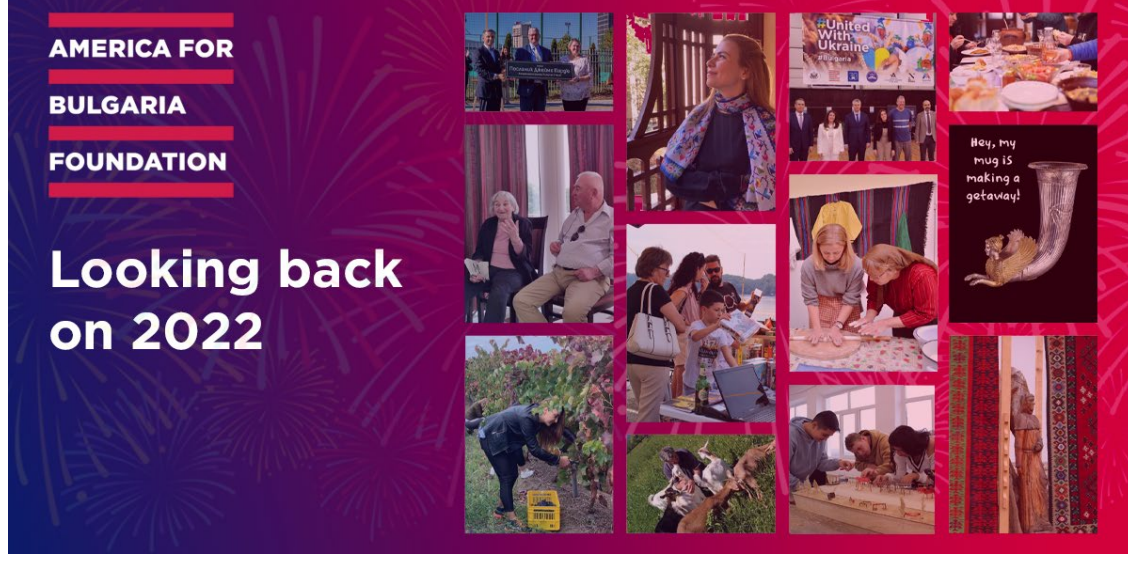


What's new? | [Need more optimism?](#)



Dear ABF Community,

Adversity often brings to light the resilience we witnessed in 2022. Against seemingly insurmountable odds, our partners — old and new — from business, the NGO sector, the diplomatic corps, and government are all part of an expanding collaborative community that rises to meet any challenge, no matter how extraordinary.

This was proven yet again in a year that has been far more eventful than expected. In 2022, this community worked to provide shelter and jobs to Ukrainians fleeing a war, promoted women's health, highlighted Bulgaria's cultural heritage, and helped revive underutilized urban centers even while navigating economic challenges. The mission-driven professionals working in independent media, who remain undeterred by pressure or threats, continue to supply the oxygen essential to Bulgaria's democracy.

The thousands of individuals who spare no effort to extend a helping hand to fellow citizens and to safeguard Bulgaria's bright future are deserving of our thanks and admiration. Their commitment showcases what we can do as a society when we share a view toward the common good and take action.

Looking back, we acknowledge the challenges, yet we also feel grateful for the remarkable Bulgarian citizens we welcomed into our community. We are bidding 2022 farewell certain that, with the growing number of partners and friends, Bulgaria's civil society will only get stronger.

On behalf of the Team at ABF, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season and a healthy and safe 2023!

Nancy Schiller  
President, America for Bulgaria Foundation

**2023 is a special year for the America for Bulgaria Foundation, with new opportunities and programs already in the pipeline, so make sure you [subscribe to stay in the know](#).**

## 2022 Highlights



### Hundreds of Bulgarian, American Volunteers Stand #UnitedWithUkraine

Russia's bombs have sought to destroy and divide, but they have united most of the world in support of Ukraine instead.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### Belene Survivors Relive Trauma to Help Contemporaries Avoid Past Mistakes

The ABF team and partners traveled to Belene in the company of camp survivors Khalil Rasim and Tsvetana Dzhermanova.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### Book Your Next Rural Holiday in Tutrakan, North Bulgaria

Snail derbies, gourmet delights, beehive-air therapy, and strolls through 19th-century villages are just some of the offerings of the Bulgarian North.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### If You Want to Change the World, Start with Your Own Neighborhood

Once a busy hub, Ruse River Station is now a lonely space lined with concrete and crumbling buildings. The Collective's team wants to change that.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### Never Heard of Thracians? Here's a Refresher on Europe's First Kings

The ancient civilizations of Southeast Europe are the subject of a traveling exhibit aiming to assert the region's place in world history.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### Alexandrina Pendatchanska: Neutrality Is Morally Unacceptable

Through her music and civic engagement, Ms. Pendatchanska has made known her strong views in support of democratic freedoms and justice.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### Esil Duran and America for Bulgaria Support Breast Cancer Awareness

Renowned performer Esil Duran visited ABF to talk about awareness-raising events like Race for the Cure and support for loved ones battling cancer.

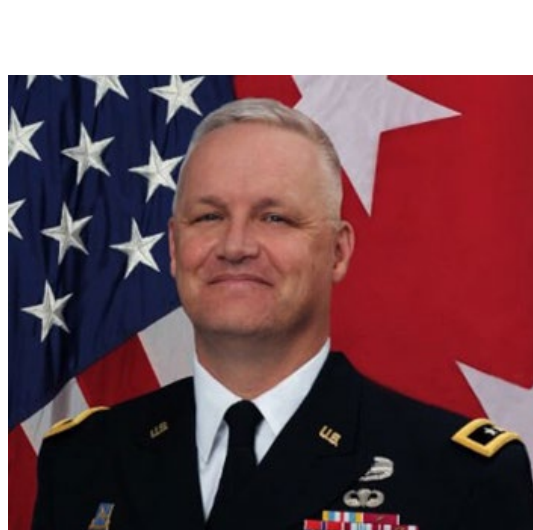
[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### New Horizons for Chiprovtsi and Its Proud, Centuries-Old Heritage

Anita Komitska, custodian of Bulgaria's most famous patterned fabric, has a mission: to help build a better future for Chiprovtsi by promoting its rich past.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### Major General (Ret.) Paul H. Pardew Is ACF's Newest Board Member

In continuation of his late parents' legacy of friendship and support for Bulgarian democracy, Major General (Ret.) Pardew joined the Anti-Corruption Fund as an advisor.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### 76 Qualify for Next Round of LEAP, ABF's Leadership Program

The candidates were shortlisted out of a record 410 applications. LEAP is designed and funded by ABF in partnership with leading US education provider Babson College.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Stay in Touch

Be the first to learn about new opportunities: [subscribe to this newsletter](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

