

# NEWSLETTER

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FONDACIJA  
HASTOR

# *358 new scholarship recipients signed scholarship contracts*

Scholarship applications to the address of the Hastor Foundation arrive daily. In the letters that people send us from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are various life stories, but they all boil down to the same thing – financial and moral support is needed, and the Hastor Foundation has never lacked that.

Every 365 days our hard-working team and volunteers prepare and record incoming applications, and then comes March – the month of the final section, which this year alone gave the Foundation over 2,600 different life stories and challenges and the same number of students eager for knowledge, success and a better future.

In May the Hastor Foundation team is already in the field, visiting numerous cities and municipalities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. From Sarajevo to all corners, even the most remote parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we visit and get to know future scholarship recipients without any difficulty on our shoulders and with a lot of energy, mood and smile. There are many challenges in visiting the terrain that the Hastor Foundation has been successfully overcoming for over 18 years, because neither high temperatures, stormy weather nor bad roads and extremely remote destinations such as those up to 50 km from the city center are strong enough to overcome the desire to help and support that is woven into every step of this foundation. Guided by her vision – a more stable and prospective BiH. A society based on correct values and equal opportunities for all – the Hastor Foundation traveled almost 15,000 kilometers in June.

The series of kilometers covered continues in August, when we come again to the cities of the scholarship recipients to sign their scholarship contracts. The new scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation, who with significant financial support during all 12 months of the year, will have the opportunity to improve and develop their knowledge and skills through mentoring support, have signed contracts and become part of our story.

The result of the dedicated work and activities of the Hastor Foundation is visible in the number of 358 new scholarship recipients. In total, the Hastor Foundation has over 2,300 scholarship recipients, and at the beginning of the new academic year, contracts will be signed with students, which will further increase this number, which will make it the largest single number of scholarship recipients of all registered foundations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



# Summer vacation in the Netherlands 2024

Imagine entering a new country, and at the entrance there is a sign with the inscription: **Welcome to the land of tulips, charity, friendship, childhood, new beginnings and deep love.** Sounds tempting, doesn't it? These epithets will best describe what actually happens when the Hastor Foundation, a place of friendship and charity, and the Netherlands, the land of tulips, new beginnings and deep love, come together. Are there any better places to mark the beginning of new friendships, create valuable memories and memories for a lifetime? For years, we have witnessed how the Hastor Foundation offers its scholarship recipients the opportunity to create special and unforgettable memories.

This year, the Hastor Foundation, in cooperation with the Dutch organization *Stichting Kinderhulp Bosnië*, gave scholarship recipients Asmir Omerdić and Tajana Salkić the opportunity to travel to the Netherlands and try their hand at accompanying children who visited this beautiful country as part of this year's Summer Vacation in the Netherlands project. For 18 years now, this project has provided a certain number of children from socially disadvantaged families with the opportunity to travel for a three-week vacation in the Netherlands, and this year, 20 students from Goražde and Tuzla received that opportunity. Asmir and Tajana were tasked with taking care of these children and helping them experience this in the most beautiful way, so they could take home the best memories for life from the Netherlands, and they were undoubtedly more than successful in doing so.

From this trip, as they point out, they have the most special memories, and one that added a special charm to Asmir on this trip was a

visit to the Efteling amusement park. Asmir told us that everyone, regardless of age, was delighted with the content of it, but also that it brought the slightly older ones back to their childhood, the land of carefreeness and the most sincere children's joy.

*This trip reminded me of the importance of spontaneity and enjoying the moment. Through interaction with other people, as well as children, I learned valuable lessons about patience, creativity and adaptability.*





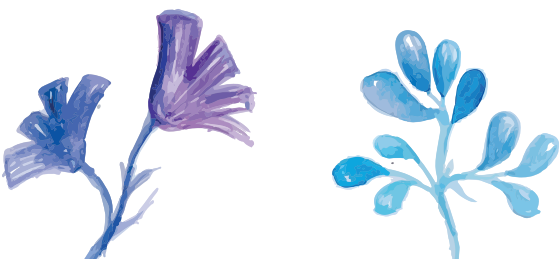
Asmir and Tajana tried their best to make this trip unforgettable, thinking of every detail of it, and they often spent time staying in the fresh air and organizing picnics. Our scholarship recipients summed up their journey in a few words, significant enough to express their fascination with it:

***The project in the Netherlands was extremely rich and fulfilling. We managed to create memories that we will all remember for a long time. These experiences will certainly help me in future projects and challenges.***

They dedicated the days they had free to sightseeing in Amsterdam and, as they say, they did not make a mistake. Tajana spoke enthusiastically about Amsterdam:

***A city full of culture, history and incredible energy. It was wonderful to explore the streets of this colorful city and discover its many sights.***

In order to thank the Hastor Foundation and the Stichting Kinderhulp Bosnië Organization for the opportunity and express their enthusiasm for the experiences they had gained at the very end of the trip, they sent letters full of warmth and sincere feelings. They greeted the land of tulips with smiles and a few tears in their eyes.



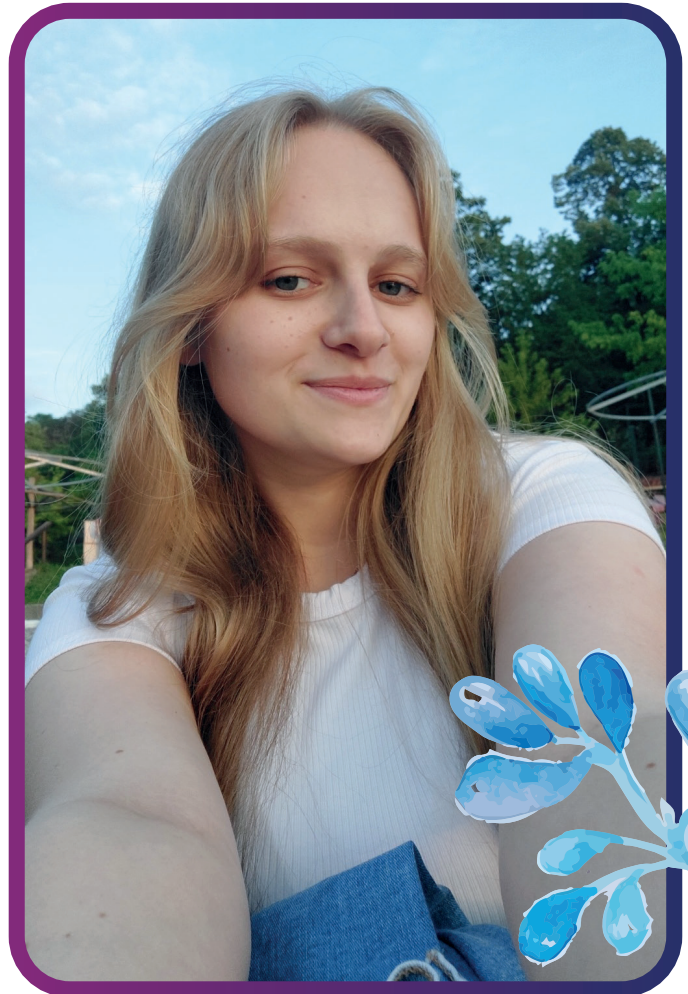
**Prepared by: Adelisa Begić**  
**Translated by: Ajlla Hadžimuratović**

## *Aida Suljić*

***What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains immortal.*** said Albert Paine. This thought reminds us of the essence of volunteer engagement at the Hastor Foundation – selfless help that has become the fundamental principle of our joint mission. Every month, through the *Scholarship Recipient of the Month* column, we bring stories about young volunteers of the Hastor Foundation, whose activities and ideas deserve special attention and are a source of motivation for all of us. The story of our scholarship recipient **Aida Suljić** is just as inspiring, inspiring all the young individuals around her with her work, diligence and nobility. She demonstrates her exceptional communication and organizational skills through engagement in different teams at the Hastor Foundation.

