



2024-2025 REPORT

Overview of Elin Pelin Foundation
activities and finances between
June 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025.

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Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends of Elin Pelin Foundation:

Every year the act of me going over everything we've accomplished inadvertently fills my heart with pride and joy. I also feel gratitude for all those individuals who gave from their time or finances to a cause which benefits not only all members and students but also extends to friends and neighbors. It is my honor to recognize several individuals.

Hristina Pavlina (*see picture*) is stepping down from the board of directors. After several years of dedicated service, she tried to step down last year, but in our time of need (December 2024) she agreed to substitute for Mrs. Evans. Ina has been an invaluable asset to the Foundation, especially with her help with the School Report to the Ministry of Education. Ina will remain a Legacy member and a trusted advisor, and we will continue to seek her guidance on questions concerning the foundation. Also, special thanks to Ina's husband Mr. Venelin Pavlin who deserves our gratitude and apologies for taking so much of Ina's time. We are very grateful for your patience! We wish the whole Pavlin family all the best in the years to come!



I would like to welcome to the company three ladies, Mrs. Gergana Patetta and Mrs. Gabriela Mladenova (*see picture - in red t-shirt*), and Mariana Nencheva (*on right*). They are current officers and parents of students of the Bulgarian school in Houston. Mrs. Patetta and Mrs. Mladenova joined us at a crucial time, when we needed a thorough review of the school and the company's financial situation. Mrs. Mariana Nencheva joined Elin Pelin Foundation as a Parent-Teacher Communication Officer. Her help is also very much appreciated by the whole team.



I must say a few words about the financial difficulty of the school. In 2022 Elin Pelin school grew significantly with opening a branch in Austin. This sudden growth spur took us to a different level as a non-profit. The unaudited annual financial report was not sufficient and specific enough to analyze (and help us prevent) the deficit. In 2023-24 with fundraisers and more, we were able to offset the great expense we had with the school, but we had to learn how to budget. Additionally, in 2024 our greatest patrons could not donate or made a much smaller donation than previous years. That led to the logical conclusion that a major financial audit is needed, so we can establish what needs to be changed and what our future financial goals should be. As soon as we felt the disbalance between inflow and outflow, Mrs. Svetlana Markova – who is currently on the Board of directors, created our first budget. In the beginning of 2024-25 school year Mrs. Gabriela Mladenova took on the task of analyzing last year's school earnings and spendings and she created our current budget. Mrs. Gergana Patetta (*see picture on left*) organized the most successful fundraiser for this school year. Additionally, Mrs. Patetta along with Mrs. Rayna Levakova and several other anonymous donors who work at USAA became our biggest contributors through American Online Giving Foundation/Benevity program.



Another parent who deserves recognition is Mr. Pavel Vasilev who made a significant donation which was matched by his place of employment. Hopefully all parents from the Bulgarian school will follow his example and check with their companies they gift match to non-profits. In the forms of Culture and Art, Elin Pelin Foundation is bringing value to the entire Bulgarian American community of Texas. Any help would be very much appreciated!

On behalf of the whole team I can say we are thrilled to see organizational growth and financial stability this year. We also thank the members of Elin Pelin Foundation for their continuous support!

Sincerely,

Gergana Araktchiev

President of Elin Pelin Foundation

31 May 2025



Bulgarian School

Our school's thirteenth consecutive school year was a success despite the turbulent winter months. In September 2024 Elin Pelin Bulgarian School in Texas began with a 112 enrolled students in three different cities, divided into fourteen separate classes. Houston has three classes, San Antonio has two, Austin has four and we have a total of five online classes. Despite the formation of a new organization in Austin, with several of our staff and students leaving us in the middle of the year, we ended the school year with ninety (90) students. Upon parents and teachers request, Elin Pelin Foundation will continue maintaining a branch in Austin. Last but not least:

We had three students who graduated 8th grade this year(see framed picture). ***Congratulations Class of 2025!***

Elin Pelin Houston – Three classes at 1900 Kane St. Houston TX 77007

Честит ден на будителите! Нека да запазим българското в сърцата си. И да не забравяме корените си.





Честит Велик ден от Хюстън. С пожелание за много весели моменти, здраве и късмет.



