



2018-2019 REPORT

Overview of Elin Pelin Foundation
activities and finances between
June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019.

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Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends of Elin Pelin Foundation:

It is my pleasure to report that 2018 was yet another year of unprecedented success for Elin Pelin Foundation!

The detailed report below speaks for itself on the topics of our accomplishments. Instead of summarizing the information, I would like to take a moment and highlight the noticeable improvements in our company.

Never have we had such strong and active Board of Directors! I would like to extend my gratitude to Hristina Pavlina, Martha Kasabova and Mariya Shumareva, who only last year were voted as directors. They worked as a unified team throughout the year and exceeded our expectations time and again. Teamwork was in the core and success was the result of every project they handled. Keep up the good job, dear ladies! Elin Pelin Foundation is blessed to have you aboard!

Another recognition must be made to Nevena Nikolova, who made a tremendous contribution to Elin Pelin Foundation by handling the logistics for the two latest theater performances. Whether it was phone calls, e-mails, meetings, bookings, etc. Nevena selflessly devoted her time and efforts to make the two performances possible. All the while she continued performing her duties as a treasurer and bookkeeper of the foundation without falling even a step behind. With Nevena on the team Elin Pelin Foundation could not be in safer hands!

Thank you to Mrs. Mariya Shumareva, she and her husband Nikola are our greatest supporters. Thank you for everything you've done on the theater projects and overall for Elin Pelin Foundation!

Thank you to Mrs. Hristina Pavlina for organizing Movie Nights at Elin Pelin Library! Such projects were in the core of my initial inspiration to become one of the founders of Elin Pelin Foundation. To me art is a way to make your soul grow. Thank you for organizing a recurring event, which celebrates the Bulgarian cinematic art, and makes our souls grow little by little every month!

Appreciations to Ms. Martha Kasabova for taking over the Social Mixer Project and presenting Bulgaria at the World Affairs Council of Greater Houston! These two very different projects were handled with ease, sophistication, and professionalism. Thank you for the Movie Night flyers! Also, by handling the bar for Movie Nights and Social gatherings, Martha adds style to those events. We are thrilled to have her on board!

Yet another recognition is due to Dimitria Dzarbova who spent the school year as a teacher volunteer and who accepted the position of Elin Pelin School Principal for the New School Year 2019-2020. We are so lucky to have her, as we recognize the importance of The First Bulgarian School in Houston Elin Pelin. The

school is our first and most important project. We need more people like Dimitria, who have both the expertise and the devotion to teach.

Lastly, I must express my deepest gratefulness for the increased number of donations! While the major part still comes from corporate donations for which Elin Pelin Foundation has applied and qualified for, lately I have noticed an astonishing increase of individual supporters. That leads me to believe that the mission of Elin Pelin Foundation is finally getting across and reaching the hearts and minds of the people. Elin Pelin Foundation was created to serve the community's needs for preservation of Bulgarian language, culture, traditions, and arts. The mere thought that our efforts are being noticed by individuals gives us – the volunteers – a reason to continue serving and working tirelessly for the good of the community. I humbly thank every single one of the supporters of Elin Pelin Foundation's cause!



Sincerely,

Gergana Araktchiev

President of Elin Pelin Foundation

31 May 2019

Bulgarian School

Summer Camp – June - July 2018

With the help of volunteers Summer Camp kept busy the youngest students of Elin Pelin Bulgarian School.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator, instructor-volunteer

Ms. Diana Araktchiev – volunteer helper



School Year 2018 – 2019 enrolled 19 Students

On the 8th of September, with an ever-high number of Pre-K students, The First Bulgarian School in Houston Elin Pelin opened its doors for enrolment. For a third consecutive year our 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 seventh consecutive school-year was successful, the number of enrolled students reached nineteen (19). The first 15 students received free school supplies.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Mr. Georgi Tarpomanov – principal

Mrs. Dimitria Dzarbova, Mr. Yancho Gamolov, Ms. Galia Stamenova, Mrs. Diana Angelova, Ms. Daniela Kashukeeva – instructors

History Lessons with Mr. Gamolov – September, November 2018, and May 2019

In observation of The Bulgarian Independence Day – September 22nd Mr. Gamolov's students did a short reading of historical documents at Elin Pelin Library.

