



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SOFIA ANNUAL GIVING REPORT 2023-2024



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of ACS,

Each year, we have an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable strength and generosity of this community. This year is no exception. For over 160 years, ACS has actively committed to the future of Bulgaria through academic excellence. This legacy continues with equal relevance. This report is a testament to this commitment and a reminder that our core resides in generosity.

Generosity is a gesture of belief in the capacity of our institution to transform lives and to pass on the values we aspire to cultivate within our community. We do not take this trust lightly. In these pages, you will see how your contributions, individually and collectively, have made a tangible difference. You have helped ensure that we remain a place of learning and belonging, grounded in tradition yet always looking ahead towards the future.

In this reporting year, the Class of 2024 joined a group of more than 3,400 alumni who are making a difference here in Bulgaria and around the world. They were ready and are ready for the challenges that await them. In addition to our alumni, we are proud to serve a student body of 950 students. Each year, we provide more than 2 million leva annually in financial assistance. The number of students who are active recipients of full scholarships continues to increase. In 2023-2024, this number grew by two. Twenty-four of our students are fully supported and equally proud that each scholarship carries the legacy of longstanding tradition in a culture of giving. This culture is supported by service, generous donations, grants, and recurring gifts in support of teaching and learning, special projects, and financial assistance.

I will close this Giving Report as I did in the past year, by drawing attention to our mission. It would be remiss of me not to do so. The sentiment experienced through our efforts to ensure our mission's relevance: our mission is our purpose.

The American College of Sofia integrates the values and best practices of American pedagogy with the rich educational traditions of Bulgaria and Europe. We seek to develop critical thinking, lifelong intellectual curiosity, leadership, and collaboration among multi-talented students of various social, cultural, economic, and geographic backgrounds.

Our pursuit of excellence presents great responsibility. Thank you for your continued pride in this special school. I hope you are inspired by this year's Annual Report. Your role is as important now as it has ever been. It is a role that ensures our capacity to realize our mission with an effort that continues to increase our students' potential to thrive.

With kind regards,
Emily Sargent Beasley
President
American College of Sofia

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Giving Report readers,

In her introduction to this Report, President Sargent Beasley referred to generosity as the belief in an institution's capacity to transform lives. I find this description to be both beautiful and apt to the work of our community last year. The pages you are about to enjoy offer some examples of individuals' and institutions' shared belief in ACS' transformational capacity. In addition to those impressive examples I will share my two highlights.

In its second year of existence, the Inez Abbott Giving Circle continued to have an impact on the lives of our students. Twenty seven donors, both alumni and non-alumni, assisted young women from outside of Sofia in pursuing their studies. These women's university pursuits now span medicine, pharmacology, diplomacy, physics, and astronomy. I wish the Circle's namesake could see them, as I suspect she would be thrilled by their successes. The nearly 20 years she spent away from her native Michigan educating Bulgarian youth halfway across the world, Inez Abbott envisioned successes of every kind for her students. Perhaps she shared their stories when she visited home to fundraise for the schools in Samokov and Stara Zagora. Did she imagine that ACS women will one day become hard-charging scientists, physicians and policymakers? I can't help but think she would be thrilled to know about the educational achievements of 21st century ACS women from outside of Sofia. Many thanks to all the Abbott Circle supporters who are making these particular life transformations a little easier!

A somewhat more complex highlight is associated with another namesake of Ms. Abbott's, Abbott Hall which in SY23-24 had its first full year of operations post renovations. The building's substantial refurbishment was largely funded through a long-standing US Federal program named American Schools and Hospitals Abroad, a branch of USAID. For decades, USAID and ASHA fostered programs and buttressed facilities around the world in furtherance of peace, public health, and democratic values. We are indebted to ASHA's longstanding support of ACS - our campus is a shining example of a fellow institution's generosity (in the meaning given to it by President Sargent Beasley). Fellow alumni know all too well that ACS's physical space was as transformational as its academic impact. I very much hope - putting aside significant trepidation - that the conclusion of USAID's support will be replaced by new partners and supporters dedicated to maintaining our beautiful and ever-ageing campus.

