



# THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SOFIA



## ANNUAL GIVING REPORT 2024-2025

ACCREDITED BY  
 



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# Message from the Chair of the Board

## THEODORA KONETSOVSKA

**Dear Giving Report readers,**

You may not know that when ACS first reopened in 1992, the cost of education for the first class of students was almost fully covered by donations and investment returns accumulated during the College's closure from 1942 to 1992. At ACS's reopening, many of the students admitted to the 1992 class (me included) could only attend thanks to the partial or full tuition subsidy. At the same time, most donors from those 50 years ago were no longer around to witness their impact. This deeply hopeful and life-altering inter-generational gift of education is one of the greatest lessons I learned at ACS.



Since 1992, many parents, teachers, trustees, alumni, and friends near and far have continued the tradition of educational gift-giving by contributing annually to support the College. Our operations would not be possible without our donors. One such donor family has been providing full scholarships to ACS students for more than 20 years - Nellie and Bob Gipson. (Bob celebrated a big birthday during SY24-25, so giving him a "shout-out" in this year's Giving Report feels just right.)

Bob Gipson, a life-long New Yorker, and his wife Nellie Gipson, born in Bulgaria and a close partner of ACS since 1992, began providing full scholarships to ACS students with demonstrated financial need in the early 2000's. At ACS, they established scholarships to honor Ambassador Sol Polansky and Mrs. Polansky, and Joseph Oberbauer (individuals not born in Bulgaria with life-long contributions to Bulgarian education and society). In addition, the Gipsons also support a host of other educational, cultural, and research activities throughout Bulgaria.

To give a young person access to quality education is a life-changing gift. In the case of the Gipson, Polansky and Oberbauer scholarship recipients, following excellent careers at the College, these ACS students have garnered successes in a broad range of academic and professional fields globally. Bob often says that education is his family's biggest, lifelong commitment as "payback" for access to quality education he had as a young person. Making access to good education available to all has proven, throughout history and worldwide, to be the great "opportunity equalizer" and a cornerstone of democracy. And supporting education is available to all, in any amount and any chosen format.

I know that Nellie and Bob will continue to inspire alumni to make education one of their personal philanthropic and service priorities. A growing number of our alumni are setting up their own ACS scholarships to support the next generations of students, such as the Sunrise and the Mittenthal Scholarships, most recently. Whatever amount we choose to donate toward education, it is an amount well spent. Education remains the most effective, egalitarian tool to influence the world long after we are gone, and to trust we are influencing it for the better. Just as did the benefactors from the period of ACS's closure up to this day.

Theodora Konetsovská '97  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

# Message from the President

## EMILY SARGENT BEASLEY

Dear Friends of ACS,

Every act of giving begins with a choice. It is a moment shaped by reflection and guided by belief, an expression of wisdom that finds its fullest meaning in service to others. This spirit defines the American College of Sofia. Each contribution, whether through time, talent, or resources, reflects a shared belief that education has the power to transform both individuals and communities. I have the privilege of witnessing this generosity and experiencing its impact each day in the lives of our students, who are today the beneficiaries of such giving and, in their futures, the sources of gratitude.

This report is both a record and a celebration of that generosity. It reflects how your collective support has allowed ACS to remain a place of learning, belonging, and purpose. Together, we serve 933 students and provide more than 2 million leva in financial assistance annually. The number of students who are active recipients of full scholarships continues to grow. This year, 268 receive a reduction in tuition and 29 students are fully supported. Each reduction and each scholarship carries a legacy of belief in potential and a commitment to access.

The Class of 2025 is our most recent graduating class, joining a global community of ACS Alumni who continue to make a difference in Bulgaria and beyond. They are out in the world, carrying forward the spirit of the American College of Sofia as they begin to shape their own paths. The Class of 2026 is preparing to follow students who have persevered, led, and achieved with purpose. The culmination of their efforts will be celebrated in May, just as those classes that preceded them were celebrated.

To our alumni, trustees, parents and friends of the College, you remain at the heart of our work. You are our partners, and that partnership takes shape each day across campus, whether through teaching that challenges and encourages, through mentoring that strengthens confidence, or through serving in capacities beyond the classroom that allow our students to test ideas, build community, and discover their own capacity to lead within an authentic arena. The learning that happens here is a reflection of our shared effort and the belief that together we prepare students not only for achievement but for purpose.

