



2017-2018 REPORT

Overview of Elin Pelin Foundation
activities and finances between
June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018.

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Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends of Elin Pelin Foundation:

I'm delighted to report that 2017 was another year of triumph for Elin Pelin Foundation!

It is my belief, that at time of darkness is when true humanity shines and people selflessly reach out to help one another. Hurricane Harvey affected several families within the Bulgarian-American Community in Houston. Elin Pelin Foundation organized volunteer help and created a Hurricane Harvey Relief (HHR) Fund where \$7000 were raised and then distributed between the families affected by Hurricane Harvey. In effort to encourage people's generosity, Elin Pelin Foundation combined two other events The Social Mixer in the Fall 2017 and a theatrical play "Do Not Bet on The Brits" performed by DT "K. Velichkov" Pazardjik. The actors generously donated their fees to the HHR Fund. Held twice a year the Social Mixer is an event where dozens of our members and friends can share business stories, while enjoying fine wine and appetizers, and meeting new people. I am proud of the Bulgarian-American Society in Houston! We proved that we have unity and nobility! I praise each volunteer, each donor, every person who reached out and asked, "How can I help?" You have my deepest appreciation!

Thanks to volunteers, a concert was organized on a very short notice. Vasko the Patch, a singer who is a symbol love, peace, freedom and Bulgaria's first days as democratic country, was on a tour in US. He adjusted his schedule and made a stop in Houston to perform for his Bulgarian and American fans. His Blues, Rock'n'Roll and country tunes were soothing to souls after so much stress caused by Hurricane Harvey.

For a second consecutive year our Elin Pelin Bulgarian School resided at the historic Dow School building, home of MECA (Multi-cultural Education and Counseling through the Arts – a community-based nonprofit organization). Our school's sixth consecutive school-year was successful with over 20 enrolled students, divided into five separate classes. With the help of volunteers Summer Camp "Smehuranci" 2017 prepared a theatrical play "Kose Bose". Students rehearsed throughout the summer and prepared the decors. At the beginning of the school-year we the parents were thrilled by their children's performance.

Elin Pelin Foundation hosted Bulgarka's concert in November 2017. The talented folk musicians sang and played, while people danced traditional Bulgarian group dances. The Houston International Folk Dancers and our friends the dancers of Bulgarian Rose were among the guests.

This school year we received numerous gifts from Bulgaria - History and Children's books and Disk with patriotic songs. Words cannot express my gratitude for those kind gifts!

Breakfast with Santa has become a tradition at Elin Pelin Bulgarian School. Once again, every child received a present; there were tables with traditional Bulgarian Christmas crafts; Our bi-lingual Santa enjoyed a concert performed by the students of Elin Pelin Bulgarian School.

The school year ended with a bang! A piano concert surprised and delighted the parents. Who knew we had so many gifted students whose talents went beyond bilingualism. The children played, recited and sang. For their songs, Mr. Peter Atanasov provided musical accompaniment on piano and guitar. This outstanding performance truly raised the bar for Elin Pelin Bulgarian School.

Elin Pelin Foundation has received media attention from BG Voice, the Bulgarian newspaper in Chicago, IL and online organizations like BG Glory.

In February 2018 Elin Pelin strengthened our relationship with MECA and rented a Room 116 to be a permanent home for Elin Pelin Library. Volunteers stepped up to clean, sand, paint, install new flooring and build shelves. Others bought and donated furniture. Hours of volunteer work resulted a beautiful, bright room that is now filled with books and other media for those who are interested.

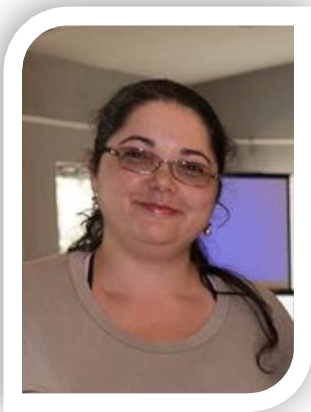
The opening of the Library was combined with the Social Mixes in the Spring 2018. The traditional bread and salt greeting ceremony included a welcoming speech by Katia Atanassov and a short prayer lead by Krassin Andreev.