Mrs. Rayna Levakova – Principal

Mrs. Diana Angelova – Assistant Principal

Ms. Daniela Kashukeeva, Mrs. Diana Angelova – In-Person Teachers

Ms. Daniela Kashukeeva – Online Teacher

Elin Pelin San Antonio – Two classes at 318 E. Ramsey San Antonio TX 78216

Честит празник на всички от Елин Пелин, Сан Антонио! 🇷🇺 🇬🇧 🇺🇸





Mrs. Rayna Levakova – Principal

Mrs. Rayna Levakova, Mrs. Boryana Veneva – In-Person Teachers

Mrs. Rayna Levakova, Mrs. Boryana Veneva, Mrs. Desislava Angelova – Online Teacher

Ms. Rayna Levakova – Dance Instructor

Elin Pelin Austin – Four classes at 4001 Adelphi Lane Austin TX 78727



Bulgarian School in Austin, Texas / Българско училище в Остин, Тексас
February 7 · 🌐

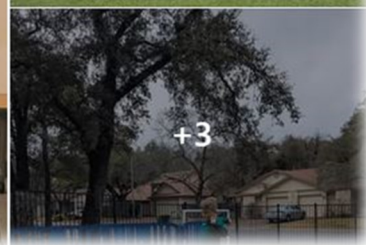
Представяме ви новия родителски съвет на Първо българско училище "Елин Пелин" - Остин. Това са хората, които представляват интересите на родителската общност и децата и са топлата връзка с учителите. Те са неизчерпаем източник на творчески идеи и практическа помощ в организацията на събития и инициативи, които правят нашето училище не просто образователна институция, а общност - нашата малка България в Остин. Благодарим ви за всичко, което правите! Заедно можем повече 🍀💖

Мари... See more

Bulgarian School in Austin, Texas / Българско училище в Остин, Тексас
February 18 · 🌐

152 години от гибелта на Апостола на свободата Васил Левски! Ето как почетохме паметта на Апостола в Първо българско училище "Елин Пелин" - Остин:

- Дарин, ученик от 5 клас, и баща му ни разказаха за участието си с ежегодния поход "По стъпките на Левски" от Плевен до Карлово.
- Най-големите ученици повдигнаха патриотичния дух с прочита на стихотворението Песен за Апостола на Асен Босев.
- Забавни игри на двора, сред които и състезание за най-дълъг лъвски скок по примера на Левски.



Bulgarian School in Austin, Texas / Българско училище в Остин, Тексас
March 1 · 🌐

Честита Баба Марта и предстоящ национален празник на България! 🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬

Днес българската общност в Остин отпразнува 1-ви и 3-ти март както подобава:

🏆 Състезание за лъвски скок. Победителите получиха медали, изработени в България специално за събитието.

👉 Работ... See more



Bulgarian School in Austin, Texas / Българско училище в Остин, Тексас
March 22 · 🌐

Днес на гости на по-големите ученици в училище "Елин Пелин" - Остин бяха две успели български момчета - Преслав и Емо. Те ни разказаха за професията си на инженери на чипове и как чиповете са в основата на много технологични иновации - изкуствен интелект, роботи, самоуправляващи се коли, електрически автомобили, ракети и др. Учениците се забавляваха да създават изображения на любимите си герои с помощта на изкуствен интелект под ръководството на Преслав и Емо.

👉 Гостите п... See more



Bulgarian School in Austin, Texas / Българско училище в Остин, Тексас
March 9 · 🌐

Честит 8-ми март на всички дами! 🌸🌸🌸

Вчера децата в българското училище се забавляваха докато твояха изненади за мама. ❤️



Bulgarian School in Austin, Texas / Българско училище в Остин, Тексас
April 18 · 🌐

В очакване на Великден, децата боядисаха яйца в училище миналата събота. 🍷🍷🍷

А вие боядисахте ли яйцата? Пригответе ли сърцата за най-големия християнски празник?



👤 Gabriela Mladenova and 6 others





***Mrs. Rayna Levakova – Principal
Mrs. Tsvetomira Lyubenova – Assistant
Principal
Mrs. Desislava Evans, Mrs. Marina Neal, Mrs.
Tsvetomira Lyubenova – In-Person Teachers
Ms. Yoana Taseva – Dance Instructor***

Library

Bulgarian Parliamentary Election – June 2024

Bulgarian citizens, residing in Houston and Austin had the opportunity to cast their vote for Bulgaria's parliamentary elections on June 9th, 2024. Along with the representative of the Bulgarian Embassy, a team of local volunteers opened the polling stations in Houston and Austin. A total of 82 for Houston and 114 for Austin Bulgarian citizens exercised their right to vote.

