

# NEWSLETTER

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FONDACIJA  
HASTOR

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# The light of kindness never goes out if we share our flame with others

In order to encourage all those who haven't, to make themselves and others around them happy by doing good deeds and nice gestures, on the social networks of the Hastor Foundation in the past period, we have presented only some of the many examples of good deeds and nice gestures of scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation.

Did you know that just one nice word, a compliment that we give to another person with all our heart, can really brighten the day? Helping those younger than you improve their knowledge, as our Sendin did, or bringing a favorite fairy tale, like our Asmira, to those who are unable to read on their own, can be a light in one's life. Our scholarship recipients know this and make the maximum effort to spread the flame of good, love and support with daily gestures and kind words.

Valuable scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation who successfully complete their university duties often give books to younger scholarship holders so that their academic year will be as easy and successful as possible. Last month Nedjada did the same, and she was joined in doing good by Almina, who decided to make our scholarship recipient from Žepče happy by sending a warm letter of thanks for the kind words addressed to the Hastor Foundation through her poetry, which is truly rare and a special gesture today.

We are proud of our noble scholarship holders who faithfully follow the mission of the Hastor Foundation and live the message of our founders every day. We hereby share with you this message, which is our dose of motivation:

***"The light of kindness never goes out if we share our flame with others. Like a single spark that spreads through dark moments, our nobility can bring warmth and hope to those who lack it. Through our acts of kindness and compassion, we can light the way for others and show them that the world is full of beauty, solidarity and opportunity. Every little inspiration we give to others can start a chain of positive change that will continue over time. So, let our light not go out, but let it be a guiding light that moves others to join in creating a world filled with kindness and understanding. Together, we will leave a legacy that radiates beauty and hope for future generations."***

**Translated by: Fadil Merdić**

## Amina Basarik

*Ambition is the path to success, and persistence is the vehicle that gets you there*—these are the words of Bradley that implicitly reveal ambition and persistence as the keys to every success. Ambition is necessary to start something, while persistence, hard work, and effort are needed to finish what we started. This principle forms the foundation of the Hastor Foundation, and the “Scholarship recipient of the Month” section speaks about such scholars—ambitious, diligent, and persistent individuals. This time, the spotlight is on one such scholar who embodies these qualities.

Her name is **Amina Basarik**. She lives in Lješevo, a small and beautiful place near Ilijaš. She completed high school in Visoko and is currently a fourth-year student at the International Burch University, majoring in Graphic Design and Multimedia. Amina has been a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient for four years, during which she has gained friends and mentors from whom she has learned a great deal, as well as students to whom she has tried to impart her knowledge in every way possible.



Before starting her studies, Amina already had significant experience in the field of design. Once she became a student in that field, she decided to implement her skills through volunteering, joining the graphic design team of the Hastor Foundation. Her main qualities are diligence and responsibility, which she demonstrated consistently in all tasks assigned to her as a member of that team. She had the opportunity to design newsletters for the Hastor Foundation, which are published in three languages, and she completed all tasks in record time. Additionally, she volunteered in the Foundation's office, handling administrative duties and cherishing fond memories from that experience. It is precisely these activities, her diligence, dedication to the volunteer team at the Hastor Foundation, and her sense of responsibility, that have chosen Amina for this month's rubric.

Her path was filled with challenges, but the ambition she gained from learning from the older scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation drove her forward. The Hastor Foundation taught her that giving up is not an option, no matter how difficult it may be.



*I would tell young people not to let adversities and difficulties stop them from building their own destiny under any circumstances. From my modest life experience, I have noticed that sometimes adversity and difficulty are better than many good opportunities and ease because they refine you in a way and prepare you for what is to come. So, walk through life fearlessly and decisively.*

As she learned to be altruistic regardless of place and time at the Hastor Foundation, during her stay in the student dormitory, she participated in various activities. Wanting to utilize all the good that the Hastor Foundation instilled in her, she gladly shared her knowledge and experience in graphic design with other dorm members and also designed various projects herself. This year, they started the project "Finjak" in the dormitory, for which they created an Instagram profile where they plan to post humorous and informative content about dorm life, students, etc. Students will thus be able to help each other, which is the main idea of the profile. In this project, she was the main graphic designer: she designed the logo, Instagram content, and other materials that could serve everyone in the future. Additionally, she designed posters for various events organized in the dorm multiple times.