At our last annual meeting we welcomed our newest member - Nikolay Gergov who took the seat of Mihaela Araktchieva. Mihaela has been with Elin Pelin Foundation since the beginning in 2012 and while no longer on the Board, continues to volunteer and help Elin Pelin Foundation and Library.

We are pleased to honor Mrs. Katia Atanassov, who is stepping down as a director after two years of astonishing accomplishments. She initiated the Social Mixer events. Katia brought professionalism and competence to all Elin Pelin Foundation's projects. We have her to thank for finding our new home at MECA Dow School building, and further negotiating with them a room for Elin Pelin Library. Her family has contributed with funds and numerous hours of volunteer work for Elin Pelin Foundation, School and Library. For two years Katia has contributed so much to our success, that I am certain, her absence next year will be felt by all of us - the Foundation Staff and School Faculty alike! However sad to see her go, we wish to her and her family Bon Voyage and a bright future in sunny California!

As always, I am most grateful to the many volunteers who helped make this year's events especially successful. With generosity of our corporate and individual contributors, our main projects Elin Pelin Bulgarian School, Library, and Social Events will continue to go forward.

We are all thrilled to see the continued organizational and financial growth of our foundation and remain forever grateful to our donors and friends for their wonderful support.



Sincerely,

Gergana Araktchiev

President of Elin Pelin Foundation

31 May 2018

Bulgarian School

New School Year Fall 2017 enrolled 21 Students

Performance of “Smehuranci” Summer Camp – June - August 2017



With the help of volunteers Summer Camp “Smehuranci” 2017 prepared a theatrical play “Kose Bose”. Students rehearsed throughout the summer and prepared the decors. At the beginning of the school-year we the parents were thrilled by their children’s performance.

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova – coordinator, instructor-volunteer

Ms. Galia Stamenova – teacher

History Lessons with Mr. Gamolov – September 2017 and March 2018



To mark the Independence Day of Bulgaria and the 3rd of March, Mr. Gamolov – 5th grade instructor in Elin Pelin Bulgarian School had a History lectures for children and adults.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Mr. Yanko Gamolov – instructor

Breakfast with Santa - December 2017

Breakfast with Santa has become a tradition at Elin Pelin Bulgarian School. Once again, every child received a present and a hearty breakfast. There were also traditional Bulgarian Christmas crafts. Our bilingual Santa enjoyed a concert performed by the students of Elin Pelin Bulgarian School. The event received media attention and was covered in an article by Sibila Patsi, reporter for BG Voice (www.bg-voice.com) – an Illinois Bulgarian-American Newspaper.

15.12.2017 г.



Автор:
Сибела Патси
e-mail:
sibila@bg-voice.com

В Хюстън децата от училище „Елин Пелин“ имаха “Закуска с Дядо Коледа”

Коледното настроение беше изпълнило сърцата на всички присъстващи



Не е проблем за провеждане на коледни тържества, тъй като година изненадващо точно времето май се опита да помрачи. Много от 40-те предвидени малчугани бяха болни и не бяха на място. Така беше значително по-кратка от обикновено, но коледното настроение беше изпълнило сърцата на всички присъстващи.

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Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Mrs. Katia Atanassov – host

Mrs. Natalia Espey, Mr. Yancho Gamolov, Ms. Galia Stamenova,

Mrs. Ada Gogova – instructors

Mrs. Daniela Kashukeeva – instructor-volunteer

Mr. Peter Atanassov – music teacher-volunteer

End of school year – May 2018

The school year ended with a bang! A piano concert surprised and delighted the parents. Who knew we had so many gifted students whose talents went beyond bilingualism. The children played, recited and sang. For their songs, Mr. Peter Atanassov provided musical accompaniment on piano and guitar. This outstanding performance truly raised the bar for Elin Pelin Bulgarian School.