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova – coordinator and e-mail correspondent

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova, Mrs. Diana Ivanova, Mrs. Ginka Kyurpova, Mr. Damyan Bratanov, Mr. Niko Kamenov, Mr. Eugeni Entchev – polling staff members



Bulgarian Parliamentary Election – October 2024

Once again Bulgarian citizens had to vote for Parliamentary Elections on October 27th, 2024. This time a total of 109 people from Houston and neighboring cities casted their ballots.

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova – coordinator and e-mail correspondent

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova, Mrs. Diana Ivanova, Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev, Mr. Alexander Petsanov, Mr. Eugeni Entchev – polling staff members



Social Events and Fundraisers

Self Defense Class – June 2024

We kicked off last Summer with an event organized by the MAT Center. This event was specifically for Elin Pelin members and their families. *I have already reported on this class on the previous report, but I am including it here again , in the hope we could make this an annual event.*



Self Defense Seminar

June 1 2024 10 AM

21621 Rhodes Rd
Suite G
Spring, TX 77388

Please join us at "The MAT Center"
for our self-defense class.



Aikido is often translated as "the way of unifying (with) life energy" or as "the way of harmonious spirit". According to the founder's philosophy, the primary goal in the practice of aikido is to overcome oneself instead of cultivating violence or aggression.

Mr. Michael Black, Mr. Paul Naquin – instructors
Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – instructor, coordinator, photographer
Ms. Diana Araktchiev, Mr. John Stanfa – volunteers

Bulgarian Film “Gundi – A Legend of Love” – December 2024

Organized by Mr. Orlin Mirchev with the help of a volunteer from Elin Pelin Foundation, attended by a total of 45 people. If you missed the screening we encourage you to see it on video.

"Gundi – A Legend of Love" is a film dedicated to the great and beloved footballer from the past, Georgi Asparuhov – Gundi. The film follows the life of this great athlete, from his meeting with Velichka Markova – Lita, to the tragic day of June 30, 1971. The script is based on untold stories from the personal life of Georgi Asparuhov and his greatest love – his wife Lita. Together, they navigate numerous trials in life, football, and the system, but remain together until the very end. The screen will also bring to life some of Gundi's legendary matches, thanks to hundreds of special effects used in the film.



Mr. Orlin Mirchev – promoter

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova – volunteer

Memorial Tree Planting – January 2025

Two different fundraisers gathered the funds needed to purchase several trees, a post with a memorial placard. The tree planting is to commemorate the life of Dimitria Dzarbova, our beloved friend and principal of Elin Pelin Bulgarian School. The event was organized primarily by the Araktchiev family and Boy Scout Troop 401 from Spring TX.

Gergana Araktchiev is 🌸 feeling hopeful at Meyer Park.
March 21 · Spring · 🌍
Честита пролет! Не видяхме ластовичка, но чухме кълвач да чурулика. Не забравяйте да посетите Meyer Park и да закичите дряна, клена, брезите и другите две дръвчета с Вашите мартенички!!!
Още веднъж - Благодарности за Вашата подкрепа!



More than 20 families donated to the two different fundraisers. There are also enough funds left for us to purchase a bench as soon as the trees take root at their permanent location in Meyer Park.

