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# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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bosanafoundation.org



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# Initial words



Senita Slipac Founder & President This year, Bosana Foundation will celebrate 15 years of existence. While we feel that our work is just as important and impactful today as it was when we started, a lot has been accomplished to serve as proof that our work and contribution to the lives of youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina has left a lasting mark.

When we take into consideration that over 90% of our students are first-time college graduates in their families who are now successfully employed and contributing citizens in their communities, that alone shows a clear impact Bosana has made on individuals but also the country as a whole.

We hope that you will continue to support us by creating Bosana "Giving Circles" that will include your family and friends so that your impact can help us achieve even greater results. Reach out to us to find out more.

While we've faced some challenges along the way, our programs continue to thrive, and we remain committed to providing additional support through opportunities for professional development and collaborations with like-minded organizations and companies.

We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers and donors for helping us achieve our goals, and we hope to maintain the support of our community in the coming year.





### Our vision

Bosana Foundation envisions a future where every talented and determined student in Bosnia and Herzegovina has the **opportunity** to reach their **full potential**, regardless of financial hardship. We are committed to breaking barriers to education, fostering personal growth and empowering students to create a **better future** for themselves and their communities.

Scholarship Program
Professional Development Program
Mentorship Program



### Our mission

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Provide financial and academic support to talented students in need, opening doors to **higher** education and brighter futures.

Offer mentorship, skills development and career support to help students become self-sufficient professionals and community leaders.

Encourage students to engage in **volunteerism** and **leadership**, creating lasting impact in their communities.

## **A Year in Review**

#### 7 Bachelor Degree Graduates

- Majra Grabić Bachelor of Informatics
- Sreten Milutinović Forestry Engineer
- Nadežda Pantelin Medical Laboratory Technologist
- Edina Kamber Bachelor of Economics
- Jovana Jotanović Bachelor of Biology
- Belma Kobaš Bachelor of Social Work
- Adrijana Janković Special Educator and Rehabilitator

#### **5 Master Degree Graduates**

- Amina Kamenica Master of Economics
- Romana Galin Master of Pharmacy
- Mustafa Bešić Master of Psychology
- Sumeja Hadžalić Master of Pharmacy

#### **3 Medical Doctors**

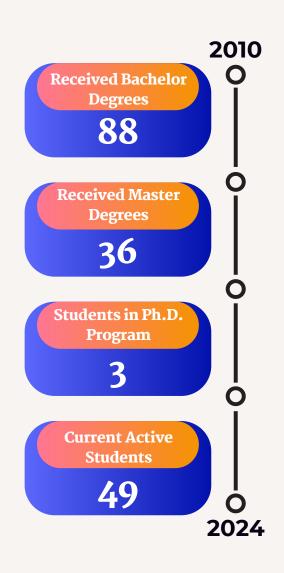
- Emir Šabić Medical Doctor
- Mila Pandža Medical Doctor
- Aida Hambo Doctor of Dental Medicine

#### 12 New Students

We accepted and welcomed 12 new students into our Scholarship
Program

#### **Continuing their Education**

 One of our graduates started a Master's program after graduation -Belma Kobaš - Social Work





By the end of 2024, we are proud to share that 76 of our 88 graduates are **happily employed**, which represents 86.4% of all our graduates.

#### **Generation 14**

### Welcome to Bosana

With **159 scholarship applications** received, our selection process was very challenging!

We were impressed by so many wonderful, talented and driven applicants who want to secure a better future for themselves.



#### We are pleased to announce the lucky 12 who joined our Bosana family



**Amna Delalić** Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sarajevo



**Tarik Suljić** Faculty of Medicine, University of Sarajevo



**Berina Graca** Faculty of Dentistry, University of Sarajevo



Anesa Bajramović Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Sarajevo



Željka Nikolić Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Banja Luka



Hafsa Veladžić Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Sarajevo



Halima Čaušević Faculty of Health Studies, University of Sarajevo



**Ajla Smajić** Faculty of Medicine, Univers<mark>ity of Tuzla</mark>



Mevlida Saletović Faculty of Medicine, University of Tuzla



**Denana Halilović** Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Sarajevo



Katarina Borković

Faculty of Medicine, University of Banja Luka



**Ajla Agović** Faculty of Law, University of Mostar



We're also proud of our volunteer **Elvir Agić**, who earned a **full** scholarship through his hard work in the **professional** development program. Elvir continues to volunteer at the Children's Home, finding motivation in the positive changes he sees in the children's lives. PROGRAMS

### Kickstart your career 2024





### 🔀 About Coaching Program

KYC is Bosana's annual career orientation program. Established in 2019 in partnership with Aida Sujoldžić, a psychologist boasting over 15 years of experience.