To mark the Bulgarian National Revival Day – November 1st Mr. Gamolov spoke about the Bulgarian cultural and spiritual leaders – enlighten men & women, fighters, and book men – who contributed to Bulgarian liberation and strove to form an independent nation church, culture, and language.

On May 11th Mr. Gamolov held a lecture for students and parents, teaching about the brothers Cyril and Methodius who devised the Glagolitic alphabet. The Bulgarian Language uses its descendant script – the Cyrillic alphabet.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Mr. Yancho Gamolov – instructor



Breakfast with Santa - December 2018

Breakfast with Santa has become a tradition at Elin Pelin Bulgarian School. Once again, every child received a present and a hearty breakfast. This year's Breakfast with Santa was held at Elin Pelin Library. Our bi-lingual Santa enjoyed poems, songs, and a folk-dance performed by the students of Elin Pelin Bulgarian School.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Mrs. Dimitria Dzarbova, Mr. Yancho Gamolov, Ms. Galia Stamenova, Mrs. Diana Angelova, Ms. Daniela Kashukeeva – instructors

Mrs. Vessi Andreeva – music teacher-volunteer



The Alphabet – That's Us

Children and teachers from 10 Bulgarian schools from five continents (Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and America) join the project of the Association of Bulgarian Schools Abroad called 'The Alphabet - That's Us'. They are the global ambassadors of the Bulgarian script by building with their bodies letters from the Bulgarian alphabet. Their photos and videos are a part of a joint exhibition. Starting on June 6 a multimedia installation transforms the facade of the Central Post Office into an open space, dedicated to the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet, with the help of the mobile application bkVAR.

In May 2019 First Bulgarian School in Houston Elin Pelin took part in the project.

Mrs. Hristina Pavlina – coordinator

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – photography-volunteer



End of school year – May 2019

This school year ended with a celebration. The students of First Bulgarian School in Houston Elin Pelin recited and sang the poems and songs they have learned throughout the school year. For their songs, Mrs. Vessi Andreeva provided musical accompaniment on piano. The celebration ended with a folk dance performed by the 5th graders, who also hosted the entire event.

Mr. Gamolov's 5th Grade Students: Alexandra, Diana, and Emilia – hosts,

Mrs. Diana Angelova, Mr. Yancho Gamolov, Ms. Daniela Kashukeeva, Mrs. Dimitria Dzarbova – instructors

Mrs. Vessi Andreeva – music teacher-volunteer



Summer Camp – June & July 2019

This Summer Elin Pelin Foundation is organizing a Summer Camp 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

Mrs. Diana Angelova – instructor



Library

Elin Pelin Library June 2018 – May 2019

Since its opening day, Elin Pelin Library has become the place where meetings are being held, a cinema for our movie nights, a party room for the school when the Auditorium is not available. During the Summer of 2018 volunteers spent hours to help with the books' order and catalog. The final touch was installation of blinds and obtaining internet and Wi-Fi connection in the winter of 2018. For the next school year, the plans are to use the library as a classroom as well. In August 2018 our new library received media attention by the Illinois Bulgarian-American newspaper BG Voice. Ms. Sibila Patsi, reporter for BG Voice, interviewed Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev and published an article telling the story of Elin Pelin Library creation and the Foundation's plans for future events to hosted there.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – librarian

Ms. Elena Nikolova, Mrs. Zdravka Muir – librarians-volunteers

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – technical support



Book Club on the Horizon

To encourage the creation of Book Club a Bulgarian science-fiction writer Snejana Tasheva reached out to Elin Pelin Library and gifted a few copies of her works.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator & librarian



Movie Night

One of the hit events for 2018-2019 year is the Movie Night. Free of charge, with popcorn and wine provided and served by volunteers, the members and guests of Elin Pelin Foundation were able to come and enjoy a Bulgarian movie every first Friday of the month. English closed captioning was available to the English speakers in the audience.

