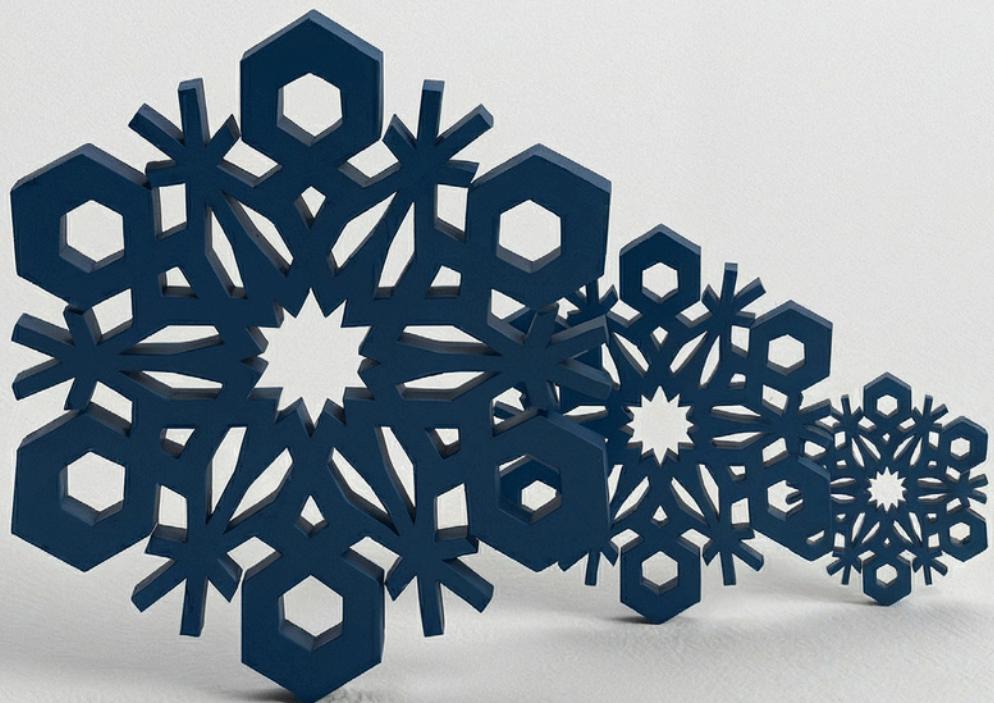


# Newsletter

December 2025





# Scholarship Agreements Signed with New Student Scholars for the Academic Year 2025/2026

In line with its long-term mission, at the end of this month, the Hastor Foundation organised the signing of scholarship agreements with new student scholars selected through the Scholarship Call for the academic year 2025/2026.

This event officially marked the beginning of a new scholarship cycle, through which the Hastor Foundation continues to provide continuous financial support to students across Bosnia and Herzegovina. The scholarship program is designed as comprehensive support for young people during their academic journey, with the aim of making studying easier, strengthening personal capacities, and creating opportunities for professional development.

The signing of the agreements is an important moment for both the Foundation and the new scholars, as it marks the beginning of a shared journey based on trust, responsibility, and common values. Through clearly defined rights and obligations, the scholarship program encourages academic commitment, personal growth, and active participation of young people in society.

For many years, the Hastor Foundation has systematically invested in education through its scholarship program, believing that knowledge, effort, and dedication are the foundation of positive social change.





# Cooperation Between the Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo and the Hastor Foundation - Successful Implementation of the Project “Volunteering as a Mechanism for Youth Empowerment”

The project “Volunteering as a Mechanism for Youth Empowerment” was implemented in cooperation between the Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo and the Hastor Foundation, which has once again, through joint efforts, provided financial and mentoring support to primary and high school students, as well as university students from the area of the Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo.

The Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo co-financed the project with 3,000.00 BAM, and the funds were used for the payment of regular monthly scholarships to scholars in the period from September to December. This project gave young people from the Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo the opportunity to actively participate in volunteer and educational activities, while at the same time receiving financial and mentoring support, especially students from socially vulnerable backgrounds. Through this project, the connection between young people and the local community was further strengthened, as well as the importance of volunteering as one of the key mechanisms of youth social engagement.

During the project implementation, students participated in educational and mentoring workshops covering various topics related to the importance of volunteering, social activism, and the development of personal, professional, and entrepreneurial skills.

This project confirmed the importance of partnerships between institutions and organizations in creating positive change, empowering young people, and developing volunteering in the local community. We sincerely thank the Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo for its support in the implementation of the project “Volunteering as a Mechanism for Youth Empowerment.”



# Hastor Foundation Alumni Provided New Year Gift Packages Through the Project “Joy Is Shared”

For the second year in a row, alumni of the Hastor Foundation organised an action to collect New Year gift packages, with the aim of bringing joy to children who need attention and happiness the most.