Your gifts, large and small, tangible and intangible, continue to strengthen the foundation upon which our students learn and thrive. Through these contributions, we invest not only in academic excellence but in the enduring capacity of our community to imagine and achieve more together in our remarkable school.

As always, I return to our mission, which remains at the center of all we do:

*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 trust and pride in this remarkable school. May you find in these pages a reflection of the lasting impact your generosity creates and the shared purpose that unites us as a community.

With kind regards,  
Emily Sargent Beasley  
President



# ACS 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 geographical backgrounds.

The American College of Sofia provides an outstanding private education to 933 Bulgarian and international students (SY 2024-25). Accredited by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and International Baccalaureate®, ACS offers a rigorous academic program and an impressive variety of extracurricular activities.

The American College of Sofia is operated and funded by Sofia American Schools, Inc., a non-profit, educational corporation chartered in 1926 in the United States by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



## **ACS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Avis T. Bohlen  
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Borislav Stefanov '97  
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Georgi Metodiev, Director of Planning  
and Institutional Advancement  
Gergana Yaneva,  
Director of Advancement  
Zlatina Mitova, Director of Events

# IMPACT OF GIVING

Number of Donors

Amount Raised

128

**1,474,322 BGN**



Unrestricted

**724,359 BGN**

Need-Based Financial Aid

**565,251 BGN**

Campus Improvement

**78,757 BGN**

Inez Abbott Giving Circle

**61,757 BGN**

Student Activities

**44,198 BGN**



thank  
you

# DONORS LIST

Gifts of **10,000 –  
99,999 BGN**

Gifts over

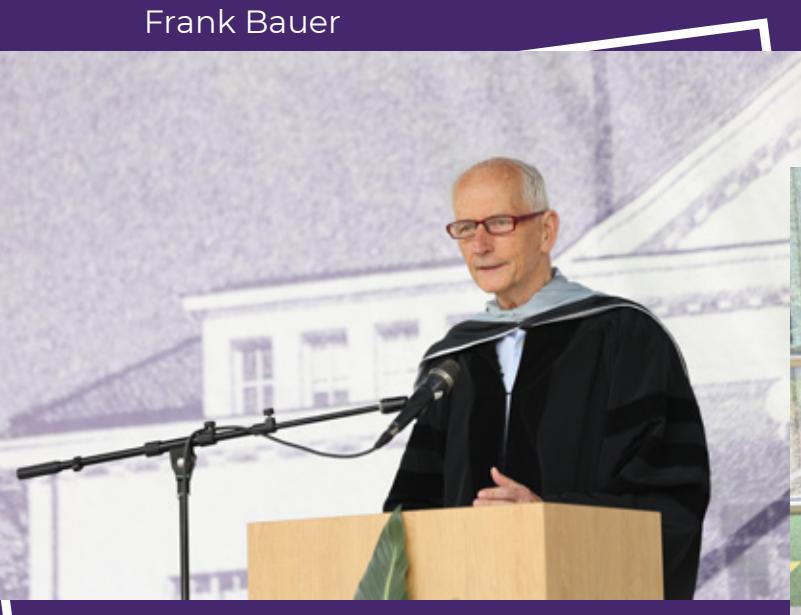
**100,000 BGN**



America for Bulgaria Foundation  
Robert and Nellie Gipson  
Domuschiev Impact Foundation  
Frank Bauer  
The Tianaderrah Foundation

Avis Bohlen  
Carl Djerassi Charitable Trust  
Daniella Molle  
Dmitry Isachenko  
Karen Collias  
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Sunrise Scholarship Donor  
Theodora Konetsovska  
Todor Todorov and Kristina Maercklein  
Tom and Patricia Gipson  
Peter and Vania Cenkovi  
William J. Williams

Frank Bauer



Nellie Gipson



# THE YEAR IN 5 DONATIONS

## Arts Fest

On June 7, the American College of Sofia hosted the annual Arts Fest, a tradition since 1995 that unites students, parents, alumni, and friends to celebrate creativity and community. This year's event, raised 47,744 BGN in support of the tuition reduction program, campus improvements, and student activities. Attendees enjoyed live performances, club stands, and interactive activities. The College extends thanks to student performers and clubs, parent ambassadors, faculty and staff, sponsors, donors, and guests who contributed to the event's success.



