

NEWSLETTER

November 2024



FONDACIJA
HASTOR

Olga Dedić

HASTOR FOUNDATION PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS FROM FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS

After a severe natural disaster, devastating floods, struck parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in October, leaving lasting effects on society, the Hastor Foundation was on the ground, among the affected population, offering a helping hand that was more than needed at that moment.

Our team worked diligently cleaning, assisting, and talking to the people of Donja Jablanica, Fojnica... And yet, we wanted to do even more. Thus, the Hastor Foundation will provide scholarships to 73 students from the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton. These students, residents of flood-affected areas, will become part of the Hastor Foundation, receiving a monthly scholarship throughout all 12 months of the year. They will also volunteer,

like all other scholarship recipients, working to develop their skills and competencies and directly contributing to the development of local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Currently, the final stages of the process are underway for students from the Central Bosnia Canton, which was also affected by the natural disaster. Like the students from HNC, they will also have the opportunity to become Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients.

The Hastor Foundation will remain, as always, a loyal friend to all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, doing its utmost to make our community better and more pleasant for all of us.

Together, we can overcome any challenge!



HASTOR FOUNDATION AS AN EXHIBITOR AT THE NINTH CHILDREN'S FAIR



The beginning of November at the Hastor Foundation brought joy, children's smiles, and playfulness - things no one can remain indifferent to.

On November 9th and 10th, the Ninth Children's Fair, the largest festival for children and families in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was held. This event has consistently attracted significant attention from families, with attendance growing year after year. We were honored to be an exhibitor at this year's fair, organizing fantastic entertainment for the little ones and rewarding them appropriately.

Like in previous years, this year's fair had a central theme and motto. The theme of the 9th Children's Fair was children's mental health, with the motto **"No worries - just play."** As exhibitors, the Hastor Foundation fully committed itself to highlighting the importance of children's mental health. Our representatives also participated in panel discussions on this topic as part of the fair.

For the youngest visitors, we organized a competition for the best artistic/literary work on the topic "My Teacher/Educator." At the end of the two-day fair, prizes were awarded to the winners. Some attendees captivated us with their creativity and cheerfulness, so we also handed out awards during the fair itself.

Another successful event is behind us, and we eagerly prepare for the next ones!



Translated by: Zerina Kosovac

Hana Kazić

Photography is not just art. Photography is a way to show yourself to the world, while remaining completely true to yourself, pointed out Dorothea Lange.

This thought perfectly reflects the spiritual core of the work of Hana Kazić, a talented photographer and scholarship recipient whom we are proud to introduce as our scholarship recipient of the month. Through her work, Hana not only inspires the world around her, but also highlights her unique perspective, using the art of photography as a tool to express her feelings, attitudes and identity. She is a student of Graphic Design and Multimedia at the International Burch University, Sarajevo.

Hana takes her volunteer work at the Hastor Foundation with extreme seriousness and dedication, especially professionally and responsibly. She points out that she is deeply grateful for the financial support and, more importantly, the experience that the Foundation provides her.

It is a great honor for me to be chosen to become a scholarship recipient of this great community. Volunteering allowed me to make new friends and gain valuable experience. It is, in fact, the key link that allows me to continue to grow, learn and develop in all aspects of my life and career. I am happy to have the opportunity to be part of a successful and wonderful family like the Hastor Foundation.



Since childhood, Hana has shown a strong passion for art, which for her has always been a haven for unexpressed emotions. Through her art, she finds a way to express what she cannot convey in words, and her education in the field of graphic design and multimedia allows her to further develop her creativity and skills in this field.

One of Hana's first photographs, which she made for the photography midterm, won the first Sarajevo Photography Festival in the "Life" category, which she is extremely proud of. A year later, her photo series for the "Fashion" category was also among the finalists of the festival. This success was an important moment in her career, but Hana admits that before all that, she faced her fears of failure.

The greatest role model in her life is her father, who taught her the values of independence and hard work from an early age, so she proudly singles him out as her greatest mentor and inspiration:

My greatest inspiration in life is my father, a man who created everything with his own hands and in very difficult conditions. On this occasion, I would like to especially thank my father for his great effort and work.

Finally, Hana shows how the support of the Hastor Foundation, together with the support of her family, is crucial for her personal and professional growth. Through volunteer work, young people like her achieve their goals because with such support, every challenge becomes an opportunity for progress and the realization of dreams.