This time, our dedicated alumni decided to provide their support through the project “Joy Is Shared” of the association “Hrabro srce” from Zenica. The project had one clear goal, and that is to put smiles on the faces of the youngest, by providing 100 New Year gift packages through the kindness of humanitarian individuals.

Once again, our special alumni showed that their hearts are filled with love, care, empathy, and humanity. For them, every smile is a victory and on this occasion, the Hastor Foundation expresses its pride and sincere gratitude to its alumni, who continue to show through their lives why they have always been and remain an important part of our story.

*Translated by: Amila Bajrić*





# With Proud Steps Across Bosnia and Herzegovina - Tešanj: The Economic Treasure of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The team of the Hastor Foundation visited Tešanj - an economic treasure of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Located between hills and along the Tešanjka River, Tešanj carries a rich history of Bosnia and Herzegovina and clearly shows the potential of our country, both in economic and tourism terms.

The Tešanj Fortress stands as a guardian of the city and its history, impressing visitors with its beauty and offering a wide view of Tešanj. Within the fortress, there are other reminders of the past, such as museums and small shops, through which we can experience both the old and modern spirit of Tešanj.

Within the tourist offer, special attention belongs to the beautiful Eminagić House, which brings the past times and the lifestyle of wealthy families, such as the Eminagić family, back to life. By presenting every corner of this house, we talk about the customs and traditions of that period.

Muamer Duratbegović, an alumnus of the Hastor Foundation, hosted us in this beautiful city and explained why Tešanj is one of the most developed municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The full edition from Tešanj is available on our YouTube channel "Fondacija Hastor."

*Translated by Amila Bajrić*



# INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH – The Year 2025 at the Hastor Foundation

The interview of the month brings a conversation with the employees of the Hastor Foundation, those who live this story every day. Through their words, we discover what 2025 was like at the Foundation, filled with dedicated work, attention and responsibility. Every received request, every scholarship and every volunteer hour is handled with special attention. The Hastor Foundation team consists of former scholarship recipients, who best understand the values of the opportunity provided and proudly share every smile, every thank you and every victory that our scholarship program brings.



Neyla Yasemin Ergun, Project and  
Education Associate

## *1. How would you, from your perspective, describe the year 2025 at the Hastor Foundation?*

From my perspective, the year 2025 at the Hastor Foundation was extremely dynamic. As a long-time scholarship recipient, I had the opportunity through various roles, first as a volunteer, then as part of the administration, and today as an employee, to get to know the Foundation better. Working for the benefit of young people is something that truly makes me happy and gives me additional motivation and wind at my back. As every year, the Foundation accepted a large number of new scholarship recipients, and I had the opportunity to participate in almost all phases of the process, from organisation and communication to direct work with young people. These experiences enabled me to better understand the needs of scholarship recipients, but also to actively contribute to strengthening the network of young people across Bosnia and Herzegovina. I remember the year 2025 as a year of growth, both personal and professional, but also as confirmation that through joint work we can build a strong, connected, and supportive community of young people.

## *2. What were the key projects of the Hastor Foundation in 2025 and which results would you especially highlight?*

During 2025, the Hastor Foundation implemented a series of significant projects, and I would especially highlight collaborations with municipalities, not only in the area of Sarajevo but also across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Exceptionally high-quality cooperation with municipalities represents a strong example of joint action aimed at strengthening the prosperity of young people and creating better opportunities for their education and development. This year as well, after the successful completion of the pilot phase of the mentoring program First Step into the Business World, we continued this excellent project that introduces our diligent students into a professional environment and provides invaluable experience. One of the projects I am particularly proud of, and in whose planning and organisation I participated, is the new project "Together for Knowledge and Education".



Maida Sarić, Manager of the  
Department for Promotion,  
Development and Projects

Through this project, the Foundation goes a step further and provides free tutoring and educational workshops to all pupils, including those who are not scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation. In this way, we enable pupils outside our network to receive the same type of support, knowledge, and opportunities. We are especially proud of this project because, through it, we help strengthen communities and build young people with the idea that every child deserves equal education opportunities. We are aware of the fact that additional tutoring today is often financially inaccessible to a large number of parents, and precisely for that reason, we want to provide maximum support to pupils and their families. We look forward to continuing existing, as well as new collaborations and projects that await us in 2026, with the aim of continuing to strengthen the education system and support for young people across Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Amela Dedić, Manager of the Department for Education and Upbringing

I would also like to share personal experience, because I myself previously had a fear of public speaking and speaking in front of people, but already as a scholarship recipient, through various Foundation activities, I learned how to turn that fear into motivation.