*Mrs. Anna Tarpomanova – host,
Mrs. Natalia Espey, Mr. Yanko Gamolov, Ms. Galia
Stamenova, Mrs. Ada Gogova – instructors
Mrs. Daniela Kashukeeva – instructor-volunteer
Mr. Peter Atanassov – music teacher-volunteer*



Camp “Smehuranci” – July-August 2018

This Summer Elin Pelin Foundation is organizing a Free Summer Camp Smehuranci every Saturday from 1PM through 4PM at Elin Pelin Library which will give the opportunity to current and future students to refresh their knowledge of Bulgarian grammar and vocabulary. The curriculum will include children’s songs, games, crafts and other fun activities.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

TBA – instructor



Library

Texas Christian University and Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – September 2017

The John V. Roach Honors College at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas and the Department of English and American Studies at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” initiated a joint course which explores the diversity in the world through diversity in the classroom. Their main goal is to make students from two different cultural and national backgrounds, the United States and Bulgaria, exchange ideas and share experiences. Every week they have a different speaker. In September 2017 they interviewed Mintcho Araktchiev as a Bulgarian-American and a representative of Elin Pelin Foundation. We are grateful to Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho for reaching out to us and giving us the opportunity to speak in front of his class!

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – coordinator and speaker



Gift from Kindergarten “Arabela” - November 2017

Towards the end of 2017 Elin Pelin Bulgarian School and Library received a generous gift from Kindergarten “Arabela”. The parents, teachers, caregivers and children have gathered and donated some of their history and children’s books. They included a

heartfelt letter and pictures of themselves and their daily activities. Their wishes were that our students can pick and keep the books they like and the rest gets donated to the Elin Pelin Library. Words cannot express my gratitude for this kind gift!



Gift from Slavi's Show – February 2018



In attempt to show their great respect for the Bulgarian Schools in other countries and recognize us for our efforts to popularize and preserve the Bulgarian Culture and Language, they have sent us a disk with Bulgarian patriotic songs, with instrumental and a songbook.

BG Glory Initiative – May 2018

An organization named BG Glory with mission to popularize the Bulgarian Literacy has reached out to Elin Pelin Foundation and we gladly agreed to join their initiative by sharing some pictures from our End-of-the-School-Year celebration:

<http://bgglory.com/америка/>



Library Room Project February – June 2018

In February 2018 Elin Pelin strengthened our relationship with MECA and rented a Room 116 to be a permanent home for Elin Pelin Library. Volunteers stepped up to clean, sand, paint, install new flooring and build shelves. Others bought and donated furniture. Hours of volunteer work resulted a beautiful, bright room that is now filled with books and other media for those who are interested.





The opening of the Library was combined with the Social Mixes in the Spring 2018. The traditional bread and salt greeting ceremony included a welcoming speech by Katia Atanassov and a short prayer lead by Krassin Andreev. An exhibit of Daniela Ovtcharova's colorful works decorated the wall of our new Elin Pelin Library.

Mrs. Katia Atanassov, Mrs. Darina Koleva – contract

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – project coordinator

Mrs. Vessi Andreeva – interior design-volunteer

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – technology and carpentry-volunteer

Mrs. Ina Pavlina, Mr. Venelin Pavlin, Mr. Hrabar Alexiev – flooring installation-volunteers

Mrs. Mihaela Araktchieva, Mr. Nikolay Rangelov – library bookshelves installation-volunteers

Mr. and Mrs. Ziensmeister – furniture donation

Mrs. Zdravka Muir, Mrs. Dima Kaludova, Ms. Elena Nikolova – librarians volunteers



Social Events and Fundraisers

Hurricane Harvey Relief Program – August - October 2017

Hurricane Harvey affected several families within the Bulgarian-American Community in Houston. Elin Pelin Foundation organized volunteer-help clean the debris.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – Hurricane Harvey Relief Program coordinator
Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev, Mr. Venelin Pavlin, Mrs. Ina Pavlina, Mr. Dimitar Atanasov – recovery volunteers

Българи евакуирани с лодки заради урагана Харви (ВИДЕО)

Според МВНР няма данни за жертви сред сънародниците ни, бурята потопи четвъртия град в САЩ