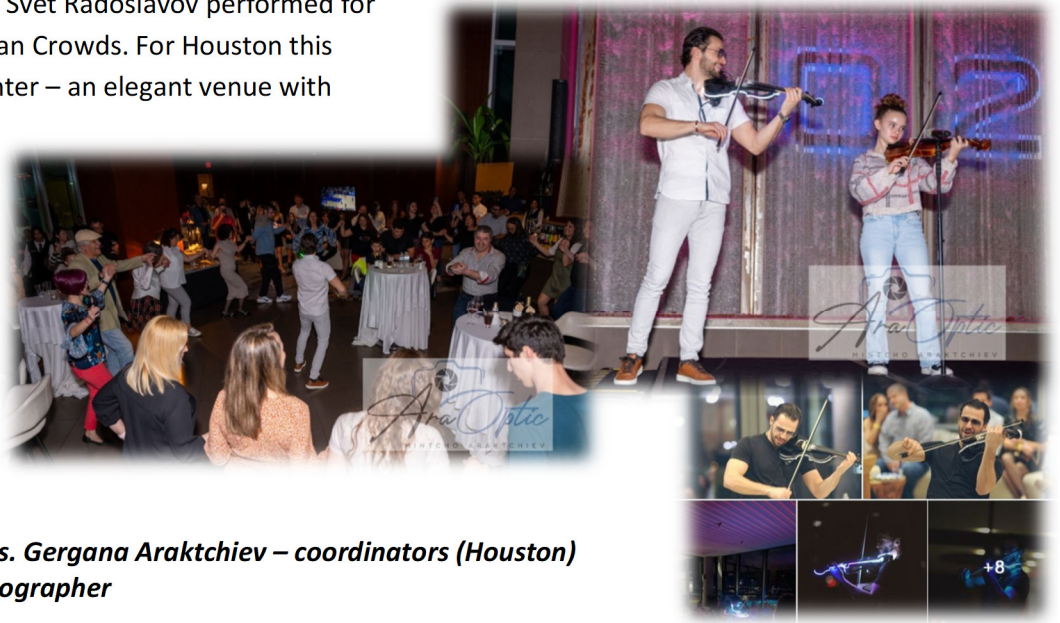
Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Mr. George Araktchiev – coordinator and eagle scout applicant with Troop 401 Spring, TX

Concert - Electrical Violinist Svet Radoslavov – January 2025

Once again the Musical Prodigy Svet Radoslavov performed for the Houston and Austin Bulgarian Crowds. For Houston this event was organized at City Center – an elegant venue with catering, appetizers and cocktail hour.

People could not resist the temptation to break into dance. We also had a young violinist and a student of Elin Pelin Bulgarian School Katrina Allen perform along with Svet.



Mrs. Nevena Nikolova, and Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinators (Houston)

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – photographer

3rd of March and Spring festivities – March 2025

Organized by one of our newest officers Gergana Patetta, this initiative turned out to be one of the most successful

честита Баба Марта на всички българи. Пожелаваме ви да сте весели, здравни, бели и щастливи.



fundraisers for this year. To mark the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring volunteers set up benches with supplies

for “Martenitza” where the kids learned the importance of March 1st and how to make “Martenitza” crafts using white and red yarn. The food was delicious – bought at K&V Bulgarian Market. Volunteers handled the cost of supplies and served food and refreshments to the families who showed up. A day in the park turned out to be sunny and windy. Similar events were organized by Elin Pelin Foundation in San Antonio. Students of Elin Pelin – San Antonio made martenizas for sale. This fundraiser gathered about \$200 in donations. The First Bulgarian School in Austin - Elin Pelin also organized spring festivities.

Mrs. Gergana Patetta – coordinator (Houston)

Mrs. Rayna Levakova – coordinator (San Antonio)

Mr.& Mrs. Nikolovi, Mrs. Pavlina, Mr. Araktchiev – volunteers

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – photographer

Mr. Petar Gerdjиков – sound

BTR Concert – March 2025

To mark their 30-year anniversary the famous band BTR had a World Tour which included several Texas cities. About 100 people attended the concert in Houston. Austin and Dallas also hosted a concert. We - Houstonians - may have not been the biggest crowd they’ve performed for but we are definitely their most enthusiastic and energetic fans. We know that, because they told us we are their favorite fans. We welcomed the band for two days, the day after the concert we took them to NASA and had the opportunity to show them what the term “southern hospitality” is about; with the help of volunteers I dare say that the band members were just as happy to visit Houston as we – the fans- were.

Mr. Orlin Mirchev – promoter

Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – photographer, guide, volunteer

Mr. Eugeni Entchev – hospitality

Mr. Nikolai Nikolov – NASA guide volunteer

Easter Picnic – April 2025

The families of Houston reserved a pavilion in Cullen Park and we had fun trying different Easter Breads and fighting with colorful eggs. We had some obstacles with this event; both the American and Bulgarian Easter happened to be on the same date; also, the location of the pavilion was not clearly stated on the paperwork. Regardless of those problems, several families from Houston greater area found the place easily and attended the picnic, making it a successful and joyful social gathering.