Mrs. Ina Pavlina – coordinator & concessions

Ms. Martha Kasabova – co-host; marketing

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – technical support



Halloween 2018 for Elin Pelin School

On 27th of October, the students of Elin Pelin Bulgarian school dressed up in their favorite costumes and attended a Halloween celebration at Elin Pelin Library. With the help of volunteers, the library was transformed into a thrilling place, full of treats and tricks, as well as crafts and games.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator & concessions

Ms. Mariya Kostova – decorations

Ms. Galia Genova – decorations-volunteer



Textbooks for Rodina

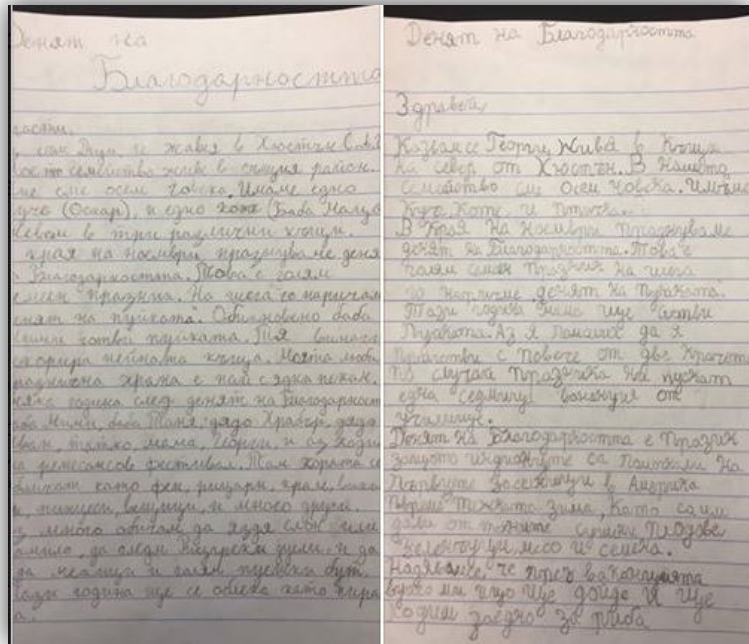
In October 2018 Elin Pelin Library and School selected and sent bundles of textbooks to Rodina - Bulgarian School of San Antonio. Elin Pelin Foundation is always ready to share and help the community.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator & librarian

Ms. Rayna Levakova – instructor Rodina, San Antonio



Books and Greetings Exchange - November 2018 – January 2019



In late November 2018, during the Thanksgiving break, Elin Pelin Bulgarian School and Library gathered books, pictures, drawn by our students, photos and even a couple of hand-written letters in Bulgarian and sent a holiday package to Kindergarten “Arabela” in Vidin.

In January 2019 we received a new parcel with beautiful drawings by the children attending KG Arabela. Such exchange of handcrafted greetings matches the holiday mood of Christmas, as it is all about giving and home. We can only hope that this exchange will continue in the years to come and will turn into tradition, as it brings a feeling of fulfillment and sincere joy to our hearts during the holiday season.

Mrs. Hristina Pavlina – coordinator

BG Glory Initiative – December 2018

An organization named BG Glory with mission to popularize the Bulgarian Literacy has once again reached out to Elin Pelin Foundation. This time Mr. Andrei Petrov BG Glory reached out and sent to the students of Elin Pelin Bulgarian School wallet-sized calendars for the year 2019.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator



Social and Public Events

Social Mixer in the Fall 2018

Appetizers, and Networking happened on September 28, 2018 at the Memorial Wine Cellar. This event was a fun, exciting, and effective way to make new connections in the vibrant and cozy atmosphere of the Memorial Wine Cellar. Professionals in the community brought their business or personal cards, met new people, shared ideas and enjoyed the company of people with similar backgrounds or interests. This event was also an opportunity for the members of the community to learn about our organization and decide to join.



