



# 2019 Annual Report

A Year of New Accomplishments



**Foundation Older brother Older sister**

Foundation for support and development of mentoring projects

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# What were we doing in 2019?

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- We reestablished Foundation OBOS
  - We selected new board members and staff
  - We developed new web page [www.mentorstvo.ba](http://www.mentorstvo.ba)
  - We developed strategic plan for 2019-2023
  - We established fundraising group of volunteers
  - We (volunteers) prepared and implemented fundraising and promotion campaign called "Let's run together for children's smile"
  - We've chosen 8 organizations which we will support in implementation of program Older brother Older sister
  - We have educated new coordinators from selected organization
  - We have started new project cycle and we matched older and younger brothers and sisters
- We have educated new volunteers and we are planning our next fundraising campaign



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY 2019



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CHILDREN WHO  
HAVE MENTOR



OLDER BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS AND FUNDRAISING  
VOLUNTEERS

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## Volunteer's stories 2019

### My younger brother

By Emina (22)

When you come to a place that is completely new with an important goal, all your attention and energy is aimed towards achieving that goal. In my case, that new environment is Zenica and the goal was a college degree. As I was approaching this goal, step by step, I felt the need to give my stay in, now my city, Zenica a stamp. For months, I was passing by this one place that often caught my eye. The place was, in fact, a place of life, a place of youth, a place in front of which children often had a tempting smile. Children for whom that place was all they had. It was a Home for Parentless Children and every time I would pass by that building, I thought to myself how nice it must feel to be one of the reasons why those children were smiling. On one occasion I found out



about the OBOS project and without thinking I applied. I felt I was just waiting for something like that. Of course there was a certain amount of uncertainty in the beginning because the responsibility is great, but I was also excited to finally have a way to fulfill my wish. Since then, to this day, I have never regretted or put myself in a position to ask myself what I needed.

My little boy, a boy who is 6 years old, is a little creature who, with his appearance, immediately brought a smile to my face and awakened my desire to do everything I could to make him happy. That smile pops in my face every time I talk about him and our time spent together. From our first meeting, we agreed to make a joint decision about where we were going and what we were going to do that day, so we were surprised and had a great time every time.

The connection we have built is based on trust and security, because we would solve every little problem or dilemma together and promise to keep it as a valuable secret. We got used to each other and each of our meetings and partings began and ended with a hug and a kiss. The experience I have gained over these few months is priceless and whenever given the opportunity I would repeat it again. It is an indescribable bond that builds up, a love that connects it all and I am sure that this friendship of ours will last for years to come.

## My little sister is my everything

Sumeja (26)

*"I went into this project with my friends, at first we could not imagine that such a small, sweet and unknown person would become such a big part of our lives. We are much different, both by age and by the way we see the world. They do not look at the world through the grayness that surrounds us, but through all the love and happiness they manage to pull from their heart.*

*We hang out with our little sisters on a regular basis and we became so close. Sometimes we go to some places that do not seem special, but with them it is all very special and different. We tie each place to a new adventure and a new unforgettable experience. We don't let it get boring and ugly, we always find some way to color everyday life with new ideas, and fill it with laughter. We overcome each problem together, laugh together, cry together, play and learn together.*



*We went into this project so that we could give those children something new, but in the end, they were the ones that left a big mark on our hearts and taught us that things are much better when we look with our hearts and not with just our eyes. The experience we have gained with them, and these memories we have built together are unforgettable. I warmly recommend everyone to enjoy this pleasure and to make their childhood a beautiful one."*

### **News from the NARKO NE Association for addiction prevention**

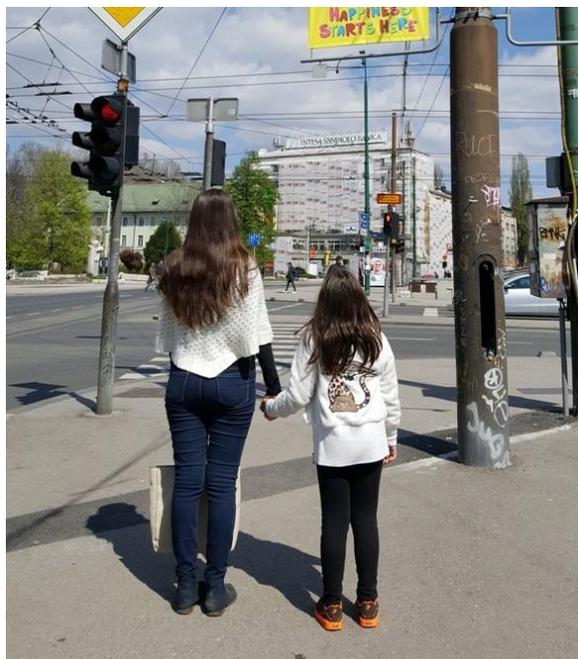
We also dedicated a little bit more of our time to our volunteers in March because they are, in fact, the ones who provide a lot for our children, so we also have working-on-yourself workshops that make our volunteers particularly happy. One of these workshops is called the Model Piano. Our volunteers had the chance to play the tones of their lives on a piano with white and black keys, so we had different tunes every time.