### Program objectives?

Help students develop effective job search strategies and realize their potential through proactive career search and training.





#### 23 students on the **first day** talked about...

- How to write a professional resume and cover letter?
- Preparing for interviews and developing soft skills Activities on the **second day**...
  - Presentation skills, Time management and Project management characteristics



The workshops have consistently achieved success each year, with a high number of students securing employment immediately after graduation.



**FACTS & ACHIEVEMENTS** 

### Students facts and achievements

- Sara Ninković secured 3rd place in the Rogatica Municipality's competition for the most beautiful photo with her breathtaking piece, "Prayer". This achievement marks her third accolade in this contest!
- In the meantime, our talented scholar **Nađa Čelik** displayed her creativity at the "Center of Positive Practice" art exhibition in Breza, where she showcased **nine pieces of her work**.
- **Sumeja Hadžalić** recently participated in the prestigious **BioCamp** in **Bled, Slovenia**, representing Bosnia and Herzegovina among global master's and PhD students.
- Enesa Hrustić has successfully completed her ERASMUS exchange at Mälardalen University in Västerås, where she earned her master's degree. During this process, she also received a **job offer**.
- Ahmedina Smajlović is currently completing her doctoral studies, while our Šerifa Buševac applied to a Ph.D. program this year and was also promoted to the role of Teaching Assistant.
- **Denis Smajić**, a former student, and one of the youngest recipients of a master's degree in genetics in BiH, continues to receive **awards for his photography**, with his work being recognized most recently by **National Geographic**.
- **Amina Begović**, our sole student enrolled in the music program at the Sarajevo Music Academy, recently participated in an **International Piano Summer Masterclass**.





Students from every corner of Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for our scholarship, showcasing the widespread need and enthusiasm for educational support.



"This masterclass not only enhanced my piano skills but also deepened my passion for music. I want to emphasize the **importance of professional development** for overall career success-something Bosana always generously supports."

### Our Students Achievements in 2024

**Nejira Idrizović**, Faculty of Pharmacy, UNMO Dean's Award for students with the best success. Nejira passed all exams from the first year of studies and achieved an impressive average grade of 8.33.

**Amina Begović** (Music Academy, UNSA) **& Elma Haračić** (Faculty of Pharmacy, UNTK) The city of Tuzla has honored exceptional students and sports enthusiasts for their outstanding achievements this past year.

**Dženad Šabić**, Faculty of Medicine, UNZE Dean's Award for the best success achieved in the third year with an average grade of 9.94.

**Sreten Milutinović**, Faculty of Agriculture, UNIS The best student in the generation for the fourth time in a row.

**Anida Jusić & Sumeja Hadžalić**, Faculty of Pharmacy, UNSA Recognitions for the outstanding results in their studies in the past academic year.

**Ajla Smajić**, Faculty of Medicine, UNTK Volunteer of the Year - for her extraordinary contributions to the Red Cross.

AWARDS













### Our Students Achievements in 2024

**Jovana Jotanović**, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, UNSA

Jovana has been awarded the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo, the highest recognition given by the university, and has been named the Best Student of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics.

**Emir Šabić**, Faculty of Medicine, UNSA

Emir has received the Silver Badge of the University of Sarajevo, an honor given to students with a grade point average above 9.00.

**Sumeja Hadžalić,** Faculty of Pharmacy, UNSA Sumeja has received the Charter of the University of Sarajevo and was named the Best Student of the Faculty of Pharmacy for the 2019–2024 generation.

**Aida Hambo,** Faculty of Dentistry, UNSA Aida, a participant in Bosana's Professional Development Program, has also been awarded the Silver Badge of the University of Sarajevo.

### **Research and Published Papers**

Mirzet Omerović has so far published 6 scientific research papers, but this last one is special. It is coauthored with his sister, Senita Omerović. Mirzet and Senita, both alumni of the Bosana Foundation, received support during their studies.

Let's not forget **Almedina Ćehić**, a second-year student, who published her **first research paper**. This is only a small part of Almedina's contribution to the promotion of traffic safety.

Congratulation goes to our alumna, **Ahmedina Smajlović**, on the release of **her new book**, co-authored with Professor Muharem Adilović.