## Tennis Court Renovation

The renovation of the tennis and volleyball court was made possible through the generosity of the ACS Parent Ambassadors, led by Dmitry Isachenko and Vania Cenkova. The project has provided students with an upgraded space for athletic and recreational activities, fostering teamwork and well-being. This initiative exemplifies the community's ability to translate vision into tangible improvements that enhance student experiences. The new facilities will create opportunities for hosting events and competitions that further engage students and strengthen school spirit.



## Ss. Cyril and Methodius Scholarship



The Ss. Cyril and Methodius Scholarship, established by the Domuschiev Impact Foundation, covers full tuition for five Bulgarian students in the Class of 2030 for the duration of their five-year ACS education. The program prioritizes students from single parent or guardian households and demonstrated significant

financial need. For recipients residing outside Sofia, the scholarship includes ACS dormitory accommodation. This initiative enables talented students to access a high-quality education and supports their academic and personal development.

## America for Bulgaria Scholarship Program



In partnership with the America for Bulgaria Foundation, ACS continues to provide full financial support, including tuition and dormitory accommodation, to displaced Ukrainian students. These students are fully integrated into academic and extracurricular life, contributing diverse perspectives and talents to the ACS community. The program reflects our shared commitment to inclusivity, compassion, and educational opportunity amid global challenges. Their presence enriches classroom discussions, strengthens peer connections, and inspires the entire community to embrace resilience and empathy.

## Student Activities Fund (SAF)



The Student Activities Fund supports student-led initiatives that foster innovation, leadership, and community impact. This year's SAF live-pitch session featured projects across academic, artistic, and community-focused initiatives, including Fission International Science Fair, SofiaTalks Business, Model United Nations Conference, Career Fair, Music Jam, TEDxYouth@ACS, FIRST Robotics Competition, and Green Committee. Established in 2014 by ACS alumni, SAF provides financial support, guidance, and mentoring, empowering students to translate ideas into meaningful actions both on campus and beyond.

# The Inez Abbott Giving Circle Generosity Report: 2024-2025

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

## 2024-2025 Financials

Total Raised to Date:	Total Spent to Date:
<b>\$207,000</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>
	
Number of donors:	Alumni donors:
<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>

### Total Impact:

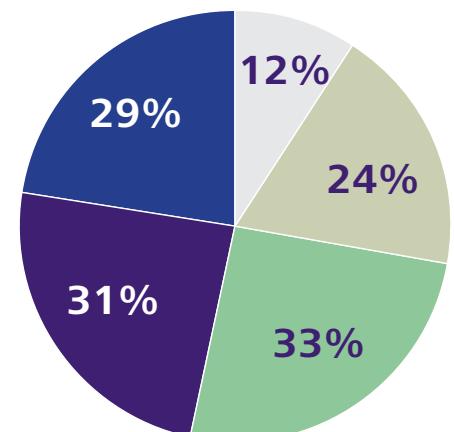
**6** The number of young women supported in their ACS educational journey.

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

- A member of The Inez Abbott Giving Circle

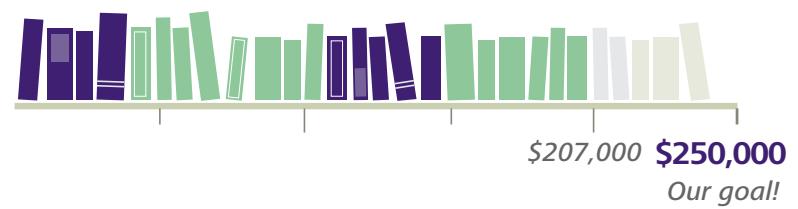
### Our Progress

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 ● 2025  
% of funds raised per year

### Our Goal



# Impact of The Circle



In the 2024-2025 school year, the Giving Circle proudly supported four young women - **Alexandra (Ali) Stoycheva '27, Sofia Ilcheva '26, Nora Paskaleva '25, and Nikoleta Stoynova '25.**

**Ali**, originally from Bourgas, is passionate about Biology and Chemistry, with a goal of becoming a physician.

**Sofia**, originally from Plovdiv, loves Robotics and is exploring universities in the UK and US where she may pursue a major in engineering.

**Nora**, originally from Varna, has just enrolled in her freshman year at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Nikoleta**, originally from Kazanluk, began her first semester at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island where she plans to study Mechanical Engineering.

▲ Left to right: Sofia Ilcheva, Aleksandra Stoycheva, Georgi Metodiev (ACS Director of Planning and Institutional Advancement), Nikoleta Stoynova, Nora Paskaleva.

