them, and it is precisely through this that the Foundation has enriched her personality and made her a more productive and independent individual.

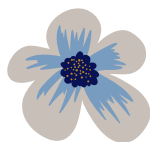
The scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation are aware every day through their volunteering activities that subtle and tiny acts of kindness towards another person can brighten someone's day or even change a life, as one quote says: ***volunteering is not only an act of kindness but also a journey to discovering one's own heart and strength.***

Our Irma has successfully justified her title as this month's Scholarship Recipient of the Month, and we have established that her unwavering spirit and desire to change the world for the better make her volunteering even more effective and special.

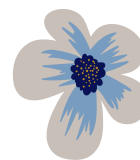
For the end, she sent a message to all our current and future scholars:

What I would like to convey to all scholars is to always courageously walk the paths they have chosen for themselves. Let them not fear possible setbacks and failures, and let them rise even stronger, braver and more prepared after every obstacle. And of course, they should know that they can always rely on the Foundation because friends are each other's greatest support, and to us that is the Foundation - a true friend and support.

Article prepared by: Aida Suljić
Translated by: Edna Duliman



Layla Jusko



Erasmus of Rotterdam says that the greatest hope of any country lies in the adequate education of the youth. The Hastor Foundation is graced by young scholars who are equally committed to formal and informal education. The column of active young people is a space that serves to give a special kind of recognition to those who stand out in their academic, sports or other activities, so we proudly write and talk about them every month, and this time that honor went to **Layla Jusko**.

Layla Jusko lives in Sarajevo and is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations at SSST University. In her free time, she deals with research in the spheres of population development, public health and climate change. From the older Hastor Foundation scholarship holders, whom she looked up to, she learned to use any knowledge she acquires at school or at studies for the purpose of improving the community. Thus, she carried out research related to breast and cervical cancer, on the basis of which the Karolinska Institute and the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia declared her one of the best researchers in the field of population development and reproductive health in the wider area of Europe. Thanks to this recognition, she got the opportunity to be a representative of the youth of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD30) in Geneva, where she gave a speech as a representative of the academic community and young people from wider Europe.

Encouraged by the views of the Hastor Foundation that you should always go one step further and give your best in every field, Layla organized the first UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change) youth conference for climate action in Bosnia and Herzegovina last year, during which they conducted research and based on feedback from young people, created the conference agenda for the purpose of raising awareness and educating young people regarding the topics of climate action, natural disasters, public and mental health, youth participation in politics





and decision-making processes, the role of media literacy and the role of climate action in building of peace.

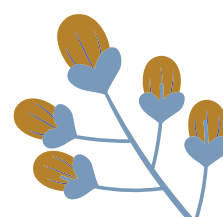
Likewise, she got the opportunity to be a youth representative at COP28 (Conference of the Parties) within the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to share the perspective of young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina with decision makers from different countries.

Given that it was very important for her to have good role models, whom she eventually met at the Hastor Foundation, and that the Foundation's support in her research and progress meant a lot to her, she claims that she sees the Hastor Foundation as an opportunity to build bridges between generations through the program mentoring and support in shaping a sustainable future, in which young people are empowered and motivated for lifelong learning. Therefore, Layla strives through various projects and initiatives to directly influence the lives of young people in her environment and to inspire them every day, just as she was inspired by the Foundation's older scholars.

She emphasises that at the Foundation, she realized that learning is the key to personal and collective progress and that it is necessary to be a proactive member of the community and flock to new knowledge and skills. The Hastor Foundation taught her to never give up, to always try to be better and to provide her knowledge and contribute to the community, because knowledge is not knowledge to know, but knowledge is knowledge to give. In this regard, she wants to encourage young people to value the learning process, which is lifelong:

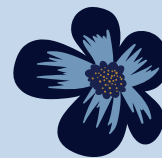
Don't be afraid to ask questions and explore. Learning is an inexhaustible treasure that enables personal and collective growth. Be curious, brave and open to continuous learning because it is in this process that the key to realizing your greatest potential lies.