Mrs. Nevena Nikolova, and Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinators

Mr. & Mrs. Nikolovi, Mr.& Mrs. Araktchievi - volunteers



Elin Pelin Foundation
Published by Ina Proeva
March 22 · 🌐
Б.Т.Р. за втори път в Хюстън благодарности на ARA Optic и Mintcho, че направиха тези уникални кадри. Насладете им се и вие! 📸❤️👏👏👏



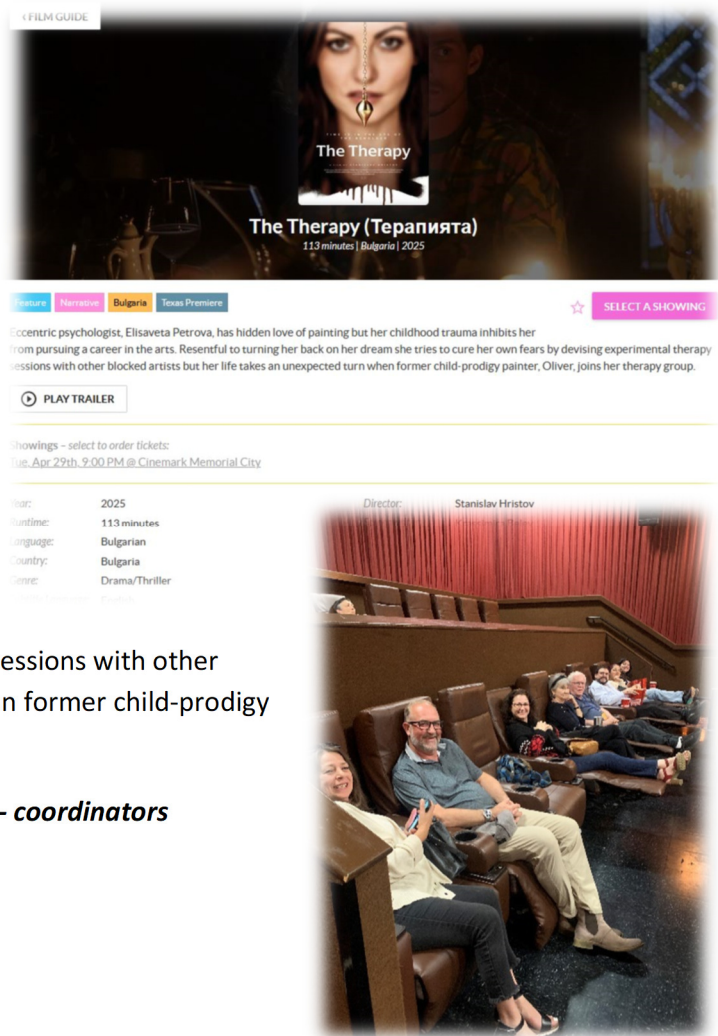
ARA Optic
March 22 · 🌐
Снимки от концерта на Б.Т.Р. в Хюстън Тексас рок клуб BFE Rock Club
<https://bit.ly/BTRHouston>
Бяхте уникални, момчета! До скоро! Б.Т.Р.
*С подкрепата на Elin Pelin Foundation и организацията на Orlin Mirchev

Bulgarian Film at Houston International Film Festival – The Therapy – April 2025

Less than 20 people attended the screening of The Therapy. Events like this are an unexpensive way to promote Bulgarian talent throughout the whole world, so the poor attendance truly disappoints and baffles me. Hopefully the upcoming screenings such as ... will attract more interest.

About the movie - Eccentric psychologist, Elisaveta Petrova, has hidden love of painting but her childhood trauma inhibits her from pursuing a career in the arts. Resentful to turning her back on her dream she tries to cure her own fears by devising experimental therapy sessions with other blocked artists but her life takes an unexpected turn when former child-prodigy painter, Oliver, joins her therapy group.