She attributes almost all her successes, besides her perseverance and her family's unwavering support, to the Hastor Foundation and highlights the positive changes in every sense since she became a member of this large family:

*The Hastor Foundation has had a tremendous impact on my life, especially during times when support was most needed. Volunteering with the Foundation helped me build self-confidence and overcome my fear of public speaking. Through various activities and volunteering opportunities, the Hastor Foundation became a springboard for many of my achievements and personal growth.*



**Prepared by: Aldina Šaljić  
Translated by: Elmina Huseljić**

## Art as a driving force

Art has always been a significant part of human life, even when it didn't have a specific name, when we didn't distinguish its types, and when its true meaning was unknown. Many say that art is a special human activity that involves creative fervor, created work, and the experience of the work itself. However, when we delve deeper into the magical world of artists, we will notice that it is, in most cases, easily recognizable, yet special in its own way. For example, every written word of this text is art, as is every verse of the song we quietly hummed this morning. This month's Active Youth Feature will follow the story of a girl whose life achievements are closely tied to art.

**Ema Sarić** is 15 years old and comes from Banovići. After finishing primary school, she decided to continue her education at the Secondary Medical School in Banovići. Art, she says, has been present in her environment for as long as she can remember. For our Ema, art is film. She says she loves filming and photography and has been doing it for 10 years. Her love for film was born thanks to her brother.

Ema has only recently become a member of our family, and she had the opportunity to share with us what her beginning was like and how much it actually means to her to be a scholarship recipient of the Foundation:



*For the first time, I heard about the Hastor Foundation back in elementary school from one of my teachers, and then I looked for more information through social media. I decided to apply, and here I am today—part of the largest organization for supporting young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is an honor and a pleasure to be part of this great and, above all, noble family. Given that the Hastor Foundation supports and promotes the work of young talents, I take on the responsibility for my continued development, progress, and enhancement of my skills.*

She began her story by saying that film, filming, and everything associated with it is a kind of driving force for her. So, Ema is not just involved in acting but is also working towards creating her own films. At the age of five, she first participated in the Dubrovnik Film Festival, where she turned out to be the youngest actress, and it was there that she had the opportunity to give her first interview. She emphasizes that, although created in childhood, it is a memory that we simply remember forever, and it becomes a part of us.

She has won at many film festivals, and in the previous season, she won at the global "FIFES" festival, where she was selected as the best film by both the professional and children's juries among 14,000 films submitted worldwide. Additionally, at the "OQROS PEPELA" Film Festival in Georgia, she was named Best Actress. It is also worth mentioning that she was a finalist at the "Student World Impact Film Festival" and received a special award at the "Cinemarking International Film Festival."

Ema has, of course, also achieved success in Bosnia and Herzegovina. For many years, she has been a participant in the Sarajevo Film Festival and has won at festivals in Tuzla and Zenica.

decided to choose the film "Školske muke". The reason for this choice, she says, is that she both directed and acted in it. It was created during the COVID-19 period with her friend, purely as a joke, but ultimately attracted significant audience attention. Unfortunately, she notes that she has not yet had the opportunity to act in a larger work, but she has no doubt that this will happen in the near future.



*In my opinion, film and photography are increasingly finding their place in today's world, so I would love to continue working in this field in the future. The greatest support for this work comes from my parents and my brother, with whom my first film fantasies began.*

Which of her films could she single out as her favorite and the one she is most proud of? — a question that posed a challenging task for Ema. How to choose just one among so many successes that is particularly dear to her heart? After some reflection, our scholarship recipient

Despite her young age, Ema is working towards developing her first love as much as possible and leaving behind impressive results. In closing, she expressed the desire to convey a symbolic message:

*To all the scholarship recipients, I send the message that we should always have higher goals in life. Nothing happens overnight; it requires a lot of hard work and patience, but the results will certainly come in the end. Believe in yourself and work on yourself, because that is something only you can do— no one else!*

## Edita Kominlija

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said: *Shared joy is double joy*. He reminds us of the life values of humanity, community, and empathy. As part of its activities, The Hastor Foundation promotes inspiring ideas. We find the root of motivation in the fulfilled dreams of our former scholarship recipients. To encourage motivation among young individuals, we present the life story of a former scholarship recipient of The Hastor Foundation. This month, get to know our alumna **Edita Kominlija**. The devotion to The Hastor Foundation is an important trait of our former and current scholarship recipients, and it is also the foundation to fulfill shared visions. Edita's journey is marked by true devotion and efforts in fulfilling her own ambitions.

Edita Kominlija comes from Sarajevo. She graduated from the Faculty of Traffic and Communications at the University of Sarajevo, in the Department of Communications. Her interest in advanced technologies and communication contributed to her selection of the Communication Technology major in the same department.

The start of Edita's career is marked by her work in the field of marketing, which she describes as a creative, innovative, and dynamic industry where she aims to continually progress. She is employed at "Atlantic Grupa," one of the leading companies in the manufacturing and distribution of fast-moving consumer goods in the region. Edita is a specialist associate in the corporate communications department, specializing in media and promotions. In the upcoming period, her personal focus will be on media strategies and media space purchasing, with an emphasis on the local and regional markets. She is confident that, with the support of a great team, she will achieve great success in the future.