◀ Nikoleta Stoynova in front of Brown University's Engineering Research Center.

## Supporters of The Circle



With our donors' steadfast support, the Abbott Circle is \$43,000 away from reaching its goal of \$250,000 raised.

Once we meet our initial 250,000 goal, we will explore how the Giving Circle can support extracurricular options for our Abbott Scholars. Just as it has until now, your generosity will continue enabling our students' exceptional academic journey at ACS.

## What's Ahead

The Circle's priority in the past 4 years has been support of the financial needs of existing students whose families live outside Sofia, covering 50-70% of total tuition. We will continue to do so.

As we grow our resources and meet our initial goal, we will also focus on supporting impactful experiential opportunities for our scholars during their time at ACS, such as attending a summer conference, an international science competition, or a literary seminar.

**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](mailto:t.konetsovska@acsbg.org)) and Karen Collias ([karen.collias@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.acs.bg).

# DONORS LIST



## Gifts of **5,000 - 9,999 BGN**

Christopher Dell

John J. Dougherty

Marcie Ries

Nedko Kyuchukov

Karen Seymour

Roger Whitaker

Svilen Spasov

Simlogic Ltd.

Valerie Brackett and Nikolaos Monoyios Charitable Fund

Vesselin Arnaudov





# DONORS LIST



Gifts of **1,000 - 4,999 BGN**

Andrey Evtimov  
Ann S. Ferren  
A Data Pro Ltd.  
Bilyana Mineva  
Boris Statev  
Borislav Stefanov  
Dimitar Kyurkchiev  
Dimitar Hristov  
Emily Sargent Beasley  
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Ivan Manolov  
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Tesy Ltd.  
Thomas Marshall  
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Workshop for Civic  
Initiatives Foundation  
Zornitsa Milcheva  
360 Energy Ltd.  
Anonymous (2)

# VOICES OF GRATITUDE

ACS scholarship recipients share how your support has transformed their education and their futures



**I** want to express my gratitude for the scholarship you provided – words cannot describe how grateful I am! It gave me much needed support when my family was struggling financially and was my motivation to keep working hard on myself and my studies!

**T**his scholarship has given me the opportunity to open myself to the world and to new experiences I hadn't even imagined before. I discovered my passion for singing and performing, which led me to some of the big Bulgarian stages like Hall 1 of the National Palace of Culture, international projects and charity events. I also discovered my affinity for diplomatic relations – this led me to Geneva and the Yale Model UN conference this year. This scholarship showed me a new world of opportunities I'll forever be grateful for.

**A**CS changed my life entirely. I met so many new people, found new hobbies and learned new life lessons. I got to be the student of many passionate teachers, who not only taught us a subject, but also prepared us for the future.

**A**CS was a transformative experience for me. It gave me a worldview and taught me to approach things in a way that has been of enormous help to me and both my professional and personal growth. It taught me that you can do everything if you just try and keep learning along the way. Something which, although it might sound simple, is something which a lot of my peers from other schools don't have. ACS is one of the most impactful things that have happened to me and would not be possible for me without the scholarship.

**T**he scholarship was a powerful vote of confidence and an example of what it means to recognize promise in a student and choose to invest in it. It showed me the incredible impact that such an approach can have, especially at a formative age. My scholarship has stayed with me as a great reminder of the importance of seeking out talent, ambition, and drive in others, and it's shaped the way I think about how I can and should show up in the world - with generosity, intentionality, and trust in the people I choose to support.



Total amount of financial assistance awarded:

**BGN 2,547,073**

Total number of students awarded a tuition discount:

**268**

**87%** of the applicants for financial assistance were awarded a tuition discount

**Full scholarships awarded to 29 students**

The Polansky Scholarship  
The Oberbauer Scholarship  
The Gipson Scholarship  
Ss. Cyril and Methodius Scholarship  
The Sunrise Scholarship  
The Robin Mittenthal Scholarship