Just like Ms. Abbott herself, the Circle and the Hall compel us to consider the impact of legacy. How we support the success of future generations and how we pick up the baton from past supporters are pivotal questions. I know we will find a path forward, and I trust you will join me in the solution. I will once again paraphrase our President's wise words: Your role as generous supporters of ACS is as important now as it has ever been in increasing our students' potential to thrive.

Thank you for reading and for everything you do!

Theodora Konetsovska '97
Chair of the Board of Trustees
American College of Sofia

MESSAGE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Dear Friends of ACS,

As we look back on the 2023–2024 school year, we are deeply grateful for the generosity and commitment of our community. This Annual Giving Report tells the story of a shared belief in the power of education to shape lives and strengthen our school community. Each gift represents an act of trust in our mission and a vote of confidence in the potential of ACS students. Your support empowers our students, strengthens our programs, and inspires us to aim higher every day.

This year, as we reflect on all that's been made possible at ACS, we're reminded that it truly takes a community to move a mission forward. It starts with the unwavering support of our Board of Trustees, whose leadership and belief in our long-term vision provide the steady foundation on which we build. Thanks to our scholarship founders, the doors of ACS remain open to bright, motivated students from all walks of life. These gifts are more than financial support – they are acts of belief in a student's potential, removing barriers and opening pathways to opportunity. This spirit of giving and connection lives on in our alumni and parents, who continue to shape the school's present as much as its past whether by giving back, volunteering, or simply staying engaged. We've also been fortunate to grow through the support of our institutional partners and corporate sponsors. Your support enables us to innovate, grow, and pursue bold new initiatives that benefit both our students and the broader community. Together, we are shaping the future of the American College of Sofia.

With heartfelt appreciation,
The ACS Development Team

GIFTS OVER 10,000 BGN

Daniella Molle

Frank Bauer

Karen Collias

Richard Ewing

Roger Whitaker

Samuel Seymour

Theodora Konetsovska

Vesselin Arnaudov

William J. Williams

America for Bulgaria Foundation

Arts Fest Donation from ACS Community

Gipson Family Foundation

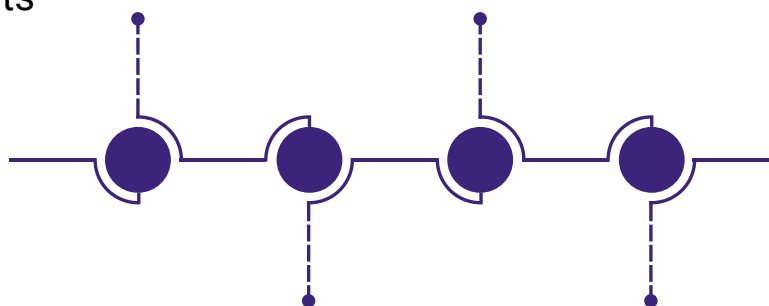
Sunrise Scholarship Benefactor

The Tianaderrah Foundation

TUITION REDUCTION PROGRAM

2,357,180 BGN have been allocated to the families of our students

264 students have received tuition reduction



85% of families who applied for the tuition reduction program were approved

Full scholarships:

- The Polansky Scholarship
- The Oberbauer Scholarship
- The Gipson Scholarship
- The Sunrise Scholarship
- The Robin Mittenthal Scholarship

AMERICA FOR BULGARIA FOUNDATION UNITED WITH UKRAINE PROGRAM

When war erupted in Ukraine, the American College of Sofia opened its doors to displaced Ukrainian students. Through the generous support of America for Bulgaria Foundation, ACS has offered admission and scholarships for displaced Ukrainian students. The program also provided accommodation in the school dormitory, while the ongoing war in Ukraine did not allow the students to return to their homeland. This financial assistance from ABF covered tuition discounts ranging from 80% to 95% for Ukrainian students who have demonstrated high financial needs. The program has been successfully implemented and the admitted Ukrainian students have been fully integrated into the academic and social fabric of ACS, becoming active and valued members of the school community.