### BAPA & Bosana scholarship

For the third consecutive year, the Bosana Foundation is proud to partner with BAPA to sponsor a **\$5,000 scholarship** aimed at supporting **Bosnian**-**American students** in realizing their educational and professional aspirations. We are excited to announce the 2024 recipient of the **BAPA-Bosana Scholarship: Imman**.



Imman is currently pursuing a degree in **Business Economics and Political Science** at the University of Richmond, hailing from Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her research interests focus on **female empowerment**, **sustainable development**, and **education in post-conflict societies**, reflecting the current economic and political landscape in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Imman is eager to engage with the **Bosnian-American community**, recognizing the importance of fostering strong partnerships for mutual growth and support.

### Where are our Bosana & BAPA alumni students now?

This year marks a significant milestone for me: it has been 10 years since I began my journey as a composer. My journey started in Bosnia, where I began crafting my first compositions. Despite my passion and dedication, some of these early works never had the opportunity to be performed. After graduating from Berklee College of Music, I am now eager to bring my early works to life. This album will be a culmination of years of hard work, creativity, and collaboration.

Composer Hajrudin (aka. Hari) Muhić Records His Debut Album

## **New Partnership**

#### **Collaboration with BRAVO BiH**

BRAVO BiH (**Bosnian Representative Association for Valuable Opportunities**) is a **leading organization** dedicated to fostering educational and professional development among youth.

This collaboration aims to bolster **educational opportunities** and **social development programs for young people** across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Joining forces with BRAVO BiH allows us to expand our reach and impact, providing even **more opportunities** for the youth of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The collaboration between Bosana and BRAVO brought me great joy, as these two organizations have played such a significant role in my life over the past few years. I'm excited about all the activities and projects these two organizations will collaborate on in the future, mostly all the exchanges and trainings all around Europe.

**Azra Tupkušić**, Project Coordinator BRAVO and Bosana Student, Faculty of Medicine | University of Tuzla



### Students for humanity

FROM SCHOLARSHIP TO PHILANTHROPY: 64 COMPLETED PROJECTS THROUGH THE STUDENTS FOR HUMANITY INITIATIVE

### SFH REVIEW

Since **2015**, our collective efforts have raised an impressive **24.542** through **64** completed projects.

For **9 years** now, Bosana students have all set aside part of their monthly scholarship funds and they continue to do so even today.

This year, our *Students for Humanity* project successfully supported **seven** (7) students and families for a total amount of **3.588 BAM**.

"**Students for Humanity**" is a collaborative fund established by scholarship recipients from the Bosana Foundation. **Each student contributes 2 BAM per month**, with Bosana **matching** these contributions. This initiative is supported by both current and former students, significantly enhancing the impact of this meaningful effort.

This year, actions were implemented in the following municipalities and cities: Srebrenik, Miljevina, Cazin, Visoko, Sarajevo, and Tuzla. Our students have provided assistance to several of their peers.



### RACE FOR THE CURE

On September 29th, the **Bosana scholars** and alumni, (Almedina, Marijana, Nađa, Matea, Sunčica) participated in the **17th Race for the Cure**, a race/walk for healing organized in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The team, along with 304 registered teams and 11,500 other individuals from Bosnia and Herzegovina, **joined this walk for healing**. Together, they raised 240,000 BAM, designated for the prevention, education, and treatment support of **breast cancer**.



PROJECTS

### **Afterschool** program

#### AFTERSCHOOL TUTORING FOR ORPHANS IN BIH

Our AfterSchool program offers orphanage children diverse projects, improving grades, developing interests, and providing vocational training.

It builds community, allowing children to share interests, challenges, and successes with peers and volunteers.

We've seen increased volunteer interest, now with over 60 online volunteers and growing!



### 4 cities, one GOAL: **EMPOWER CHILDREN!**



### **Highlights from 2024**

- ASP in Zenica (10 volunteers) students, including 26 boys and 24 airls
- ASP in Tuzla (6 volunteers) + around 50 external volunteers for additional activities
- ASP in Mostar (4 volunteers)
- Three new Bosana scholars joined
- Six volunteers tutor math, physics, languages, biology, and chemistry at locations like the Bjelave Children's Home
- One volunteer provides piano lessons





Bosana & ASP staff in Mostar

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PROJECTS

## Afterschool program

Empowering Creativity for Preschool Education at the Ideathon

- The volunteer team from the After School Program participated in the **Ideathon**, part of the "Innovations for Better Childhood" program organized by *Foundation 787*.
- An ASP representative, together with a group of inspiring women, came together to address a gap in preschool educational materials in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Their focus was to create a culturally inspired workbook for preschoolers, blending educational value with a celebration of the country's rich heritage - its landmarks, natural beauty, and traditions.