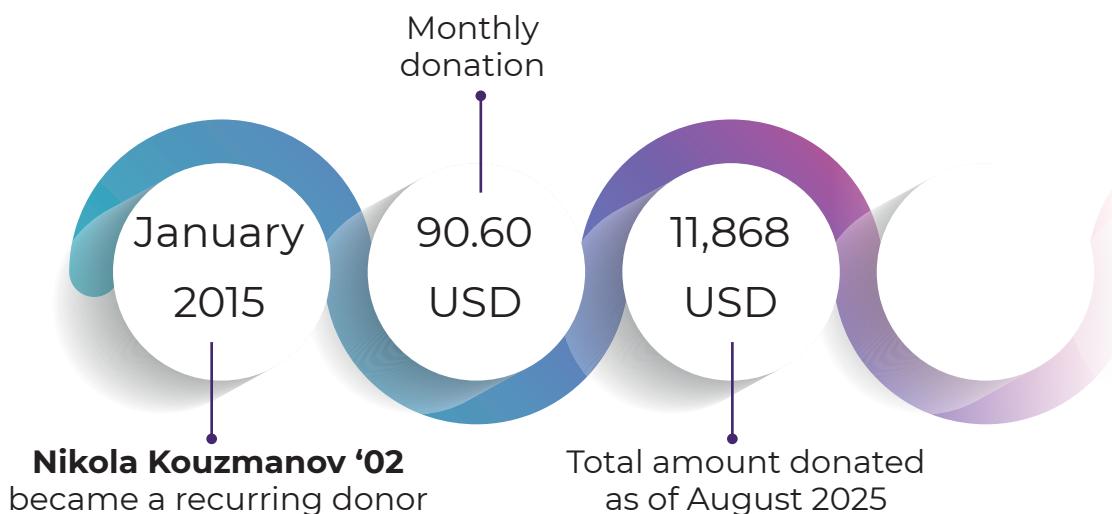


# RECURRING DONORS

ACS alumni are not just graduates - they are lifelong members of the ACS community. Every recurring gift from an alum embodies a piece of their own journey, a reflection of the experiences and opportunities that shaped them. Their generosity creates a living connection between past and present. Such steady support fuels programs and experiences that shape futures, ensuring that the spirit of ACS continues to inspire new generations, showing students that someone believes in them. It's a quiet but powerful way of saying:



**We were here. We care.  
We cheer you on.**



Aleksandr Khasymski '03

Alexander Kanov '12

Alexander Tomov '04

Andriana Sterling '02

Berta Darakchieva '05

Boryana Yurukova '97

Divna Gogeva '05

Elena Gerasimova '03

Evelina Hobson '98

Georgi Klissurski '10

Ivaylo Kotzev '98

Kalina Manova '98

Kristian Nikolov '12

Maria Pencheva '02

Maria Boshnacova '10

Milko Pavlov '02

Nadezhda Zhelyazkova '09



Nediyana Daskalova '10

Nikola Kouzmanov '02

Simeona Manova '02

Tatiana Batalska '98

Yordan Cenov '02

Youlian Petkov '97

Anonymous (2)

The alumni donors listed have established recurring monthly or annual contributions through PayPal.