Ukrainian Ambassador to Bulgaria, Ms. Olesia Ilashchuk, with Displaced Ukrainian students at ACS in June 2023

The America for Bulgaria Foundation is an independent, nonpartisan, and nonpolitical American grant-making foundation working in partnership with Bulgarians to strengthen the country's private sector and related democratic institutions. ABF builds on the success of the Bulgarian American Enterprise Fund, an investment fund created in 1991 by the U.S. Congress with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development. For more information, please visit www.us4bg.org. The statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the American College of Sofia and do not necessarily reflect the views of the America for Bulgaria Foundation or its affiliates.

The Inez Abbott Giving Circle Generosity Report: 2023-2024



The Inez Abbott Giving Circle stands as a lasting tribute to Inez Abbott, a trailblazer in the history of the American College of Sofia (ACS). Abbott's commitment to education in Bulgaria began in 1907, and lasted nearly 20 years. She shaped the lives of countless Bulgarian children and played a crucial role in the formation of ACS as an institution of academic excellence and equal access.

We continue her mission today through the Inez Abbott Giving Circle with scholarships for young women from outside Sofia to ensure that financial barriers do not stand in the way of their academic and personal growth. Our priority is to provide partial yearly scholarships that "fill the gap", enabling students whose families encounter financial shortfalls to continue their studies uninterrupted.

"I give because others first gave to me."

- A member of The Inez Abbott Giving Circle

2023-2024 Financials

Total Raised
to Date:

\$143,000



Number of
donors:

27

Total Spent
to Date:

\$21,000



Alumni
donors:

18

Total Impact:

4

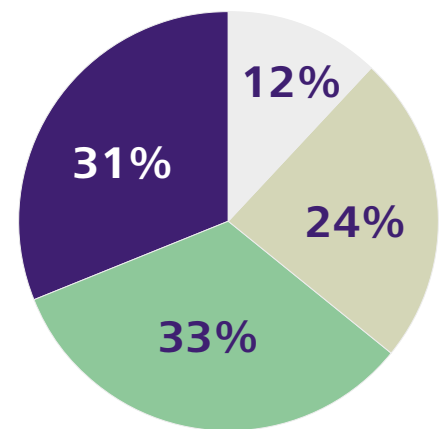
The number of young
women supported in their
ACS educational journey.

*"I give because all students
deserve an ACS education,
regardless of their family's
circumstances."*

- A member of The Inez Abbott Giving Circle

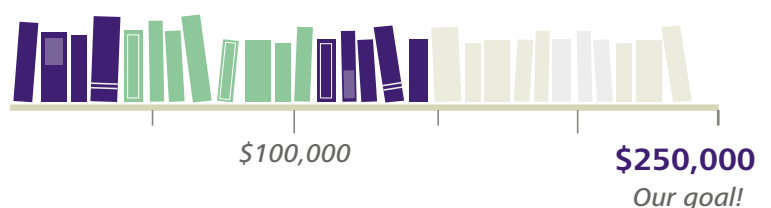
Our Progress

The Giving Circle began in 2021 with two trustee donors and has grown every year. Our goal is to raise \$250,000.



● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024
% of funds raised per year

Our Goal



Impact of The Circle



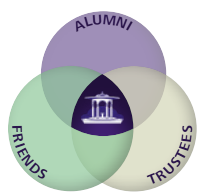
In the 2023-2024 school year, the Giving Circle proudly supported two young women - **Alexandra (Ali) Stoycheva '27** and **Nikoleta Stoynova '25**. Both students exemplify the spirit of academic excellence and ambition that the Giving Circle seeks to nurture.

