

NEWSLETTER

June 2024



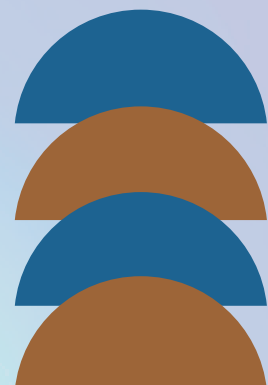
FONDACIJA
HASTOR

Sara Keserović

It's not what one thinks, but what one does, said Meša Selimović, reminding us of the essence of work and action as the foundation of every human being. Through volunteer activities, the Hastor Foundation demonstrates the importance of practical action and striving for positive change. The Foundation's mission emphasizes helping others as a fundamental principle shaping the identity of social engagement. The primary goal of the *Scholarship Recipient of the Month* section is to encourage individuals who reflect the altruistic ideals of the Foundation. Sara Keserović is a scholarship recipient whose dedicated work serves as an inspiration to us all.

Sara comes from Sarajevo and has been a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient for a year now. She is a third-year student at the Faculty of Education and Humanities at the Department of Graphic Design and Multimedia at the International Burch University. Since high school, she has been devoted to the seventh art. Her first film was made in 2018, and she recently completed her fifth production. With ambition and enthusiasm, she continuously engages in various aspects of social activism.

Her interest and inclination towards artistic spheres have driven her to dedicate herself to learning, researching, and developing skills. This has led to significant progress in various areas of her life. Within the Hastor Foundation, Sara volunteers in the graphic design team, successfully merging her passion for art with volunteerism, creating an environment where art serves as a basis for promoting and supporting the community.



I am very pleased and immensely grateful to the Hastor Foundation for the opportunity to volunteer in the graphic design team and for the chance to further develop in the field for which I am studying. In recent months, my main focus has been on designing the Newsletter and the Annual Report, which I greatly enjoy. Among all tasks, designing the Newsletter is my favorite because, as I create it, I also enjoy reading about everything that is written that month. I advise other scholarship recipients, as well as those planning to be or simply following the Foundation's work, to read the Newsletter and all its interesting sections.

This year, Sara had the opportunity to be among the twenty most active volunteers selected and recognized at the celebration of the 18th anniversary of the Hastor Foundation. She considers this achievement a great honor, highlighting it as one of her most significant accomplishments:



The Hastor Foundation has given me the opportunity to demonstrate and improve all my skills, proving to me that there are organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina that truly value the volunteer work of young people and provide constant support in achieving our goals, which means a lot to all of us. I cannot express enough gratitude for this.

**Article prepared by: Semina Sadiković
Translated by: Ajlla Hadžimuratović**

Mustafa Puljarga

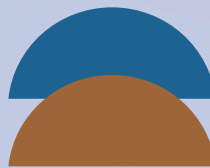
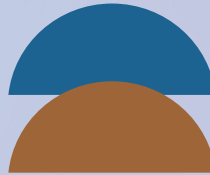
Jon Bon Jovi once said, ***theory without practice is like a wheel without an axle, and practice without theory is like a blind man on a path.*** Applying what you've learned, even in small quantities, is a great skill. Only a few can master it, which is why the *Active Youth section* is dedicated to those rare individuals who know how to implement their knowledge and stand out in their respective fields. One such student is part of the Hastor Foundation family. His name is Mustafa Puljarga, coming from Gornji Vakuf, a small town at the source of the Vrbas River. He is a first-year student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Mostar and has been a member of the Hastor Foundation for eight years, during which he has learned a great deal, most importantly realizing that education, empathy, and selflessness are keys to success.



His altruism was evident even during his high school days, where he was a member of the High School Association advocating for student rights. His community contributions didn't stop there; on a higher academic level, he became part of the Scientific-Teaching Council of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Mostar, advocating for better student status. Mustafa has extended his empathy to the Youth Network of Gornji Vakuf, the town where he acquired his initial knowledge and skills. He is an active member of the University of Mostar Student Union, participating in organizing the student league, leveraging good organizational skills gained from the Hastor Foundation.