Aida comes from Kalesija and has been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation for nine years. She became a scholarship recipient in elementary school when she had mentors who passed on their knowledge and skills to her. After enrolling in the faculty, she began to apply the transferred knowledge, becoming a mentor to younger high school scholarship students in the area of Kalesija and Zvornik.

Today, our Aida is a third-year student at the Faculty of Economics, University of Tuzla, Department of Economics. At the end of her high school education, Aida was declared the student of the generation, and she especially stood out in the field of literature due to the outstanding results she achieved; she also won third place in the literary competition of the Hastor Foundation. She shows her talent and love for the written word through her volunteer involvement in the editorial team of the Hastor Foundation, where she selflessly and diligently strives to bring the best and most beautiful stories month after month. Read below what volunteering in this team looks like from Aida's perspective:



***Volunteer hours in the editorial team are something challenging, different and, I would say, exactly what I needed. Writing has always been just a kind of hobby for me, but to be given the opportunity to take it further seemed incredible. It was difficult at the beginning, but I tried to do my best because I immediately liked the principle of volunteering at the Hastor Foundation. I tried to adopt every suggestion and comment immediately and tried to improve everything necessary in future texts. Of course, it is important to point out that all team members were always available to help and give some advice.***



Aida fills her volunteer hours in the Education Club. As she states, volunteering in both teams is extremely demanding, especially in the months when the tasks increase and the volunteering becomes intense, but all this encourages her to properly balance her time and responsibilities. Volunteering in the Education Club is focused on working and communicating with children. Aida receives a certain number of information and workshops per month, which she needs to coordinate, informing younger scholarship recipients about the dates of the educational workshops and passing on the information to the mentors. Although this type of volunteering is relatively new for her, her previous experience in volunteering with students enabled her to effectively communicate and explain the purpose of the work. Aida tries to work equally intensively in both teams, aware that she is still young and that developing her own skills is crucial, and that working on herself should always be a priority:

***I could not have guessed what role the Hastor Foundation would play in my life. From a thirteen-year-old girl to a soon-to-be twenty-two-year-old girl, the Foundation followed in my footsteps. In the letters I used to send, I shared with her all my successes, all my fond moments, but also my sadness. My self-confidence grew day by day, new friendships were born, and my knowledge rose to a new level. Today, I can only look back on all that and thank the Hastor Foundation for what I have and what they have given me. I will say that I will continue to achieve success to repay, at least in some way, for everything that has been given to me.***



**Prepared by: Semina Sadiković  
Translated by: Maida Avdić**

# *Vuk Solaković – The rise of a young man from Bijeljina in the world of chess*

**Vuk Solaković**, a young chess player from Bijeljina, is not your typical teenager. Vuk is fifteen years old and showed an early interest in chess, a game that opened the doors to success and shaped his character. His journey began with simple curiosity towards his father's chess set, and today he has participated in over 100 chess tournaments, won 50 medals, and gained the status of one of the most promising young chess players in the region.

But how did Vuk end up among the chess pieces? As a four-year-old, he entered the world of chess thanks to his father's patience and desire to teach his son the basics of this ancient game. From the very first moment, Vuk fell in love with the chess pieces and the 64-square board. Since chess quickly became more than just a game for him, he began training at the age of five. Vuk's dedication to chess soon yielded results – at just six years old, he participated in his first tournaments:

*I have participated in over 100 various chess tournaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Croatia. In all competitions, I won over 50 medals for the top three places. I train and compete as a member of the Chess Club Sveti Georgije from Bijeljina.*



Our young teenage prodigy is also successful in other fields. Besides being a successful chess player, Vuk is an exemplary student. As a student of Sveti Sava Elementary School in Bijeljina, he was a member of the school's chess team with which he participated in numerous school competitions. His school team won many medals, and Vuk was named the athlete of the generation. Chess, he says, helped him develop skills that made it easier to manage school obligations, and his hard work was rewarded with the prestigious Vuk's diploma:

*It is well known that chess significantly enhances brain development in children and young people. I believe that chess helped me immensely during my education in elementary school to master all subjects effortlessly, to have excellent grades from 1st to 9th grade, and to become the recipient of the well-known Vuk's diploma.*

One of the most important things that chess brought to Vuk is the opportunity to make many friendships with peers across Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. Although they are often his rivals on the black-and-white chessboard, off the board, they have become good young people, students, and athletes who share common values and the love for the game. Through chess tournament travels, Vuk had the opportunity to visit different places, meet people, and broaden his horizons, which helped him become more independent and mature.