Ali, originally from Bourgas, is passionate about Biology and Chemistry, with a goal of becoming a physician. Her dedication to her studies is matched by her athletic pursuits, including javelin throwing.

Nikoleta, originally from Kazanluk, excels in science and modern dance. Her academic focus is centered around Physics and Astronomy. She recently represented Bulgaria at an international science competition in Mexico.

Front row: Nikoleta Stoynova with ACS Trustee US Ambassador Marcie Ries.
Back row: ACS Trustee Dr. Karen Collias and Ali Stoycheva.

Supporters of The Circle



We are grateful for this year's \$10,000 matching gift challenge by ACS Trustee Frank Bauer, directed specifically toward ACS alumni giving.

Thanks to the support of 15 alumni so far, we have reached 75% of Mr. Bauer's pledge challenge. We invite everyone to support the effort so we can reach 100% by December 31st, 2024.

What's Ahead

We seek your help in expanding the Circle to honor both ACS's mission of affordability and Inez Abbott's dedication to educating Bulgarian children.

Our current priority is to support the short-term financial needs of existing students whose families live outside Sofia. Your gift to the Inez Abbott Giving Circle has a life-changing impact. Let's work together to reach our \$250,000 goal!

**We start where she started –
supporting the education of young women from outside Sofia.**

Contact Information

ACS Trustees Theodora Konetsovska '97 (t.konetsovska@acsbg.org) and Karen Collias (karen.collias@gmail.com) welcome inquiries to learn more or join The Giving Circle.

Find out more about the American College of Sofia at www.acs.bg.

GIFTS OF 10,000 - 5,000 BGN

American Online Giving Foundation
Anonymous
Avis Bohlen
Christopher Dell
Ilian Georgiev
John Dougherty
Joel Studebaker & Alice Bliss Fund
Katherine Georgiev

Lilyana Boneva
Marcie Ries
Nedko Kyuchukov
Stella and Boyan Naydenovi
Svilen Spasov
Temcov Foundation
Valerie Brackett & Nikolaos Monoyios
VMware Foundation

GIFTS OF 4,999 - 1,000 BGN

Andrey Evtimov
Ann Ferren
Anonymous (3)
Boris Statev
Borislav Gigov
Borislav Stefanov
Boryana Yurukova
Christina Black
Clayton Family Foundation
Colgate Foundation
Comet Electronics
Digital Lights
Dimitar Hristov
Dimitar Kyurkchiev
Emily Sargent Beasley
Kevin Samuelson
Kristina Maercklein

Logi Soft Ltd.
Lyubomir Neikov
New Bulgarian University
Niki Kouzmanov
Nikolay Borisov
Paul Johnson
CNSYS
Simeon Slavchev
Simlogic
Svetoslav Dimitrov
Svilen Karaivanov
Tesi Ltd.
Thomas Marshall
Tisbest Philanthropy
Todor Penev
Zori Miltcheva

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUND



100+

Student clubs

50+

Student-led events

PARENT AMBASSADORS

I became involved in activities at ACS at the beginning of the 2022/2023 school year when the school president, Ms. Emily Sargent Beasley, made an online presentation and invited all parents to join the Parent Ambassadors community. I was drawn to the idea because I wanted to connect with other parents, teachers, and school leaders who share similar values – people who care deeply about giving our children a well-rounded, forward-thinking education.

Since the fall of 2022, I've been part of a growing group of parents who meet with the school leadership 5-6 times a year. Together, we discuss future plans and strategies to maintain and enhance the high academic standards at ACS. We also help organize various activities, such as Arts Fest which is held the first weekend in June, and we support key campus events like the Science Fair and the Moot Court Competition. Fundraising is another important part of our work – both to support the tuition reduction program and to fund projects that improve the school's facilities.