Семейството на Росица Димитров е евакуирано с лодка, след като властите изпускат контролирано два резервоара

Хиляди български семейства са на пътя на урагана Харви и неговите камшичени удари от ураганен вятър и неспиращи проливни дъждове, които поставиха на колене четвъртия по големина град в САЩ. Хюстън и районите около него са потопени, а щетите и жертвите тепърва ще се изясняват, защото близо седмица Харви изсипва тонове вода в тази част на Тексас, принуждавайки десетки хиляди да се евакуират, а животът да спре за няколко милиона души. Бавното движение на бурята и застояването ѝ над Тексас показваващ дългия път към екваториалните ширини, след като водата се оттича. Според метеоролозите това може



“Do Not Bet on The Brits” comedy theatre by DT “K. Velichkov”

To further help families, we created a Hurricane Harvey Relief (HHR) Fund where \$7000 were raised and then distributed between the families affected by Hurricane Harvey. In effort to encourage people's generosity, Elin Pelin Foundation combined two other events The Social Mixer in the Fall 2017 and a theatrical play



“Do Not Bet on The Brits” performed by DT “K. Velichkov” Pazardjik.

The actors generously donated their fees to the HHR Fund. Elin Pelin Foundation issued Letter and Certificate of Appreciation to all substantial donors.

Mrs. Katia Atanasov – Theatre Performance coordinator

Social Mixer in the Fall 2017

Held twice a year the Social Mixer is an event where dozens of our members and friends can share business stories, while enjoying fine wine and appetizers, and meeting new people. Appetizers were provided by the new Bulgarian Store in Houston – K&V Market.



Mrs. Katia Atanasov – Social Mixer coordinator
Ms. Martha Kasabova – Social Mixer volunteer

Vasko the Patch

Vasko the Patch, a singer Bulgaria's first days as adjusted his schedule and Bulgarian and American fans. soothing to souls after so

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev –
Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev –



Concert - September 2017

who is a symbol love, peace, freedom and democratic country, was on a tour in US. He made a stop in Houston to perform for his His Blues, Rock'n'Roll and country tunes were much stress caused by Hurricane Harvey.

coordinator
sponsor



Bulgarika Concert – November 2017

Elin Pelin Foundation hosted Bulgarika's concert in November 2017. The talented folk musicians sang and played, while people danced traditional Bulgarian group dances. The Houston International Folk Dancers and our friends the dancers of Bulgarian Rose were among the guests.



Ms. Mariya Kostova – coordinator

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – volunteer

Ms. Martha Kasabova – Social Mixer volunteer



Mrs. Katia Atanassov



We are pleased to honor Mrs. Katia Atanassov, who is stepping down as a director after two years of astonishing accomplishments. She initiated the Social Mixer events. Katia brought professionalism and competence to all Elin Pelin Foundation's projects. We have her to thank for finding our new home at MECA Dow School building, and further negotiating with them a room for Elin Pelin Library. Her family has contributed with funds and numerous hours of volunteer work for Elin Pelin Foundation, School and Library. For two years Katia has contributed so much to our success, that I am certain, her absence next year will be felt by all of us - the Foundation Staff and School Faculty alike! However sad to see her go, we wish to her and her family Bon Voyage and a bright future in sunny California!



A Shout Out to Our Biggest Supporters:

Need to make sure we include everybody who donated for Harvey..



- **Chevron** – Donation in the amount of \$2000 or more – Chevron Volunteer Grant Program and Humankind supports employees, retirees and corporate directors in their commitment to build better communities.
- **Peter Atanassov** – Individual Donations of \$1000 or more
- **Bethesda Christian Church** – Donation in the amount of \$500 or more for Harvey Relief Program.
- **T.T. & B.T.** – Individual Donations of \$500 or more for Harvey Relief Program
- **Y.C.** – Individual Donations of \$500 or more for Harvey Relief Program
- **M.A. & G.A.** – Individual Donations of \$500 or more for Harvey Relief Program
- **N.N. & M.N.** – Individual Donations of \$250 or more for Harvey Relief Program
- **G.H.** – Individual Donations of \$250 or more for Harvey Relief Program
- **E.E./Interstar** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more for Harvey Relief Program
- **B.P. & N.N.** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more for Harvey Relief Program
- **D.M. & I.M.** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more for Harvey Relief Program
- **Amazon** – Recurring Donations in the amount of \$50 or less - AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to a charitable organization of the buyer's choice.
- **Kroger** – Recurring Donations in the amount of \$50 or less - Kroger is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year Kroger supports local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations through Kroger Community Rewards Program.