*Although IT fields are still popular, all computers work with the help of electrical energy. Somewhat humorously, I want to say that energy is the main resource of our planet and will surely become even more important, meaning that energy-related professions will become even more competitive in the job market.*

Although Vuk is committed to numerous obligations and intense training, he strives to lead the life of an ordinary teenager. His daily routine includes hanging out with friends, where he enjoys socializing and relaxing. In addition, Vuk is passionate about reading books.



When asked what the Hastor Foundation means to him, Vuk Solaković emphasizes that it is an extremely important organization that provides significant support to successful students. He points out that the Foundation not only helps financially but also motivates young people to continue pursuing the sport they love and excel in school. This support enables young people to focus on their goals, whether it be achieving excellent school results or advancing in sports. Vuk highlights that, thanks to the Hastor Foundation, he has been given the opportunity to continue with his sports and educational ambitions.

However, chess can also be a lonely sport, as noted by Svetozar Gligorić, one of the greatest chess players from our region, **Chess is a battle with oneself.** That's why Vuk has always tried to develop other interests. He started with judo and then dedicated himself to football, a sport that helped him build team spirit and learn the values of collective play. In the Pioneers League of Republika Srpska, he played for OFK Zenit from Bijeljina, where he eventually became the team captain. Currently, with great enthusiasm, he is training kickboxing, continuing to explore different sports and challenges.



This summer, Vuk enrolled in the Technical School Mihajlo Pupin in Bijeljina, majoring in Power Engineering. He speaks about his choice with a smile, aware of the importance of energy as a resource for the future. He is determined to become an expert in the field that will play a key role in the world to come:

We are proud of our talented scholarship recipients like Vuk and look forward to all his future successes.

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



# Dino Habib



Diligent and dedicated scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation always stand out in their environment, presenting the Foundation in the best light. Although we know that the Foundation is a treasure trove of successful, persistent, and accomplished people, this month's alumnus **Dino Habib** will share another story and connections that have helped him grow in all aspects of life from the very first day – when he became a scholarship recipient to today as an employee of the ASA Group.

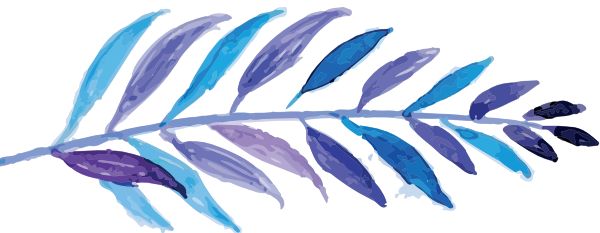
Dino became a scholarship recipient during his student days, in his second year of university. He comes from the royal city of Jajce, where he completed his high school education before enrolling at the Faculty of Traffic and Communications, University of Sarajevo.

He learned about the Hastor Foundation through a recommendation from his brother and his friend, who had submitted an application for the scholarship that year. Dino's scholarship period was marked by mentor meetings with elementary and high school students, which carried a high level of responsibility, sacrifice, and a lot of experience and smiles. During volunteering hours, many hearts are connected, some contacts remain permanent, and these eventually become the riches we gain through our Foundation. Dino fondly remembers the letters from scholarship recipients praising his work and organization, and all the skills and love he imparted to them, just as a model and noble mentor would. As Dino himself says, this was his greatest joy.