Ms. Martha Kasabova – Social Mixer coordinator

Mrs. Hristina Pavlina, Ms. Elena Nikolova – Social Mixer volunteers

“Talk Show From Hell” Theater Performance directed by Ivaylo Hristov

In collaboration with BCC Bulgarian Rose, Elin Pelin Foundation hosted a theatrical performance in December of 2018.

“Talk Show From Hell” - Hell is other people--depending on the company. That seemed to be an underlying theme in Jean-Noël Fenwick’s “Talk Show From Hell,” a slight but satisfying parody of Sartre's “No Exit”.



Albena Mihova, Evgeni Budinov, and Kiril Efremov took the stage and delivered an exhilarating, very funny and thought-provoking performance based on Jean-Noël Fenwick’s masterpiece.

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova – Head of logistics & Theatre Performance coordinator

Mrs. Mariya Shumareva – Theater Performance coordinator

Mrs. Hristina Pavlina – Theater Performance volunteer

Mrs. Martha Kasabova – logistics volunteer

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – photography volunteer

World Affairs Council of Greater Houston (WAC Houston) – April 2019

On the 6th of April Ms. Martha Kasabova and Mrs. Dimitria Dzarbova presented Bulgaria to teachers, attending WACGH Program - Global Perspectives Workshop for Educators: Portrait of Romania & Bulgaria. They covered topics such as culture, geography, economy, history, Folklore & Traditional Dance, Media Literacy & Social Media, Journalism and Language & Linguistics. In June 2019, a group of members of WAC Houston will be traveling to Bulgaria and Romania.

Ms. Martha Kasabova – coordinator and speaker

Mrs. Dimitria Dzarbova – speaker

Mrs. Hristina Pavlina – Q&A volunteer



“Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll” Theater Performance by Bulgarian Army Theater

In this play (written and originally performed by Eric Bogosian,) professor Dr. Ivaylo Hristov portrays several



characters in contexts reminiscent of the late 1980s. The monologues in *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll* form a composite picture of the complex, sometimes alarming state of American culture in the 1980s and 1990s. The presence of

Dobrin Vekilov - Doni and Kostadin Georgiev - Koceto-Kalki, with their many and varied musical performances made the experience truly unforgettable.

The Spring Social Mixer 2019 was combined with the theatrical performance. Appetizers and Wine were served at no charge to the guests who saw the play. We set a new personal record of 120 guests attending an event organized by Elin Pelin Foundation.

Mrs. Mariya Shumareva – Theater Performance coordinator

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova – Head of logistics & Theatre Performance coordinator

Mrs. Hristina Pavlina – Theater Performance volunteer

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – concessions

Mrs. Martha Kasabova – concessions volunteer

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – photography volunteer

Fundraisers

Easter in Northshore Park

Organized by volunteers, this year's Orthodox Easter was celebrated at Northshore Park Woodlands TX. Volunteers reserved the pavilions, brought party supplies, toys for the kids, and cooked lamb for about 70 people. T-shirts and plates with food were given out to those who made donations. After an entire day filled with games and laughter, the Bulgarian-American community raised an amount of \$200 for Elin Pelin Foundation.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Mr. Hrabar Alexiev – cook, concessions – volunteer

Ms. Mariya Kostova – T-shirts



Other

Media Attention BG Voice

In March 2019 BG Voice reported on a special event of Consulate General of Bulgaria in Chicago.

Mrs. Darina Koleva, a board director of Elin Pelin Foundation since 2015 gave an interview for BG Voice. She praised Elin Pelin Foundation for its solidarity and efforts to preserve the Bulgarian language and traditions.