**Article prepared by: Aldina Šaljić
Translated by: Fadil Merdić**





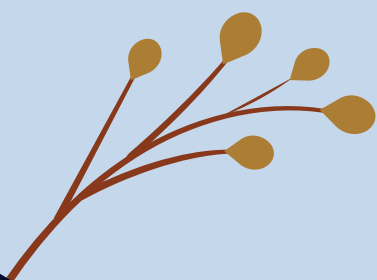
Nihada Šehagić



This month, meet **Nihada Šehagić** who always brings changes and positive energy to the community. Nihada Šehagić is a graduate engineer in medical-laboratory diagnostics. She succeeded through persistence and devotion. She was born in Bugojno, and today she lives and works in Zenica, where she has been contributing to the medical sector at the Zenica Cantonal Hospital for seven years.

Nihada started her education in Bugojno, in 2008. She enrolled to the Faculty Of Health Studies At The University Of Sarajevo. At that faculty, she obtained the title of master's degree in medical-laboratory diagnostics.

After several years of engagement in the private sector, Nihada found her place in Zenica Cantonal Hospital in 2016. Since then, she has been continuously contributing to the improvement of the medical sector and providing a great service to the patients. However, Nihada's contribution to the community is not only reflected in her occupation within the hospital walls, given that she was also an active volunteer and scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation for many years. Back then, she says, she recognized the importance of being a mentor and the importance of volunteering, especially by giving support to young people. Through The Hastor Foundation, she volunteered as a mentor to a group of 10 students in medical and dental high school, and she provided them with a lot of support through various activities. Through voluntary work with high school students, she often organized monthly workshops on a topic of their profession that she herself knew really well and loved very much. In that way, she provided help with overcoming the school curriculum. Her devotion to voluntary work was evident in the improved success among the younger scholarship recipients.



I became a volunteer and scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation back in 2011, and I learned about it thanks to a friend during my studies in Sarajevo. Through acquired experience and voluntary work in The Hastor Foundation I additionally developed empathy and I learned that being good to others returns to a person even when you least expect it.

She successfully finished Hastor Foundation trainee development program through seventeen modules: Quality system and code of business conduct, CV and motivation letter writing, Communication skills, Human resource management, Basics of sales and relationship with customers, Legal relations, Corporate communications, Basics of business law, Negotiation skills, Presentation skills, Team and teamwork, Basics of marketing, Basics of finance, Basics of office business, Basics of management, Basics of accounting and The role of IT in the business process. Most of these skills are beneficial to her today in daily work and, in general, are contributing to a successful business life, for which she will forever be thankful to The Hastor Foundation.

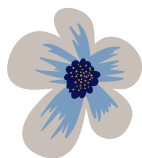
Preoccupied with precision in medical-laboratory diagnostics and dedicated to supporting young people through volunteering, Nihada Šehagić from Zenica represents an inspiring example of a successful woman who simultaneously builds a career and spreads a positive influence in the community. Young women like Nihada are exceptional role models in today's society. Their professionalism, devotion and humanitarian work not only contribute to the professional sector but also inspire other young people to follow their path. Their stories are a reminder for young people to have strength and the potential to leave a mark on society by combining professionalism, work and social responsibility.

Besides professional life, this engineer is also finding satisfaction in making cakes and sweets in her free time. This gives her the opportunity to be creative and to spend quality time with her family. That gives her an opportunity to be creative and to spend quality time with her family.

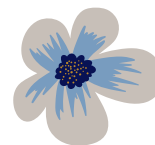
At the very end, Nihada sends a message to scholarship recipients and students:

Consider success the satisfaction of your own state of mind. A free man is only one who has a free mind. The mental state of an individual is the starting point for achieving all life's successes - both on a personal and collective level.





Lamija Slomić



This month in the section of positive stories from our volunteers, we bring you a new, unusual story that takes you to a new corner of the volunteering model of the Hastor Foundation. The fact that we are all one family characterized by mutual help and support for years is justified by the story below, which you will undoubtedly enjoy. Considering that the Hastor Foundation recently started implementing a new volunteering model, scholarship students, as part of their volunteer engagement through clubs with special assignments, provide tutorials and classes to scholarship students who have difficulties with certain school subjects or areas. One of the scholarship students volunteering with students through the tutorial process is our **Lamija Slomić**, whose experience we bring to you below.