Besides her incredible abilities in her professional career, Edita has distinguished herself as a valuable scholarship recipient of The Hastor Foundation, which has further enriched her path to success. For her, The Hastor Foundation represents an irreplaceable friend in the process of growing up and maturing. The Hastor Foundation is always a reminder of the most important life values. The foundation taught her to love the world and encouraged her involvement in contributing to positive changes. Even then, as she states, she realized the beauty of diversity among people, and the values she learned have remained with her throughout her life. In addition to her engagement in the administrative team, Edita also volunteered as a mentor to the students at Al Walidein-Gazzaz Elementary School in Sarajevo.

*The most rewarding aspect of volunteering is making new acquaintances and gaining valuable experiences. Our experience has shown that by mentoring young scholarship recipients, we can inspire them to achieve remarkable success. Responsibility, empathy, confidence, and inner fulfillment are outcomes of effectively spent volunteer hours. Volunteering at The Hastor Foundation involves personal growth through providing support and assistance to younger individuals and interacting with peers.*



Through her motivation and various forms of support, education, and guidance, Edita inspires young people on their path to success. Her efforts are focused on encouraging young scholarship recipients to develop their skills, expand their knowledge, and achieve their goals. In conclusion, Edita sends a message to the Foundation's scholarship recipients:

*Her message to the youngest is to listen to and follow mentors, and to the older ones to set a good example for the younger ones. Her message to all scholarship recipients is to make the best of every opportunity, which are truly plentiful in the Foundation; to learn, but also to demonstrate who they are and what they know – responsible, diligent, hardworking, and honest. Being humble and honest isn't always the easiest path, but it is the only correct one. Happiness lies in small things, kind words, and small deeds. Let's extend them to each other, and the world will truly become a more pleasant and beautiful place.*



## Small guardians of natural and cultural heritage

When you join a large foundation like the Hastor Foundation, doors to extraordinary opportunities for growth, personal development, and self-discovery open up. This month's interviewee is Amila Čolić. She comes from Žepče and is a student at the Faculty of Health Studies in Sarajevo, majoring in Radiologic Technology. She has been a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient for four years.

This month, Amila and her volunteer group held a special and commendable meeting where the main topic was our homeland and our love for it. We all know well the natural beauties and cultural-historical landmarks that Bosnia and Herzegovina possesses, although we often neglect their deeper significance and potential. Nine scholarship holders from the Žepče area, aged 10 to 18, had the opportunity to express their love for their homeland and gain new knowledge through creative workshops.

However, their gathering didn't end there. Through volunteer hours in the local community, they dedicated attention to ecological awareness and nature conservation. They made bags from old fabrics and figures for board games like "Tic-Tac-Toe" and "Ludo" from plastic bottle caps. There was no shortage of laughter and fun. Various motifs inspired them to create different items that could also serve as gifts for loved ones.

*By participating in this workshop, the students had the opportunity to develop their creativity, become aware of the importance of recycling and ecology, and together with their parents, contribute to the preservation of our planet. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and camaraderie, and all participants proudly displayed their creations at the end of the workshop. Through joint work and creativity, we managed to create beautiful items and at the same time do something good for our environment.*



Students experience their volunteer hours in a special way, and this time, seventeen-year-old Almedina Jusufović from Željezno Polje (Žepče) shared her impressions with us. She is a third-grade student at the Mixed Secondary School "Žepče," in the General Gymnasium program. She became a Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient less than a year ago.



*Never give up. Believe in yourself and your skills. Volunteer – it's a skill that will change your perspective on the world, something that will bring you peace of mind and inner satisfaction. Volunteering is an opportunity to show kindness, love, and care for the people around you and your environment. Through volunteering, you not only help others but also improve yourself. Find joy in it, support each other, and together, let's build a better future!*

Finally, Amila shared a message with all the newsletter readers:

*Never give up. Believe in yourself and your skills. Volunteer – it's a skill that will change your perspective on the world, something that will bring you peace of mind and inner satisfaction. Volunteering is an opportunity to show kindness, love, and care for the people around you and your environment. Through volunteering, you not only help others but also improve yourself. Find joy in it, support each other, and together, let's build a better future!*



**Prepared by: Hana Kolasević  
Translated by: Zerina Kosovac**

## *New leaf*

*I wake, get up  
Decide to not even today give up  
On my goals and dreams  
Today is a new leaf*

*The leaf that will have  
Maybe nothing, maybe everything  
Maybe a tear or two  
But let it not stay there for too long*

*The sun may be blazing  
And the rain pouring  
But it's only important that the soul is laughing  
That's how wounds heal  
Maybe someone gives you a glare  
Or a bright look  
Shares some of their distress or happiness  
Or how they are struggling to weather the storm*

*Everything good try to make better  
The evil fight with words softer  
Neither good nor bad is forever  
Even in cold winter  
Hellebores bloom*

*Nikolina Stanar*

*Translated by: Sara Kuduzović*



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