Mrs. Darina Koleva – director of Elin Pelin Foundation



A Shout Out to Our Biggest Supporters:



- **Chevron** – Donation in the amount of \$1000 or more – Chevron Volunteer Grant Program and Humankind supports employees, retirees and corporate directors in their commitment to build better communities.
- **NRG Reliant** – Donation in the amount of \$1000 or more – To encourage and reinforce employee contributions to those in need, NRG supports a variety of goodwill programs year-round such as NRG Matching Gifts and Volunteer Days.
- **BP Foundation** – Donation in the amount of \$1000 or more – BP (British Petroleum) Matching Gift Program and Volunteer Grant. BP matches employee donations to charitable organizations around the world.
- **Nikola Shumarev** – Individual Donations of \$1000 or more
- **EMJ Store Inc.** – Donation in the amount of \$700 or more
- **Nikolay Gergov** – Individual Donations of \$400 or more through Network for Good
- **Mihaela Araktchieva** – Individual Donations of \$400 or more through Network for Good
- **BBVA** – Donation in the amount of \$300 or more – BBVA Compass Charitable Giving Program provides grants to nonprofits where employees are active volunteers.
- **Georgi Tarpomanov** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more through Network for Good
- **Mathew Law Firm** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more
- **Vlad Assenov** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more
- **Amazon** – Recurring Quarterly 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 Quarterly 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.

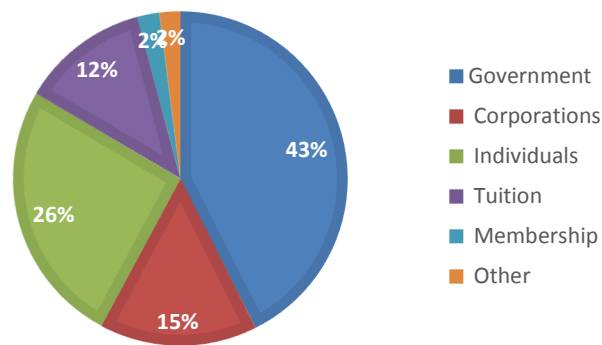
The recognition of our generous community is important to us, and we have worked hard to ensure that all information is included and accurate. If you find any errors or omissions, please contact us at 713-715-8101.

Finance

Unaudited Financial Data Summary for 2018-2019

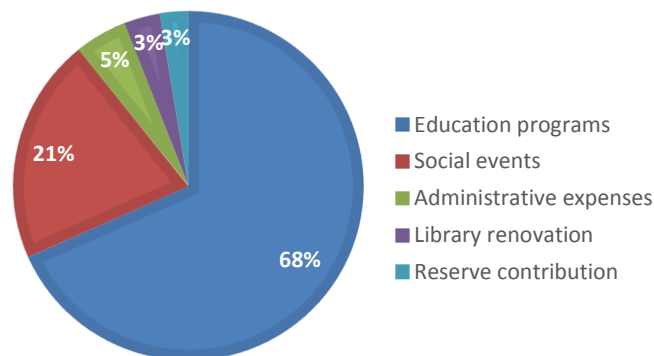
Inflow

<i>Government</i>	\$ 16,014	43%
<i>Corporations</i>	\$ 5,719	15%
<i>Individuals</i>	\$ 9,664	26%
<i>Tuition</i>	\$ 4,650	12%
<i>Membership</i>	\$ 800	2%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 750	2%
Total	\$ 37,597	100%



Expenses

<i>Education programs</i>	\$ 18,449	68%
<i>Social events</i>	\$ 5,645	21%
<i>Administrative expenses</i>	\$ 1,309	5%
<i>Library Renovation</i>	\$ 891	3%
<i>Reserve contribution</i>	\$ 700	3%
Total	\$ 26,994	100%



The financial summary includes gifts and activities between June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019 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 713-715-8101.

Elin Pelin Foundation Staff and Board

Board of Directors 2018-2019

Martha Kassabova.....	Director
Darina Koleva.....	Director
Mariya Kostova.....	Director
Hristina Pavlina.....	Director
Mariya Shumareva.....	Director

Officers

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

Faculty

Georgi Tarpomanov.....	Principal
Yancho Gamolov.....	Teacher
Galia Stamenova.....	Teacher
Diana Angelova.....	Teacher
Daniela Kashukieva.....	Teacher
Dimitria Dzarbova.....	Teacher Volunteer
Vessi Andreeva.....	Teacher Volunteer