Lamija Slomić comes from Čelić and she is a third-year student at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Tuzla. She is a member of the Health Studies Students Club, and for three years, she has been volunteering as a mentor to high school students.

Lamija emphasizes that her collaboration with students is at an admirable level due to the trust she always seeks to build from the outset.

Day by day, as she grew up, our interviewee became increasingly aware of the importance of the education process in the 21st century and developed a love for it. She strives to pass on this love to her students and encourage them to discuss higher education and the professions they are interested in. However, everyone sometimes experiences moments of decreased motivation, so Lamija emphasizes that she tries her best to be a motivation and guiding star to all her students through her examples because she is aware of her influence on their educational paths.

Lamija has fully dedicated herself to this form of volunteering, as evidenced by the good results of the students she has tutored. Believing that good preparation is half the battle won and a well-thought-out plan is the most important part of the journey to a certain goal, Lamija embarked on the process of creating a flexible plan for lessons to provide all students with the highest quality knowledge and learning techniques.



I always contact the students first to arrange the tutorial session, then they send me the topics they are studying in chemistry so that I can prepare for the tutorial. I always go through all the tasks in detail, and if there is any part I do not remember, I always review video clips on YouTube to ensure that I do not miss any details during the explanation and to better convey knowledge to younger scholarship recipients and make sure they understood what was explained.

She emphasizes that the theoretical part of the subject represents the first step in the tutorial process, then moves on to explaining the tasks they work on and practice together. Once she ensures that the student is ready for independent work, Lamija assigns practice tasks and homework for the students to work on independently. She thoroughly reviews all of this and gives her final assessment.

The feedback received after volunteering hours and tutorials is invaluable, and because of this, Lamija emphasizes that her favorite moment in this whole process is the final result in the form of improved grades for the students themselves.

Throughout our schooling, we have all encountered areas that we cannot quickly memorize and understand. In such situations, the help of older and more educated individuals is of utmost importance and serves as a light at the end of the tunnel for students. Guided by this very principle, the Hastor Foundation has embarked on a newly created volunteering model aimed at facilitating the educational process for scholarship recipients. How all of this looks from the perspective of students was recounted to us by student and scholarship recipient Erna Spahić:

Thanks to the instructions provided by Lamija, I achieved outstanding results in chemistry. Her support and expert guidance were key factors in my development. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from her and achieve this success in my education. The result of the instructions was an A; a higher average grade in chemistry. I felt extremely satisfied

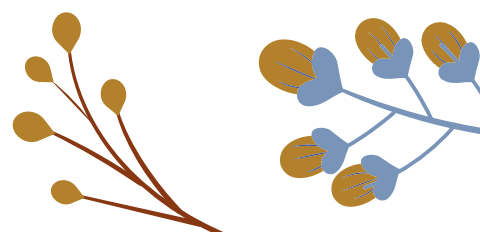
and proud when I achieved such results. The effort I put into studying paid off, and raising my average grade in this subject provided me with additional motivation for further success. And finally, I am extremely grateful to the Hastor Foundation for providing us with these instructions and helping us further our education and overcome certain obstacles.



Finally, Lamija reveals what the Hastor Foundation means to her and how the volunteering processes affect her:

I am grateful to the Hastor Foundation, which supports us in everything! Thanks to volunteering hours and the support of the Foundation, we adopt new knowledge, skills, exchange various experiences, get to know each other, make new friendships, and whenever we need help, we have someone to turn to.

Prepared by : Adelisa Begić
Translated by: Elmina Huseljić



Clementine

*In the beholder's eye,
the light is playing with an undrank coffee cup,
like a prism that's shattering the morning quiet.
There where the shine is paling
we discover paths
in the boundless whirlpool of (un)steadiness.*

*The quiet is levitating in the air,
like a shadow dancing in twilight.
Time is wordlessly treading the clementine peel
leaving traces of impermanence.
We discover the breath that resembles
the whisper of winds from the realm of ancient countries,
where the sun scorches the aerial heights.*

*In its destiny the power of nature is intertwined.
While we are discovering the layers, we hear a sound
as if the thatch is cracking under our feet.
Echoing as a melody being born from the purpose of existence.*

*Prepared by: Semina Sadiković
Translated by: Sara Kuduzović*



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