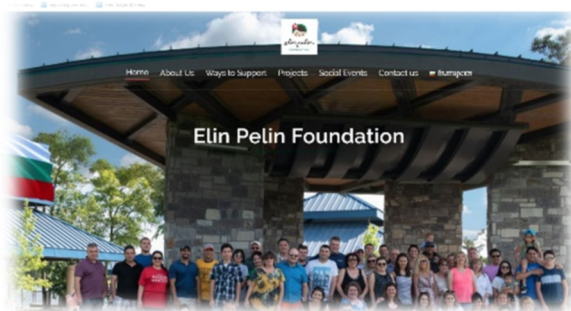
Mrs. Rumyana Sumanov, and Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev - coordinators



Website

Website and Newsletter

Please visit our website www.elinpelin-houston.org to find out more about our projects, events, and school curriculum. If you wish to be included on our mailing list for our newly designed Newsletter, please send us your e-mail address to newsletter@elinpelin-houston.org or click [here](#) to subscribe.



Mrs. Mariya Shumareva – Newsletter coordinator
Mr. Mintcho Araktchiev – IT Support

Upcoming Events

Self Defense Class – TBA Fall 2025

Elin Pelin Annual Team Building Activity – TBA Fall 2025

The idea is to organize an annual paintball/laser-tag/shaving-cream battle for all directors, teachers and officers as well as members, who are interested in teamplay. This event could be for all three cities. Come, represent your city, your team, your people and fight for your right to be a part of Elin Pelin Foundation!

Documentary Film – Milen – Available Online

The documentary film Milen follows the life and career of Milen Tsvetkov against the backdrop of historical events in Bulgaria that have transformed journalism and the media market in the country since 1989.

Theatre Comedy – (Wo)man by Jade-Rose Parker – TBA Fall 2025

Carla is an elegant, dynamic woman who gives her unconditional support to her husband, François, a politician in the middle of an election campaign. They've been a solid couple for 30 years. Their well-established life revolves around François, but when Carla opens a letter that day with some unusual news, all that stability is about to be called into question. And as if disaster were not enough, Louise, their adopted daughter, arrives with news about her that is more upsetting than reassuring. This tsunami of revelations will make everyone aware of their beliefs and their place in the family, and reveal their true colors.

Members ONLY Elin Pelin Annual Christmas Party – Winter 2025

A Christmas celebration for members of Elin Pelin Foundation, students of Elin Pelin Bulgarian School and their families. The goal is to gather our students and most faithful supporters for a short school recital, dinner, family-friendly music and Bulgarian folk dances. The event will have food, drinks and entertainment. Most importantly, it will be FREE for EPF members and EPBS students and \$60/adult & \$30/child for any outside guests.

RSVP will be required due to limited seating.

Art Exhibit – TBA Spring 2026

This year we skipped the Art Exhibit event which can be considered a big mistake. Last years event was an absolute success and saved our financial year from having a deficit. I would like to make a commitment for us to continue organizing art promoting events. Maybe this upcoming year we can make it an event for children and rising artists?

A Shout Out to Our Corporate & Individual Supporters:



- **American Online Giving Foundation/Benevity** – Donations totaling \$8,000 or more. AOGF helps companies and their employees make charitable donations in the most efficient, effective way possible and to recommend grants to public charities in the US. *Thank you to Gergana Patetta and Rayna Levakova and the three other donors for nominating Elin Pelin Foundation for these donations!*
- **Liberty Energy Services LLC** – Donations totaling \$500 or more – This company matched a donation. *Thank you, Pavel Vasilev , for the donation match nomination and for gifting \$500!*
- **Inter Star Homes LLC** – *Thank you to Eugeni Entchev and Dimitrina Gencheva for donating their property for hosting numerous traveling artists!*
- **First Federal Bank** – Corporate Donation of \$450 or more – Donor Advised Fund on behalf of their employee Nataliya Espey. *Thank you Nataliya Espey!*
- **Kroger** – Recurring Quarterly Donations of about \$20 or more for a total of \$100 or more - *Thank you to the families who have elected EPF in Kroger Community Rewards Program and are shopping at Kroger!*
- **Borislav Ganov** – Individual Donation of \$300 or more with Monthly Donations of \$25
- **Pledgeling Foundation and Pay Pal Giving Fund** – Raised \$2,500 or more by initiating Birthday Fundraiser and Go Fund Me for Raising funds for Memorial Tree Planting and Bench for Dimitria Dzarbova. *Thank you to the multiple families for their generous donations!*