Hana Kazić, Bosnia and Herzegovina - FASHION

**Prepared by: Sanita Fuško
Translated by: Maida Avdić**

With ambition and support, to the stars

Berina Tihčić, a fourteen-year-old girl from Sarajevo, a 9th-grade student at "Pofalići" Elementary School and a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation has already achieved significant success in sports and other fields. Her passion for sports, especially taekwondo and football, as well as her dedication to education, make her a true role model for her peers and all young people, and it is for a reason that the story of this successful girl found its place in the Active Youth section.

Berina developed her love for taekwondo at a very early age, at just four and a half years old. Her brother, who was also a taekwondo player, inspired her to train. Although her brother gave up, Berina continued training, which became her passion. Today, she trains four to five times a week, and her training in taekwondo include warming up, working with equipment, and fighting, which is her favorite part of training. Along with discipline in her diet and physical challenges, Berina has learned to deal with psychological challenges, such as stage fright before competitions. Although she used to have problems with stage fright, today, she successfully copes with all challenges.



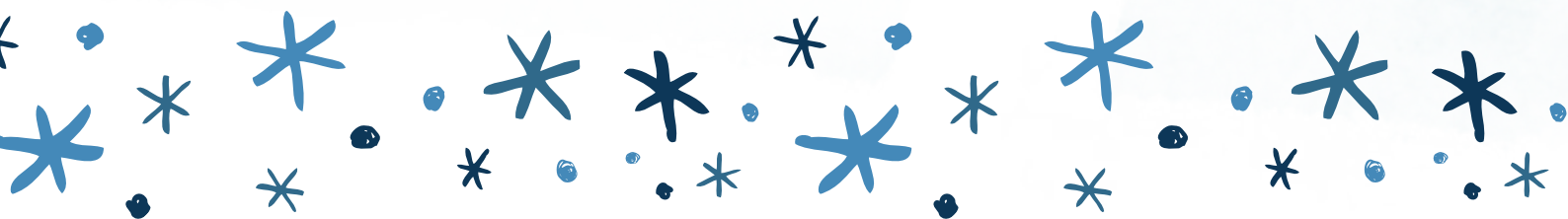
Berina has achieved greatest victories in her taekwondo career while having the title of a national champion; she is humble with her victories, always emphasizing that no victory means relaxation, but rather an additional motivation for even harder training. Berina sees her defeats as chances for growth and self-development. The motivation to continue her sports career Berina finds in the support of her family and coaches, but also in her wish to be even more successful.

Berina is also involved in football: she has been playing for ŽFK "Respekt" for five years and is a member of the U15 National Team of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, she has been active in the Scouting Squad "Pofalići" for five and a half years. Her versatile approach to life and sports distinguishes her as a person who loves challenges and knows no boundaries when it comes to learning and progress.

Our hardworking scholarship recipient plans to continue competing in the future, and her goal is to win first place at the Balkan Cup in Bulgaria, and to one day join the National Team of Bosnia and Herzegovina in taekwondo. In addition, Berina dreams of a career as a coach, which is another proof of her dedication to sports and desire to help young athletes achieve their goals.

The Hastor Foundation is her great support in education, and volunteer work allows her to meet new friends and gain new experiences. Berina is already showing exceptional potential, and we are sure that she will continue to achieve great results, both in the field of sports and in the field of science and education. Her message is clear:

Never give up, always be smiling and dedicate yourself to a healthy life through sports.



Prepared by: Lorens Stranjak
Translated by: Maida Avdić

The Power of Support: How the Hastor Foundation Shaped the Life of Nihada Sivić?

The Hastor Foundations scholarship recipients remain connected to the Foundation like roots to a tree even after graduating. Such roots are hard to break since the bond can be firm and unbreakable, filled with positive emotions and fond memories of the time spent at school. That is how former scholarship recipients nurture the connection with the Foundation, one that was often their main support and pillar in life. "Alumni of the Month" is a section that brings stories from our former scholarship recipients, and this month it is the story of **Nihada Sivić**.

Nihada was born in December, 1994, in the town of Bugojno. She finished elementary school and high school in Bugojno, continuing her education in Sarajevo. She got her Bachelor's Degree at the Department of English Language and Literature, the Faculty of Philosophy, the University of Sarajevo. She notes that she was always drawn to the connection between language, culture, and communication. After that, she pursued a Master's Degree in Communication Studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences, the University of Sarajevo.



I believe this combination of education was the ideal foundation for my professional growth, giving me an opportunity for a broader perspective, and multidisciplinary skills that I apply daily, Nihada said at the very beginning of our conversation.