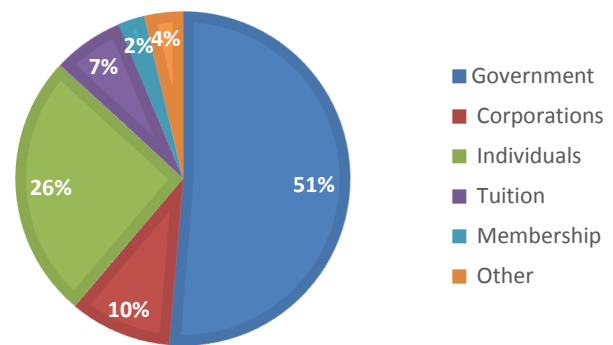
The recognition of our generous community is important to us, and we have worked hard to ensure that all information is included and accurate. If you find any errors or omissions, please contact us at 925-588-4918.

Finance

Unaudited Financial Data Summary for 2016-2017

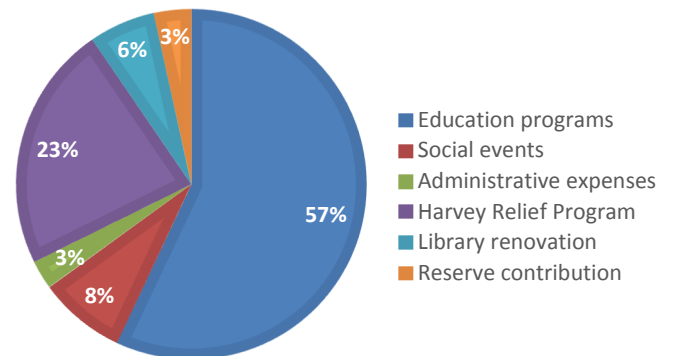
Inflow

Government	\$ 15,831	51%
Corporations	\$ 3,041	10%
Individuals	\$ 7,929	26%
Tuition	\$ 2,100	7%
Membership	\$ 800	3%
Other	\$ 1,150	4%
Total	\$ 30,851	100%



Expenses

Education programs	\$ 17,579	57%
Social events	\$ 2,481	8%
Administrative expenses	\$ 825	3%
Harvey Relief Program	\$ 7,015	23%
Library Renovation	\$ 1,892	6%
Reserve contribution	\$ 1,059	3%
Total	\$ 30,851	100%



The financial summary includes gifts and activities between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018 and is produced internally by Elin Pelin Foundation. The recognition of our generous community is important to us, and we have worked hard to ensure that all information is included and accurate. If you find any errors or omissions, please contact us at 925-588-4918.

Elin Pelin Foundation Staff and Board

Board of Directors 2017-2018

Ekaterina Atanassov.....	Director
Darina Koleva.....	Director
Mariya Kostova.....	Director
Nikolay Gergov.....	Director
Anna Tarpomanova.....	Director

Officers

Gergana Araktchiev.....	President
Nevena Nikolova.....	Treasurer
Mintcho Araktchiev.....	Secretary
Lachezar Velez.....	Controller
Mihaela Araktchieva.....	Librarian

Faculty

Georgi Tarpomanov.....	Principal
Yancho Gamolov.....	Teacher
Galia Stamenova.....	Teacher
Natalia Espey.....	Teacher
Ada Gogova.....	Teacher
Daniela Kashukieva.....	Teacher
Hristina Pavlina.....	Teacher Assistant

Staff

Mariyana Marinova.....	Webmaster
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