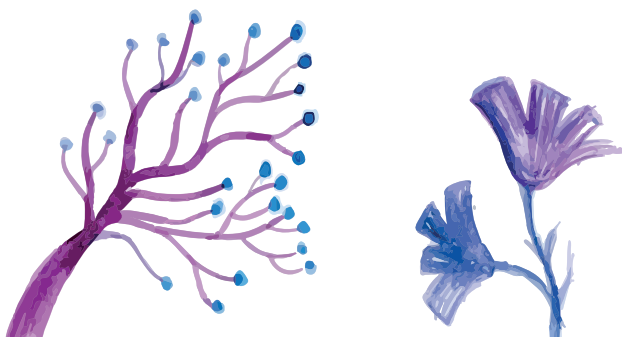
Dino is currently employed at ASA Šped, where he started working after completing the *Hastor Foundation's 2012 Internship Development Program*, which also marked a turning point in his life as a young intern.

In the coming years, Dino sees himself in a position where he can directly help others acquire new skills more quickly and effectively and share part of his rich work experience that will aid them in their future endeavors. The Hastor Foundation represents a second family to him, and he reminisces with a smile about his first volunteer hours and the initial acquaintances he made there. As he says, it is an invaluable experience and one of the most beautiful memories of his student days.



At the end of the conversation, Dino left a message for the new generations of Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients:

***You should always give your best regardless of the nature of the work. Do it with love because life-changing moments happen overnight, and your mark remains eternal. Have a dose of understanding, tolerance, and support for others because through effort, work, and dedication, the work and the entire Hastor Foundation are visible. Be thirsty for knowledge and follow your dreams. I told myself this same sentence at the beginning of university and my career. I can tell you from my own example that it proved to be right.***



**Prepared by: Hana Kolasević  
Translated by: Edna Đuliman**

# *The Volunteer Group from Bugojno on a Noble Mission of Learning and Caring for the Community*

Every month older scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation have a very responsible and special task, perhaps the most special one, and that is volunteering with their younger counterparts. This task is not easy because our volunteers prepare meetings every month that are interesting and useful for the students, helping them prepare for what the future holds. In this month's column, *Little Stories of Great Volunteers*, we bring you the inspiring story of the volunteer group from Bugojno.

Amila Gvozden, Enida Ugarak, and Esmir Karašin volunteer with high school and elementary school students from Bugojno. This month, our three dedicated mentors will introduce us to their world of volunteering and show us how they motivate and encourage younger scholarship recipients to do good deeds. Amila points out that it's not easy to make volunteering interesting for all younger scholarship recipients; however, since its inception, the Hastor Foundation has promoted volunteer engagement and helping others and strives to teach every scholarship recipient these values.

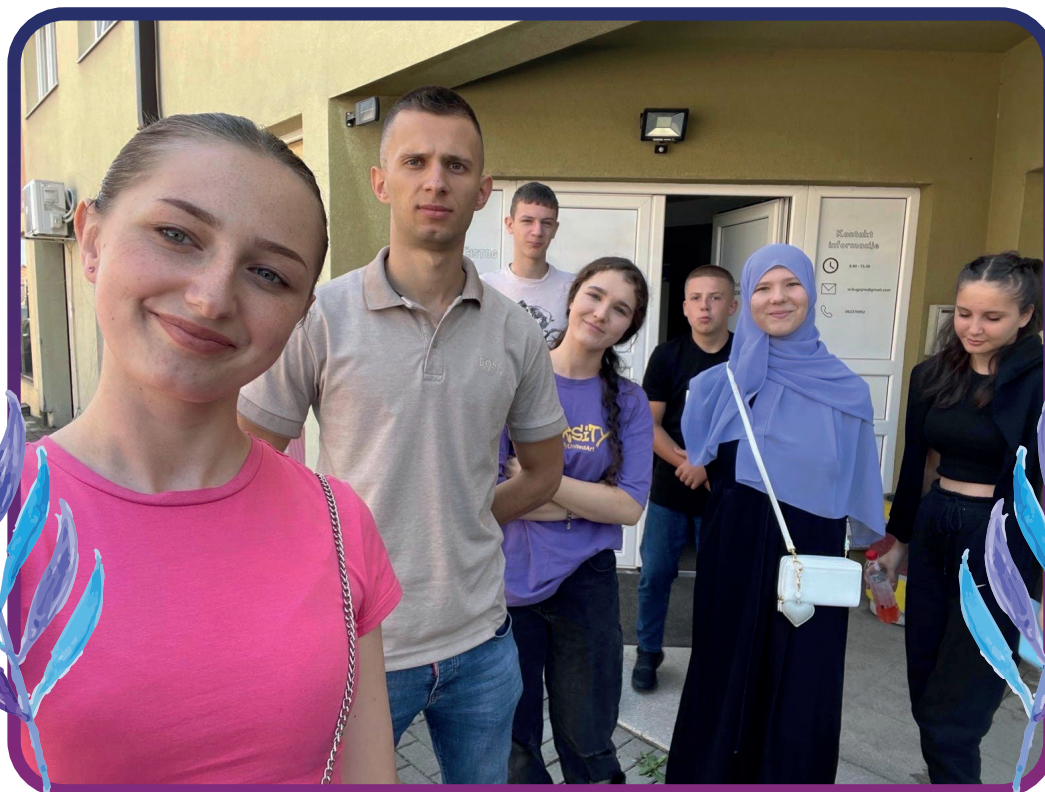
To present the activities of this group in the best light, we'll start the story with a few words from Nihad Mekić, our scholarship recipient and a member of the volunteer group from Bugojno:

*Volunteering has been a great experience for me; I connect with other people while having fun at the same time. During one of our volunteering sessions, we discussed the topic of physical activity and how it affects our self-confidence.*



Nihad also mentions that, at the end of the meeting, they did exercises and held a brief discussion about the importance of physical activity for both mental and physical health, which further showed him that even seemingly ordinary topics can be turned into something fun. Field volunteering in mentor groups is a special and challenging activity where students have the opportunity to gain new experiences, help their community, and perhaps even start something similar themselves tomorrow.

This month, our mentor group from Bugojno decided to clean schoolyards and parks in the local community before the start of the new school year. As the mentors point out, this raises awareness among younger scholarship recipients and teaches them to become people who will protect their environment tomorrow because, as Leo Tolstoy said: *One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken.*



*We cleaned the yard around the school, and the mentors briefly told us about recycling and its importance. I found it interesting because I learned some new things that are very important for us as young people. I look forward to every future meeting with our mentors,* said Adela Kero, a scholarship recipient from the volunteer group in Bugojno.

The volunteering session was coming to an end, and thanks to the hardworking students, the waste was quickly disappearing. Soon, the schoolyard regained its original appearance, and the smiles on the students' faces were bigger than ever. In addition to these activities, this team also mentioned that they use the end of each meeting to watch the Hastor Foundation podcast and then discuss the topic with the students. Amila, one of the dedicated mentors, shared a few words:

*Our efforts and commitment, both in education and in life, will not go unnoticed. One of the ways we can be rewarded for our efforts is through the financial support we receive from the Hastor Foundation. Put in the effort and join the large group of young volunteers that the Hastor Foundation brings together year after year!*

The importance of volunteering has been highlighted from the beginning of this article, as our great volunteers have shown how volunteering hours can be maximized with laughter, fun, and learning. The message from our volunteer group in Bugojno is to take every opportunity to volunteer because each opportunity brings new experiences and makes the world a better place to live.

**Prepared by: Aida Suljić**  
**Translate by: Zerina Kosovac**

## *Golden Roses*

A thousand golden roses  
 Strewn at the threshold of a closed soul  
 Worth as much as dry soil  
 During hot August drought.  
 Neither do they smell nor give anything  
 Just stand so beautiful  
 Worthy to someone, worth their weight in gold  
 Yet to someone they are less than a penny.  
 But a droplet of water, fresh, desired,  
 Makes your body feel like it's fluttering  
 In ecstasy again, in strength  
 A droplet to be cared for.  
 More worthy  
 Than all the golden roses  
 Than that illusory riches  
 That someone lied me about  
 Would bring me happiness.  
 And who has seen beauty greater  
 During August heat a proud droplet  
 Like a signpost to a waterfall.

*Nikolina Stanar*

*Translated by: Sara Kuduzović*



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