The Foundation recognized Mustafa's positive attributes and gave him the opportunity to mentor younger scholarship recipients. Mustafa emphasizes that during their meetings, teamwork is evident—they learn, work together, and find solutions collectively. Through these meetings, he learned that only through collective efforts can excellent results be achieved. Consequently, at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, he and his colleagues earned the opportunity to participate in the "Design Megdan" competition organized by INTERA Technology Park, where their task was to collaboratively design a vehicle model. This project demanded much effort, work, knowledge, and responsibility, yet Mustafa and his team achieved an outstanding second place, leading him to a two-month internship at "Alfa Therm" company. He credits much of his success to the Foundation.

My responsibilities at the Hastor Foundation have taught me accountability. I've realized that as an individual, I can help, do something meaningful, and learn many new and important things along the way. Therefore, I want to thank the Foundation, which stands as a wall behind us, helping us build our personalities and a better, more successful society.



He views his involvement in the competition as a stepping stone for further progress. He believes that small steps are not insignificant because they can lead to something great, a principle also reflected in his engagement with the Hastor Foundation. An interesting fact about Mustafa is his motivation rooted in love for his homeland. He aspires to be an excellent ambassador for Bosnia and Herzegovina, through whose achievements many will hear of his country. He believes that studying what we love, whatever that may be, can lead to excellent results, and Bosnia and Herzegovina need such people—excellent and dedicated.

Regardless of the outcome, what matters is that throughout the competition, I did what I love, which essentially involves innovation—an area where I genuinely feel happy and satisfied. I believe that the knowledge I gain from working on these small projects can later be utilized in the creation of larger projects that will be recognized not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina but also internationally, showcasing our homeland in the best possible light.

In all his endeavors, besides the Foundation, his family and friends support him, assisting not only in ideas but also in their realization. Finally, it's important to emphasize that his love for the environment, mechanical engineering, and homeland has been recognized by his professors, who also represent his strong support. The Hastor Foundation is proud to have such individuals as its scholarship recipients and role models for younger generations.

Article prepared by: Aldina Šaljić
Translated by: Ajlla Hadžimuratović

Amir Sarajlić

In this month's Alumni spotlight, we present the story of our former scholarship recipient, Amir Sarajlić from Gračanica. Even as a scholarship recipient, Amir was a true animal lover and a great enthusiast of nature, a passion he continues to express through his career in veterinary medicine. Born in Gračanica, where he completed his primary and secondary education, Amir went on to enroll at the Veterinary Faculty in Sarajevo. During his studies, Amir diligently volunteered with elementary school students from Gračanica, cherishing the memories of those volunteer meetings deeply etched in his memory.

The most significant impression during volunteering was the satisfaction and smiles of the students I worked with—similar to the satisfaction left by the Hastor Foundation on me.

Amir views the Hastor Foundation today just as he did when he first became part of this large family as a scholarship recipient. He sees the Foundation as a dedicated friend who extended a helping hand during his most challenging life periods. He fondly recalls his beginnings and happily recounts his experiences from his volunteer period.

Choosing the Veterinary Faculty was a natural decision for Amir due to his childhood love for animals, shaped during his time in the countryside. Amir also emphasizes the importance of practical experience during his studies, gained from colleagues who had extensive work experience in veterinary clinics. The value of volunteering during his student days is exemplified by the Foundation through opportunities for various forms of volunteering within its framework. A large number of our former scholarship recipients secured their first jobs based on the title of being part of this family, which strives to awaken and cultivate talents that we may not even be aware we possess.

Integrating volunteer duties was never challenging for Amir, as he always knew how to organize his time and prioritize so that neither side suffered. Looking back over the past few years, this brave scholarship recipient recognizes the many benefits gained from volunteering. Improved organization, flexibility, and empathy are just some of the factors that have contributed to his personal

success, most of which were gained through his experiences with the Foundation.