Longtime volunteers have had the opportunity to participate in the workshop again and see if they have worked on themselves in the past year and whether the tunes of their lives have changed. Many found it interesting to see them grow and develop.

The piano model involves writing things we do when we are sad to cheer ourselves up, and some volunteers have indicated that hanging out with us and our regular meetings helps them do so, which makes us very happy.

## I am a proud older sister for three years in a row now

Lamija (23)



When I first saw the volunteer application for the Older Brother, older sister project, I knew that this was something that a person who has been attached to kids, like me, for years should not miss. I had a feeling that I was going to “get in” without any problems, as it was. When they saw my 'sweet obsession' with children, working and playing with them, they could hardly wait to get a younger sibling.

After a great interview, and then a two-day workshop where you could really learn a lot, for example learn how to practically apply different tasks during the workshop, it was time for my first visit to the girl's family. To be completely honest, it wasn't a walk in the park at first. Here I was, a complete stranger to this child, and now we were supposed to go outside together for the first time, play, hang out and spend time together. However, from the first meeting until

today (for three years), I have never encountered a single criticism to this project, my younger sister, or her parents. I would like to point out that, not only with my now younger sister, but also with her parents and brother, I made a friendly relationship, met people I could sit with and talk to as they were my family members.

For the third year in a row, I have had the honour and the extraordinary opportunity to devote my free time to this wonderful girl. She entered the project as a girl of seven years, and now I can already say that in addition to my sister, I also got a friend, an honest, playful, sociable sister who resembles me by those characteristics and, now, also by physical appearance. So much that I have been asked repeatedly in the tram or trolleybus if she was my sister, which definitely put a smile on both of our faces. Going to a playroom, a book fair, Sarajevo town hall, a movie theater or a simple walk in the park and having ice cream that was bought along the way, and talking about all kinds of topics is something special. It is important to point out that my sister is a child who comes from a very nice family, a child who was raised properly, who knows what to do and what not to do, which many parents would love to have. What makes me proud is when I see that despite all she knows, she always manages to learn something new from our dates, our conversations, as I do from her.

Children are wonderful creatures, unspoiled, completely honest and always ready to introduce you to their world of magic, where you can at least for a moment relax your daily worries about exams, work and paying bills. We spare some of our time for the children who need it, and that is where the mutual satisfaction and happiness, that is long-term, will certainly be present.

## My volunteering experience

*Esmina (21)*

It has happened countless times in my life that after hearing my name, people turn it into Emin, Jasmine ... and many other versions. But I remember very well, she was watching me and listening so carefully, absorbed everything I was at first glance, and clearly remembered my name in the true version. My name is Esmina, and one day I decided to satisfy my desire and curiosity when it came to volunteering. I can rightfully say that I was so lucky to become a part of the OBOS project and to get the most special younger sister. Honestly, I felt fear, since I was always a younger sister myself and I didn't really have the experience of taking care of someone younger, but apart from that- there were no other reasons for fear. My little sister accepted me, and just the other day, while we were hanging out, she stated that we were like real sisters, pointing out the similarities we have. The similarities really surprised me, because it really reminded me of my younger self.



It's nice to see what it's like to take care of this one little person, watch her growing up and, of course, enjoy every moment of it with her. Or how it is to earn the trust of one child, to watch her gradually open up more and more after every gathering, up to the moment when you hear her tell you some things that she surely has not been able to tell everyone. Or when she says something, waiting for my reaction, opinion, response. Between the harmless runs from dandelion to dandelion, she grows and forms as much on the inside as on the outside, and it's wonderful to be able to be there for her. To make a difference in her life simply being there for her one day in a week. Reduce her loneliness, make her laugh, comfort her, listen to her, talk to her and all that, have fun. Just because kids are like that. And the best of all, they give you all that back, if not more. Because they don't measure and they don't calculate, they just love you. Most of us dream of making a difference in this world, in grandiose ways.

I find that becoming a friend, support and a brother or sister to one child is truly grandiose. I am glad that I have taken this opportunity and made both my and her heart richer, with friendship and love, a treasure we will always remember.