Being part of this community has brought me wonderful new friendships and a space to talk openly about issues that matter to me and my child's education and development. I truly enjoy attending ACS events and meeting other parents – whether it's Parent-Teacher Day, Christmas Concert, ACS Musical, or the inspiring SofiaTalksBusiness and SofiaTalksHealth events hosted by the school. Our community grows stronger each year, with more parents contributing their time, skills, and support, and I hope this culture of engagement continues to thrive.

- Ginka Tabanska, Parent Ambassador

ARTS FEST 2024



ALUMNI REUNION 2024



GIFTS OF 999 - 500 BGN

Aleksandar Kirilov

Anonymous (2)

Bilyana Dencheva

David Wilson

EcoBulPack Bulgaria

EM Design

Gergana Vassileva

Kathryn Polansky

Katya Vutova

Pavlin Vutov

Stefka Gerova

Stephen Gochkov

Valentin Georgiev

Yana Karadjova

Yordan Cenov

Youlian Petkov

Zekeng JSCo

GIFTS UP TO 500 BGN

Alexander Kanov

Aleksandr Khasymski

Alexander Tomov

Andriana Sterling

Anonymous (7)

Batalska Consulting

Berta Darakchieva

Boyan Kushlev

CyberGrant

Daniela Simova

Daniela Kulusheva

Dara Nikolova

Dead Poets Society

Denitsa Balkanska

Dessislava Dimitrova

Dimo Roussinov

Divna Gogeva

Ekaterina Anguelova

Elena Gerasimova

Evelina Hobson

Georgi Klissurski

Gergana Yaneva

Irena Tsvetkova

Jordan Hlebarov

Kalina Manova

Constantin Popov

Kristian Nikolov

Lyubitsa Gerasimova

Maria Boshnacova

Maria Pencheva

Milko Pavlov

Nadezhda Zhelyazkova

Naiden Naydenov

Nediyana Daskalova

Peter Djalaliev

Phillip Cherganski

Prestige - 96 AD

Radoslav Iliev

Simeona Manova

Siyana Petrova

Trayan Trayanov

Vania Cenкова

Veronika Koykova

Yana Peeva

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



ALEXANDER TOMOV

Class of 2004

ACS holds a special place in my heart and I attribute a particular influence on who I have become today to my time as a student, and later as a staff member at the school. I believe ACS is a wonderful opportunity for young minds to grow and thrive and being in a position that allows me to give back to the school only makes me happier.



YANA PEEVA

Class of 2021

I choose to support ACS because I know what genuine effort and passion every single person enrolled or employed at ACS puts into their work, inside and outside of the classroom. It is one of the few institutions I know that has a mission that has stood the test of time and has inspired generations of students, faculty and staff.