# DONORS LIST

## Gifts of **500 - 999 BGN**

Bulgaria Air

Corporate Business Technologies

Milko Todorov

Nikolay Krivoshiev

Nora Hesse

Paul Johnson

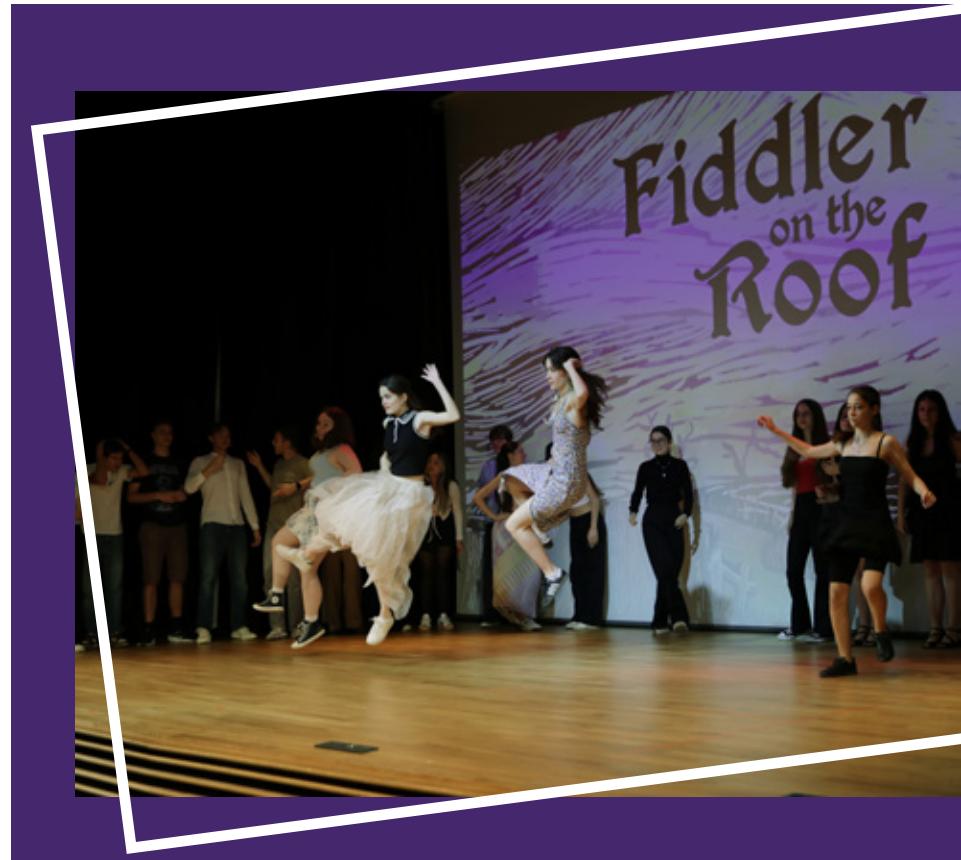
Radoslav Iliev

REWE Digital Bulgaria

Valentin Georgiev

Schwab Charitable

Anonymous



# DONORS LIST



## Gifts **up to 500 BGN**

Alexandra Nikolova

Anastasiya Dimitrova

Andrey Pandaliev

Bilyana Dencheva

Daniela Simova

Daniel Georgiev

Dara Nikolova

Desislava Proshkova

Elitsa Popova

Gergana Grant

Gergana Yaneva

Georgi Georgiev

Georgi Iliev

Joan B. Wilson

Jordan Hlebarov

Juliana Kolova

Kalina Ikonomova

Kalina Ivanova

Martin Borisov

Maria Mircheva

Olya Boyadzhieva

Pavlina Draganova

Pavlin Vutov

Richard Ewing

Stanislav Maleshkov

Svilen Vasilev

Trayan Trayanov

Viktor Dimitrov

Anonymous (14)

# CORPORATE SPONSORS

**TESY**  
It's impressive

MAXALA



 **Postbank**

*Bulgaria Air*

 **EY**

  
ENDUROSAT

 **SAP**

 **matstar**

 **Изида**  
Сметанов  
Сладолев

**TECHNOPOLIS**  
ПРАВИ ЖИВОТА ПО-ХУБАВ

 **DATA PRO**

 **CQ**  
TRANSLATIONS

 **REWE  
DIGITAL  
BULGARIA**

 **BROADCOM.**

 **Britos**

 **LimeChain**

 **3m  
DESIGN**

 **ocado  
TECHNOLOGY**

 **Praktiker**  
винаги има решение

 **НОВ  
БЪЛГАРСКИ  
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ**

 **Lilia**  
FLOWER SHOP

 **БАЛДАРАН**  
ИЗВОРНА ВОДА

 **360 ENERGY**  
enabling energy transition

 **SIM LOGIC**  
Total control for better solutions

# GRATITUDE WALL



# SUPPORT ACS

At the American College of Sofia, giving is more than generosity. It's a shared belief in the power of education to transform lives. Each gift, no matter the size, strengthens our mission to nurture curious minds, inspire innovation, and build a thriving community of lifelong learners.

When you support ACS, you become part of a tradition of excellence that dates back 165 years. You join alumni, parents, faculty, and friends who ensure that the College continues to provide a world-class education to the next generation of students.



## DONATE NOW!



**Need-Based  
Financial Aid**



**Student  
Activities**



**Excellence  
in Teaching**



**Campus  
Improvement**



**The Inez Abbott  
Giving Circle**

Please get in touch with the ACS Development Office at  
[advancement@acsbg.org](mailto:advancement@acsbg.org) to coordinate your donation.

# CONTACT US



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- ✉️ acs@acsbg.org
- 🌐 [www.acs.bg](http://www.acs.bg)

This report is published by the ACS Development Office and includes gifts received between September 1, 2024 and August 31, 2025. We have made every effort to list all donors. We regret any errors or omissions, and request that you report corrections to the Development Office at [advancement@acs.org](mailto:advancement@acs.org).





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2024–2025**  
[www.acs.bg](http://www.acs.bg)