Being a member of the Hastor Foundation family during education—as we build ourselves and our personality—is a big advantage, as it motivates us to achieve the best results possible and teaches us real human values. Still, we appreciate these skills even more as we move on to new areas of life, meet new people, and dedicate ourselves to new experiences. Thanks to the Foundation, which shaped her, she felt the support she needed.

The fact that there's someone who believes in you and is dedicated to your long-term growth speaks volumes about the Foundation's role in the lives of its scholarship recipients, says Nihada as she continues. ***Through years of support, I felt empowered and motivated to improve, knowing that someone was there as a backbone in my growth.***



When asked about her volunteering experience, she highlights that, as an experienced volunteer in the Foundation's administration, she had a chance to gain valuable experiences and develop work habits that meant a lot to her. Volunteering was a chance to develop a sense of responsibility and belonging to a team, along with work skills, which are very useful for future professional challenges.

The Hastor Foundation offers a chance for many friendships, but something more too, which is the case with our Nihada. The closest friendship she carries from the Foundation is the one with her husband, whom she met working in the Foundation's administration. Ten years later, they are still together, now married. Nihada has been working in the automotive industry for years, at "Porsche Sarajevo," where she is in charge of marketing. According to Nihada, the job is dynamic and requires constant adaptability and creativity, and it includes a large number of tasks. But working at a job like this offers her a chance to work with top-tier brands, which, although challenging, is very fulfilling.

In the end, we asked Nihada to share a message to all our scholarship recipients—and she summed it up in one sentence: ***Believe in your goals.***

The Hastor Foundation acts as a support and as a tailwind, and will help all its scholarship recipients to achieve their set goals, but only if they themselves firmly believe in what they want to achieve.

Prepared by: Aida Suljić
Translated by: Sara Kuduzović

The Education Club

We are proud to say that the majority of elementary and high school student scholarship recipients at the Hastor Foundation are outstanding students—hard-working, diligent, and eager to learn. Reflecting on ways to provide these students with opportunities for additional development in areas of interest to them, the Hastor Foundation established the Education Club as part of its new volunteer model, designed exclusively for top-performing students.

The members of this club are university students from various faculties who, from the very beginning, had ideas and visions for explaining specific subjects to students and teaching them about topics they wanted to explore further.

After nearly a year of intense activities, the Education Club has allowed elementary school, high school and university students to find the best ways to implement and realize their ideas. Together, they have crafted excellent and inspiring stories about one of the most important aspects of the Hastor Foundation: mentorship. Students began by selecting the fields they wanted to study, while our university scholarship recipients maximized their general knowledge and academic expertise to captivate and educate them about topics not covered in school.

For example, **Ivan Rajić**, a student from the Faculty of Philosophy, introduced his students to the world of music. Guided by the most beautiful notes, he opened the doors to the infinite realms of this art:

The workshops on the world of music provided students with an essential introduction to the meaning of music. Like any other form of art, it is an expression of emotions and thoughts, but it can also carry an important message. My role as the workshop leader wasn't to dictate which music they should

listen to—that would be absurd—but rather to explore the real reasons why music exists and the good it has brought to the world. The workshops were designed to help students relax after exhausting hours at school, and in that relaxed state, absorb information that might remain with them for a long time—perhaps even forever, Ivan Rajić explained.



In conclusion, we can proudly say once again how much we value our scholarship recipients and their daily efforts to make the volunteering process as efficient and productive as possible, ensuring that our students gain knowledge beyond the standard school curriculum. We firmly believe that in the future, the only direction for the path paved by the Education Club will be the understanding that education is the choice of winners. We trust that our students and scholarship recipients will continue to follow this path, and we eagerly look forward to all the future stories the members of this club will share with us.

Translated by: Zerina Kosovac

A Mirror of the Soul

The love of the young, gentle like the wind that resists,
in their eyes shines a light that always returns.

Every word spoken is like the heartbeat,
and every smile is a world that grows within them.

The love of the young, in it there is no past or burden,
only hope in every step, every kiss a longing.

When their hands unite, everything else disappears,
the world is small, but their hearts expand its boundaries.

They love as if every moment is the first,
as if that gentle spark within them will last forever.

And while the moon shines over the city at night,
Young hearts dream of eternity, freedom,
and love that never loses its power.

Lamija Sejdić
Translated by: Ivan Rajić



How to become a donor?

If you want to support the work of the Hastor Foundation,
you can donate to one of these bank accounts:

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