Amir's message for the Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients:

Love animals because by doing so, you also love people. Be humane toward both animals and people, and help them whenever possible.

**Article prepared by: Adelisa Begić
Translated by: Ajlla Hadžimuratović**

Uzeir Tihak

When you step into the magical world of volunteerism, you will find that something will keep you coming back to it again and again. Some desires will lead you to make new friendships, new memories and many new activities. However, when we combine volunteering with what we truly love, it turns into our small and special world. This month, we bring you the story of a volunteer who changes not only himself but the world around him, Uzeir Tihak.



Uzeir comes from Gornji Vakuf, a small place with a big heart. He is a third-year student at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Health at the University of Travnik. In addition to his academic duties, Uzeir is an active member of the Bugojno Youth Centre, where he enthusiastically participates in various activities and projects as part of volunteering in the local community. He is known for his inexhaustible positive energy, persistence and self-confidence.

Our interviewee this month is a true example that volunteering is not just unpaid work – it is an act of love and compassion for the community. Uzeir actively works on the implementation of various projects intending to improve the situation in the local community, and with his volunteer engagement as a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, he becomes an exemplary example for younger generations.

One of the significant projects in which he participated is “Viječko” - an educational game organized by the Youth Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The game educates participants about youth laws in a fun way. Its goal is to establish the council of the municipality, then the canton and, finally, the Federation itself.

Uzeir was also a participant in the “Computer Future” project. The project aimed to equip the IT cabinet in the district school “Vesela” (Bugojno). This project provided students with access to digital education, allowing them to develop their skills in using computer equipment.



Furthermore, Uzeir participated in the project "Renovation of the basketball court" in Lamela (Bugojno). With his team, he decided to paint the lines on the field, install a new basket and net, add a sponge around the structure of the basket to protect the players and arrange and paint the stands.

Even though he goes to university and in addition volunteers very dedicatedly, Uzeir manages to find free time in which he engages in recreational sports activities. This love for sports inspired him to sign up for the "Bugojno City Race 2024" project.

In addition to family and friends, the Hastor Foundation plays a key role in his life:

When it comes to the Hastor Foundation, it is enough to say that I have been a scholarship holder since elementary school and that I proudly present it to everyone, Uzeir points out.

Through volunteering at the Foundation, he develops as a person and improves his skills, especially communication skills, which are extremely important in today's time. When he became a mentor and got his group, he realized the seriousness of his role:

I wanted to help all students to relax, not to live in fear, to get rid of the burden they are facing and to come to the meetings cheerful and in a good mood. I am really glad that I had the opportunity to be at least a small guide to the children I volunteered with. I hope I helped them at least a little in the areas where they had difficulties, he explains. He tried to establish a friendly relationship with them, and only then be their authority.



This support and experience with the Hastor Foundation further motivated Uzeir to contribute to his community. By volunteering in the local community, he develops his skills and, through numerous projects, works every day to develop first his immediate environment, and then the rest of Bosnia and Herzegovina, because small steps lead to big successes.

**Prepared by: Hana Hajrić
Translated by: Maida Avdić**

Choose your hard

It's not easy to follow your dreams
And overcome all new obstacles
That inevitably appear on the thorny path

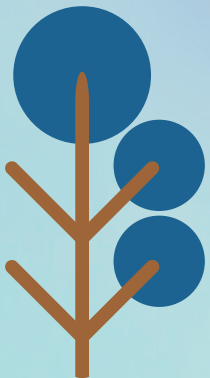
It's not easy to persevere
And hide the struggle behind a smile
While tough challenges torment you
While they rejoice in every mistake you make

But it's even harder not to dare
Not to gather strength and will
On the path to discover something more
beautiful and better

It's even harder not to try
Not to recognize all your strength and power
To go through life disinterested
Always choosing the path of least resistance
And not being your own greatest support

Nikolina Stanar

Translated by: Ajlla Hadžimuratović



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