Azra's experience during her first year as a After School Program Coordinator in Tuzla

"Through my work on the After School Program (ASP), I found a source of fulfillment that cannot be compared to any other volunteering project. What brings me the most joy is the energy the program radiates a force that draws in young people from all around."



## Giving Back to the Community

#### The Power of Volunteering: A Year in Review

Volunteering is a **fundamental** part of our foundation's mission. While we provide scholarships to outstanding students, we also emphasize the importance of giving back to the community. Each scholarship recipient is required to volunteer a minimum of **10 hours per month**, contributing to various social initiatives and projects. This commitment not only strengthens communities but also nurtures personal growth, responsibility, and teamwork among young individuals.

#### Volunteering in Numbers (2024)

In the past year, our students have **exceeded expectations**, showcasing their dedication and commitment to volunteerism. The numbers speak for themselves:

- Total required volunteer hours: 5,090
- Total volunteer hours completed: 5,745
- Hours volunteered beyond the requirement: **655**
- Overall volunteer rate: 112.87% of the required hours (exceeding the minimum by **12.87%**)







I am immensely grateful to the Bosana Foundation, which opened its doors to us and provided us with the opportunity to build ourselves as individuals through numerous volunteer activities, education, seminars and programs, volunteer to help our community, which makes us humane and dedicated, meet and make new friends, communicate and exchange experiences, and help each other, from which we all benefit.

Mevlida Saletović, Faculty of Medicine | University of Tuzla

### Bosana Cornja Pecka, Mrkonjić Grad Teambuilding

#### Refreshed & Recharged: A Well-Deserved Break from Exams and Classes

In the first week of August, our students gathered for our annual 3-day event, this time at a beautiful **Visitor Center Pecka**. This tradition brought students together, including many who were meeting each other for the first time.

Creating bonds through hiking experience along the breathtaking path to the source of the River Sana, swimming in a cold river, exploring stunning natural monuments and enjoying a range of team-building activities, from sports games and a fun culinary activity.

Meeting students and engaging in these experiences was truly special. We were also delighted to **host our generous donors**, whose support makes these gatherings possible.















Bosana's latest team upgrade

Meet Robert, a Bosana accountant, who produces quarterly and annual financial reports for a Bosana

Foundation

Robert Barrone

I met Senita back in 2009 when we both worked at The Democracy Council in Los Angeles.

I was impressed with Senita's clear vision for The Bosana Foundation, and how the work she was doing was making an immediate impact in the lives of the students!

I have always appreciated how all activities are focused on improving the lives of young adults through education. When Senita approached me with the opportunity to take over the Finances, I was happy to have the opportunity to help continue her mission!

#### When alumni students step in to help ...

Esma has been a valued Bosana Team member for years, but we especially appreciate her **web support** contributions.

> Alongside her husband, she runs the web agency kiwikiwi and played a key role in creating a new website for the Bosana Foundation.

Although it is a **new website**, the **mission remains the same**: empower talented and driven youth who lack the financial means to obtain higher education and better opportunities in life.





TEAM



#### **BEST STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

## Congratulations dear Emir!





In an effort to promote student excellence, every year, the Bosana Foundation honors one student with our **Best Student Of the Year award**. Students are awarded based on their academic performance, participation in workshops or events and any other volunteering activities. Aside from recognition, Emir also received 500 BAM monetary reward.

Describing himself as ambitious, persistent, and reliable, Emir recently graduated from the **Faculty of Medicine** at the University of Sarajevo and has already passed his state exam! Alongside his impressive grades, Emir's commitment to **volunteering** is exceptional.

He has given countless hours to the Red Cross and the Health Centre in Ključ, exceeding the required hours. This year, he also participated in the "**Kick Start Your Career**" program, Bosana's annual career orientation program and responded to numerous actions promoting the work of the Bosana Foundation, for which we are especially grateful.

It's impossible to capture all Emir's achievements in a single post, but we just wanted to say BRAVO Emir, Bosana Foundation is very proud of you, keep up the good work!



