



Dear Readers,

November in Bulgaria starts with one of the country's most important public holidays, National Awakeners Day. It celebrates those who enabled the country's "awakening" in the 19th century and its transformation into an independent, modern state: teachers, scholars, military and religious leaders, public figures. Over time, the holiday has come to honor a new stripe of Awakener as well — people striving to improve their communities and thus awakening others to what is possible if we all work together.

We present the stories of a handful of individuals, drawn from the hundreds of Awakeners we have the privilege of knowing and partnering with.

A Moral Compass for the Present



Spas Spasov and the other journalists from *Za istinata* are often the only people asking politicians the difficult questions, and the hard-to-come-by responses — the closest to the truth about the work of government and public spending citizens can hope for.

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93-year-old Tsvetana is one of the last survivors of the Bosna and Belene labor camps and the only female camp inmate to break her silence. She says she spoke out because she doesn't know how much time she has left and because it is important to remember the past.

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Community Building



Vassil Terziev has taken on the task of educating the next generation of tech leaders through the Telerik Academy Foundation and of fueling the success of innovative businesses through startup incubator Campus X and his activities as an investor.

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The largest volunteering platform in Bulgaria, TimeHeroes, has found five surefire ways businesses can reenergize their teams and keep top performers, ultimately improving their bottom lines.

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Slowly but steadily communities along the Danube are waking up to new possibilities, and Dunav Ultra and the tireless Boris Begamov deserve at least some of the credit for that.

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Godspeed!



Over three decades, Paul and Judy, a family of music missionaries from the United States, have worked with every vulnerable group there is in Bulgaria: minorities, the poor, the sick, the unwanted.

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