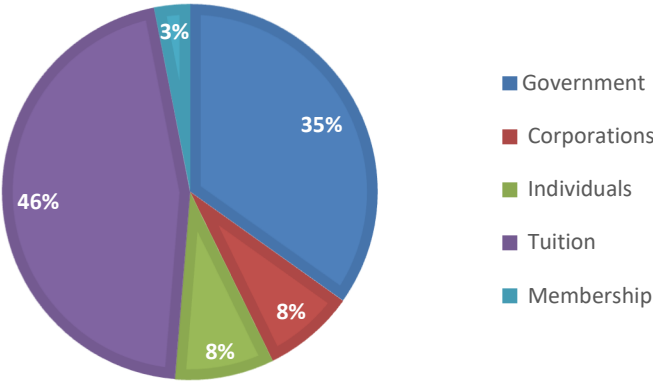
The recognition of our generous community is important to us, and we have worked hard to ensure that all information is included and accurate. If you find any errors, please contact us at [713-715-8101](tel:713-715-8101).

Finance

Unaudited Financial Data Summary for 2024-2025

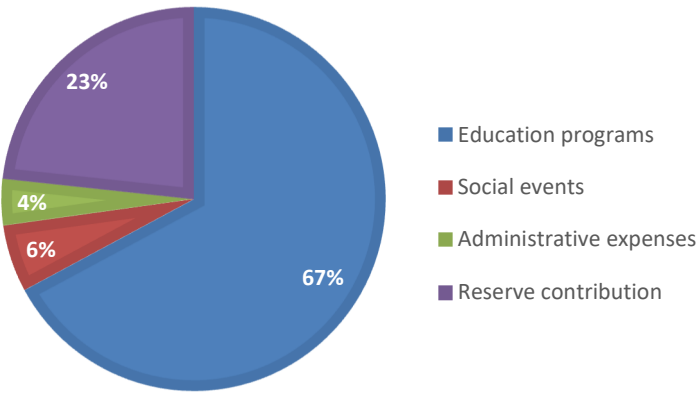
Inflow

Government	\$ 40,162	35%
Corporations	\$ 9,109	8%
Individuals	\$ 9,850	8%
Tuition	\$ 52,602	46%
Membership	\$ 3,532	3%
Total	\$ 115,255	100%



Expenses

Education programs	\$ 77,383	67%
Social events	\$ 6,514	6%
Administrative expenses	\$ 4,513	4%
Reserve contribution	\$ 26,845	23%
Total	\$ 115,255	100%



The financial summary includes gifts and activities between June 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025 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, please contact us at 713-715-8101.

Elin Pelin Foundation Staff and Board

Board of Directors 2024-2025

Svetlana Markova.....	Director
Hristina Pavlina (Substituting for Desislava Evans).....	Director
Rayna Levakova.....	Director
Gina Santy.....	Director
Gergana Araktchiev.....	Director

Officers

Gergana Araktchiev.....	President
Nevena Nikolova.....	Treasurer
Mintcho Araktchiev.....	Secretary
TJ Hayes & Co.....	Controller
Gabriela Mladenova.....	Finance
Gergana Patetta.....	Development

Faculty

Rayna Levakova.....	Principal
Diana Angelova.....	Assist. Principal (Houston)
Tsvetomira Lyubenova.....	Assist. Principal (Austin)
Rayna Levakova.....	Teacher (San Antonio)
Boryana Veneva.....	Teacher (San Antonio)
Desislava Angelova.....	Teacher (Online)
Diana Angelova.....	Teacher (Houston)
Daniela Kashukeeva.....	Teacher (Houston)
Tsvetomira Lyubenova.....	Teacher (Austin)
Desislava Evans.....	Teacher (Austin)
Marina Neal.....	Teacher (Austin)
Milena Spirova.....	Sub. Teacher (Austin)
Mirela Shtereva.....	Sub. Teacher (Austin)
Rayna Levakova.....	Dance Instructor (San Antonio)
Mariya Shumareva.....	Dance Instructor (Houston)
Yoana Taseva.....	Dance Instructor (Austin)

Staff

Mariya Shumareva.....	Webmaster
Eugeni Entchev.....	Volunteers
Mariana Nencheva.....	PT Communication