## **Bosana Donors**

#### When Donors Meet Dreamers: The Power of Connection

Our long-time donor **Maja** and her husband **Erol Karabeg** have always been there to support our students. Their generous donation during our July Bonus Day Campaign was met with a heartfelt thank-you from our student **Nađa**, who **gifted them a painting she created herself**. This autumn, Maja met our student **Almedina** and in a beautiful twist of fate, they discovered that Almedina lives in the same student room where Maja once stayed. Isn't it incredible how small the world can be?

#### When Our Students Say Thank You on Your Special Day

This year, our students wanted to send **birthday wishes to our donors** - a small token of appreciation for everything they've done for them over the years. If you didn't receive a message, don't worry! You are still a part of our family, and every gesture of yours is deeply valued. It only means we don't have your date yet, but we're sure that in the years ahead, we'll grow closer, connect even more, and celebrate together.









#### A Message of Gratitude: When Support Becomes a Lasting Legacy

A former Bosana student and now part of the Bosana team, **Adnan Karzić**, was recently working in Počitelj. His first association with Počitelj was the unwavering support of **Bosana's donors**. Our students always carry with them and will forever remember - the feeling that someone believed in them and was there for them, no matter the obstacles.



If you're visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina, take the opportunity to **meet the students**. You'll see what drives us every day - their strength, talent, and gratitude. Let us know about your visit by filling out this form, and let's be part of this story together.



#### STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

## Alumni & Scholars Collaborative Initiatives





**Sajdin Osmančević**, Bosana Alumni

Former scholarship recipient Sajdin chose to give back to his community by supporting a current Bosana student through a laptop donation, benefiting Amina, a civil engineering student.

#### **Amina Mehinović**, Polytechnic Faculty University of Zenica

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I will predominantly use the laptop for college work. I am grateful to have been chosen for this donation and I would like to thank Sajdin.

#### Partnership between Bosana Foundation and Homework/HUB



The "**Students for Humanity**" initiative donated **4 annual membership fees** to Homework HUB in the amount of 100.00 BAM each for 4 regular HUB members.

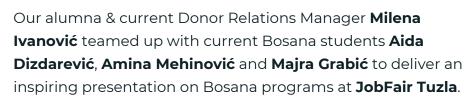
"We would like to thank the Bosana Foundation and Homework HUB for this initiative because we have a place where we can progress in the field of science and culture, meet new friends and acquaintances, and gain new experiences in various workshops and events that are organized. A very brilliant idea with full potential for success in the field of youth inclusion in society and social aspects", said Esma, Hena, Melisa and Arman.



## Promotional Activities



JobFAIR 2024





STAR Fest 2024

The Bosana Foundation shined at STAR Fest, the **biggest festival for career development and youth employment**. Over **2,000 young minds** got to connect directly with our scholarship holders and learn about our programs.



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Questions and answers about the Scholarship Program

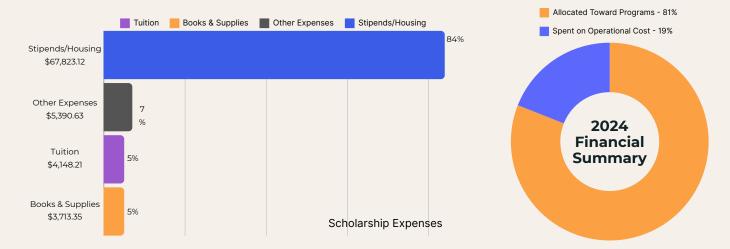
In July, we organized an online event whose goal was to **share the experiences and advice** of current and former scholarship recipients regarding applications.

While students in Zenica presented the work of the Bosana Foundation at the **YOUth Meet up**, we were putting up posters about the Scholarship application throughout BiH, with the help of **Benjamin**, the son of one of the Bosana Board Members.



## 2024 Finances

DONATIONS		
General Donation Programs	Afterschool	\$ 3,010
	Scholarship Program	\$ 40,52
	Total Program Inflows	\$ 43,53'
Foundation	Foundation Operational Budget	\$ 7,68
Donated In-Kind Services	In-kind donation	\$ 5,300
	Total Donations	\$ 56,520
EXPENSES		
Program Expenses	Scholarship Program	\$ 92,333
	Afterschool	\$ 8,41
	Total Program Expenses	\$ 100,744
	Operational Expenses BiH	\$ 18,932
	Weeb Fees	\$ 445
	Insurance	\$ 1,333
	Other G&A Expenses	\$ 3,05
	Total Operational Expenses	\$ 23,76
Covered Expenses	In-kind donation	\$ 5,300
	Total Expenses	\$ 129,805
Decrease in funds		\$ 73,285



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## Thank You For Your Attention





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