NAIDEN NAYDENOV

Class of 2008

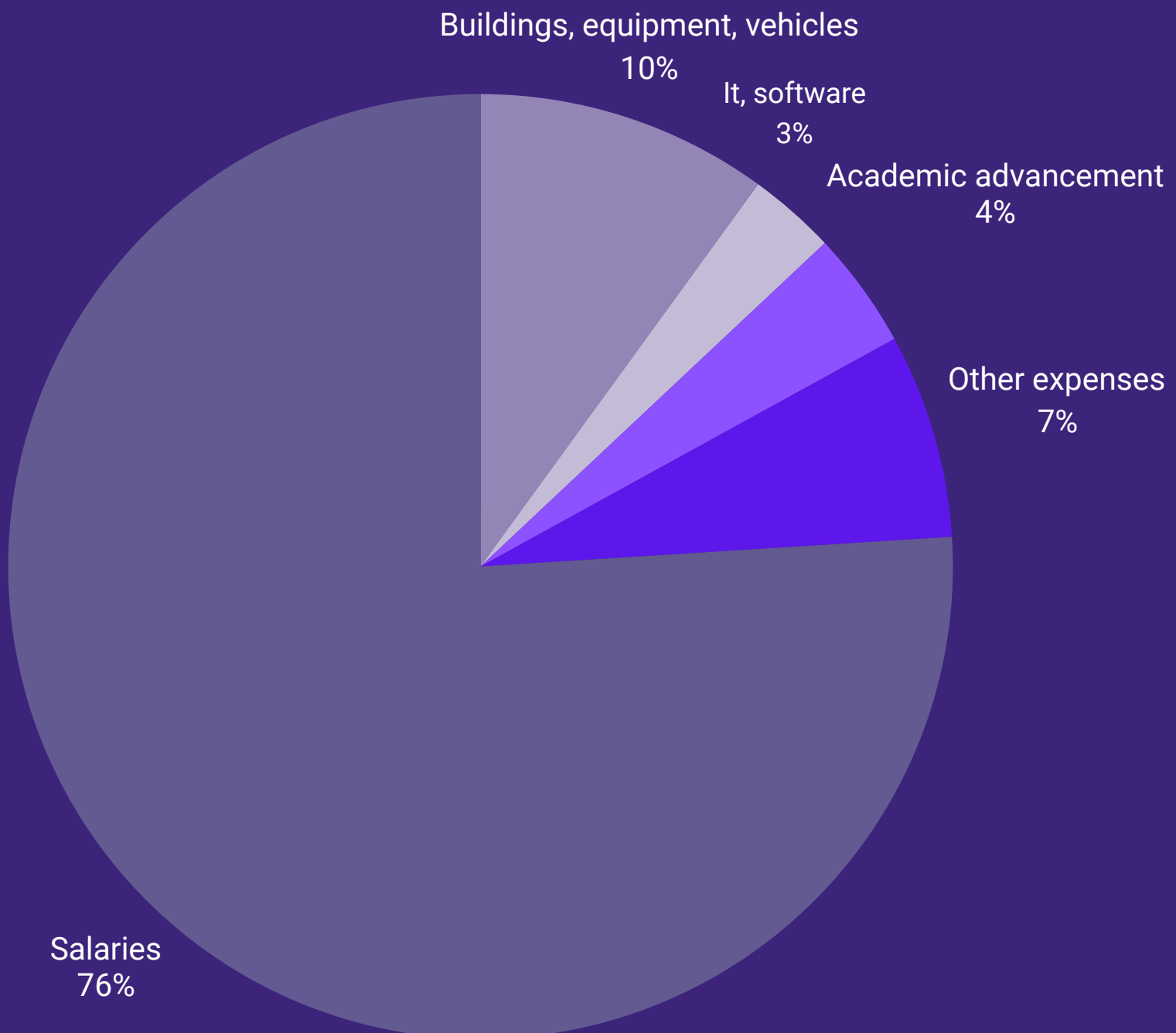
ACS has a special place in my heart. It gives a different high school experience to students and teachers alike. It is a unique school with unique spirit nurturing respect, freedom and discipline at the same time. It does promote development of the individual personality. Supporting ACS will, hopefully, give an opportunity to more students to find their own way in life after high school.

SCHOOL MISSION

The American College of Sofia integrates the values and best practices of American pedagogy with the rich educational traditions of Bulgaria and Europe. We seek to develop critical thinking, lifelong intellectual curiosity, leadership, and collaboration among multi-talented students of various social, cultural, economic, and geographic backgrounds.