### *3. Which competencies or values, in your opinion, do scholarship recipients develop the most through the Foundation's activities?*

In my opinion, scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation develop a whole range of important competencies and values through various activities. First of all, there is a significant strengthening of self-confidence, communication, and interpersonal skills. Through various forms of volunteering, scholarship recipients gain practical experience and knowledge, especially in working with children and young people, which later represents a great advantage on the labour market. Volunteering in the Foundation's administration is very dynamic and requires a high level of resourcefulness, responsibility, and organisation, especially through daily communication, work with documentation, and solving various challenges. Every learned skill and every experience they gain has long-term value.

### *4. Have you noticed an increase in interest in certain topics or skills among scholarship recipients?*

Of course, recently we have clearly recorded an increase in scholarship recipients' interest in certain topics and skills that follow contemporary societal needs. Particularly prominent is interest in topics related to internet safety, strengthening self-confidence, personal development, and motivation, as well as in areas related to the IT sector. When it comes to skills, we notice that pupils are increasingly developing digital competencies, such as computer work, graphic design, programming, and other IT skills. We are glad that our scholarship recipients come from different faculties and show exceptional ability to adapt and work on multiple tasks simultaneously. This increase in interest shows that scholarship recipients are aware of the importance of continuous learning and skill development that will help them be competitive on the labour market, but also responsible, self-confident, and informed young people ready to respond to the challenges of the future.



Emra Kulo Begić, Coordinator of the Department for Education and Upbringing



Lejla Donlagić, Director of  
Hastor Foundation

As a team, we are most proud of the mutual support, collegiality, and shared sense of purpose that connect us. We all share the same goal — to make the Hastor Foundation as successful as possible and, through our work, help as many young people as we can. From its very founding, the founders of the Hastor Foundation had a clear vision for the Foundation: to encourage positive change in Bosnian and Herzegovinian society. We are proud that this year as well, with the support of the Board of Directors, we had the opportunity to stand behind that vision.

I am especially proud of our team because we are also united by a shared experience as former Hastor Foundation scholarship holders, which allows us to recognize the needs of others with additional empathy and understanding.

This special connection and mutual trust make our team strong and aligned

around the same values. On this occasion, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my colleagues: Alija, Amela, Emra, Dženana, Neyla, Maida, and Semra. Through our effort and dedication, we work together to ensure that all our initiatives, activities, and projects have a clear ultimate goal — to change the lives of young people, provide support at critical moments, and empower them to one day become part of the chain of kindness and support, as well as drivers of positive change in our society.

## 6. What motivated you the most in your work during this year?

What motivated me the most during this year is the realisation that through our work, we directly contribute to the well-being of young people. I am truly delighted and driven by the fact that together we are building a better future for young people, but also for Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole. There is nothing more valuable than the feeling that you have provided support to someone at the right moment, especially when you hear a voice of gratitude on the other end of the phone and realise that you have made someone's path toward achieving their goals easier.



Alija Čengić, Administrative Assistant



Semra Mehić, Administrative  
Associate

## 7. What does working at the Hastor Foundation mean to you?

Working at the Hastor Foundation means every day, again and again, being a significant link in the realisation of the dreams of thousands of young people. We provide financial support, but what is equally important is the friendly support that we nurture from the very first day of the Foundation's existence. My colleagues and I witness various life stories, both difficult and emotional, as well as beautiful and joyful ones. All of this represents personal growth for us, because we strive to be a light in the lives of those upon whom the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina rests.



# With the instructional classes of the Hastor Foundation, mathematics and physics become easy-to-master subjects

Mathematics and physics are among the most demanding subjects in schools. Many pupils struggle with difficult material, and private tutoring represents a financial burden for families. The Hastor Foundation recognised this problem and offered a solution through Instructional Teaching Clubs. Within the volunteer program, student scholarship recipients provide free assistance to pupil scholarship recipients.

The Mathematics and Physics Club brings together students who help primary and high school pupils master the material. This support goes beyond merely explaining formulas and tasks. Students build trust with pupils and motivate them to believe in their own abilities. The results are visible and measurable.

Pupils improve their grades and successfully pass exams. Parents no longer have to set aside money for private lessons.

Student Emina Brstić has been volunteering in the Mathematics and Physics Club for the second year. Her meetings with pupils include a short theoretical introduction and solving tasks. She adapts the flow of each meeting to the needs of each pupil. In addition to transferring knowledge, Emina invests special effort in providing motivation and support.

***I consider the most successful meetings to be those in which I notice active participation of pupils. It is precisely this interaction that motivates me, and my favourite feeling is when they or their parents inform me of some success they achieved thanks to my tutoring. I think that if I help at least one child and become their inspiration, my goal is reached and the mission fulfilled,*** emphasizes Emina.





We invite you  
to join our mission and contribute  
to fulfilling the dreams of prom-  
ising students and young people  
who need our help.

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If you would like to support the work of the Hastor Foundation, you can  
make a donation to one of the following bank accounts:

**ASA Banka d.d. Sarajevo:**

**1346101000825159**

**Raiffeisen Bank BH d.d. Sarajevo:**

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**3389002201775656**



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