Operating Expenses SY2023-2024

Total expenses 15,922,000 BGN



SUPPORT ACS



NEED-BASED
FINANCIAL AID

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

EXCELLENCE IN
TEACHING

CAMPUS
IMPROVEMENTS

INEZ ABBOTT GIVING
CIRCLE



DONATE ONLINE

<https://acs.bg/giving/donate>



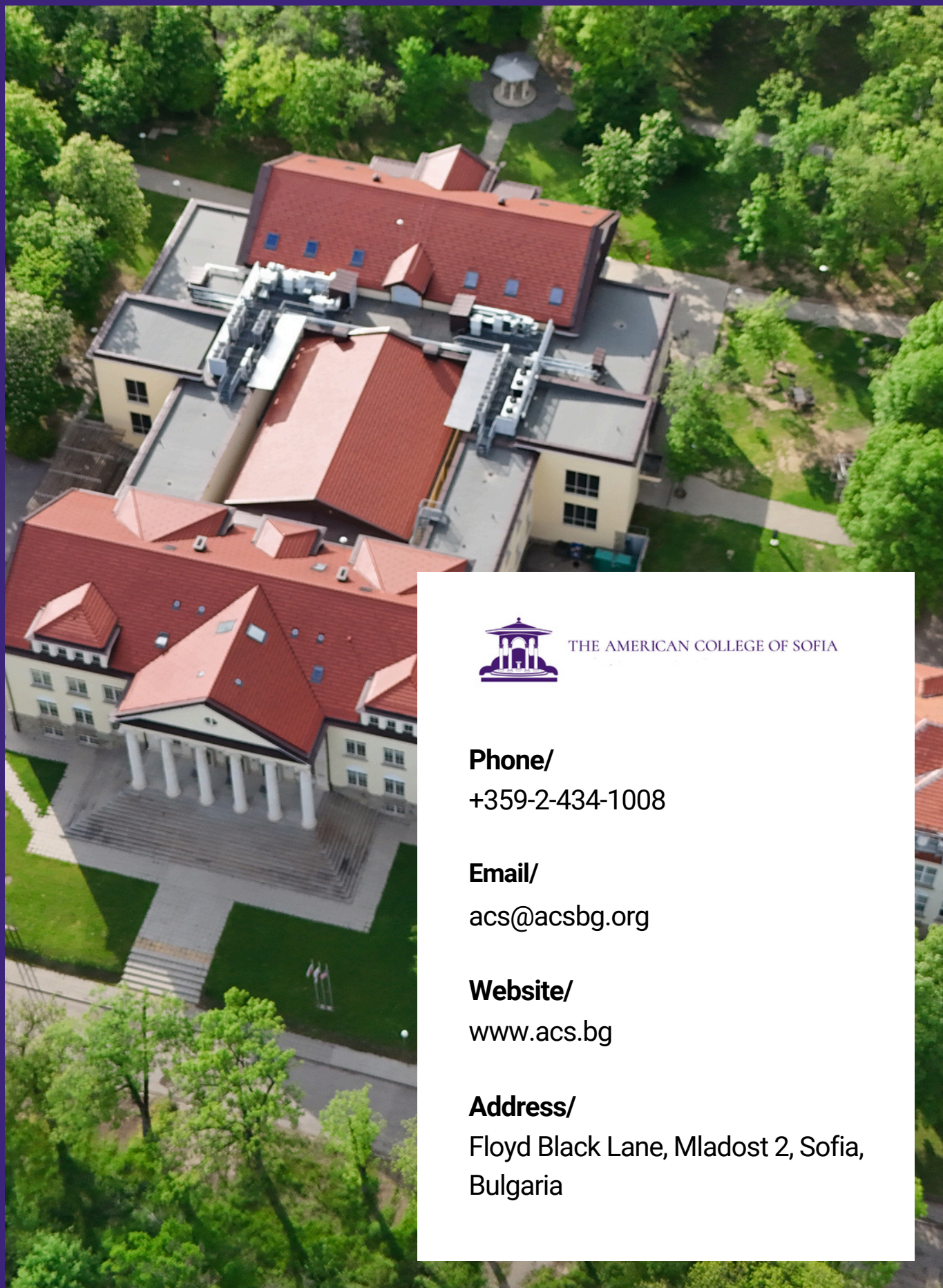
BANK TRANSFER



CHECK

Please get in touch with our Development Office at advancement@acsbg.org to coordinate your donation.

CONTACT US



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