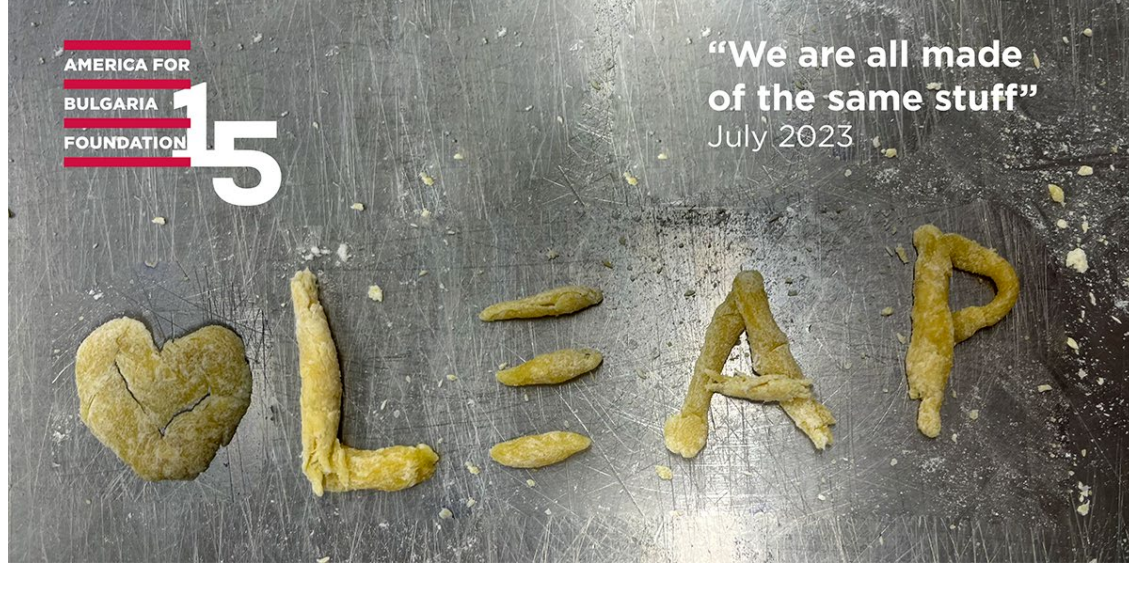


[What's new?](#) | [Need more optimism?](#)



Dear Friends,

This month we talk about community building by looking at various communities: a coalition of activists working to make our cities better places to live, a group of young leaders with a shared vision for a more prosperous and inclusive Bulgaria, and the country's next generation of independent journalists.

We also mark the birth of a new community, our Fellowship of Health, and share some exciting partner news—the long-awaited opening of The Purifier, an arts and crafts center and coworking space in the Rhodope Mountains.

Happy reading—whether you are packing for a holiday or already enjoying a much-deserved break. We are taking some time off, too, and will be back in September with more stories from the ABF community.

Be the first to read the latest stories and discover new opportunities by [subscribing to this newsletter](#).

\*The quotes in the subject and the next section title are from Mary Poppins by P. L. Travers.

## “All moving to the same end”



**A Leadership Program Has Surprising Lessons on Community, Inclusion**

Participants in ABF's LEAP program come from different fields but found ample common ground and a shared vision — of a better Bulgaria for all.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



**It Can't Be Done? Martin Yankov and The Collective Show Otherwise**

A dirty river canal, a graffitied back alley, and a parking lot's rooftop are no one's idea of good places to hang out. No one except The Collective's.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Community milestones



**The Purifier Opens Its Doors to the Public**

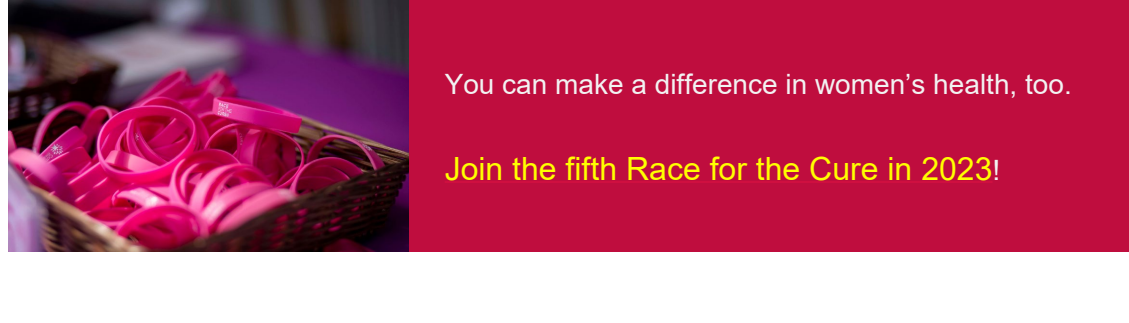
Dozens of friends and supporters attended The Purifier's opening on June 23. Bulgaria's "cosmic" voice Valya Balkanska and internationally renowned bagpiper Petar Yanev were guests of honor. Members of our team were also there to mark the completion of a years-old dream by master woodworker and visionary Radenko Velinov, who came back from Scotland to preserve Bulgarian traditions in his native Smilyan.

Haven't heard of The Purifier and its creator yet? [Read our story here](#).



**Celebrating One Year of Work in Healthcare**

Our work in healthcare is a year old! We marked the occasion by gathering partners and friends in the field of healthcare at the America for Bulgaria Center last month. Our small but robust Fellowship of Health also celebrated our partner, CancerCare.bg's efforts to improve women's health in Bulgaria. Thanks to their Race for the Cure campaign, proudly supported by ABF, over 1,100 women across Bulgaria were screened for breast cancer free of charge this year.



You can make a difference in women's health, too. [Join the fifth Race for the Cure in 2023!](#)

## On the power of community



This summer, we saw off the first class of the America for Bulgaria Foundation's journalism fellowship program Media E:volution—a nine-month journey offering paid internships in two news outlets, practical workshops, mentorship, and a supportive, friendly environment for all. Graduating fellows worked moving, thought-provoking essays about the power of community. We will publish a selection in the next several issues of this newsletter.

**Read the stories:**



**Engagement with the Past Is Integral to a Healthy, Prosperous Society**

"Since I can remember, I have been digging into the past," writes fellow Katerina Vasileva in an essay that explores her interest in history and the relationship between democracy and memory.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



**How Soccer Helped Six Young Men Get Past Their Differences**

Radoslav Aleksandrov, of the Media E:volution program's first class, writes eloquently about finding community in a group of soccer fans. "True community brings connection, not division," he says.

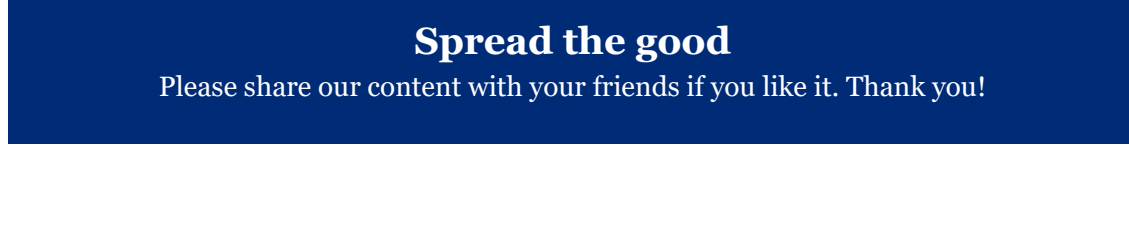
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## Stay in Touch

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

Sending warm regards,

Your friends at the America for Bulgaria Foundation



**Spread the good**  
Please share our content with your friends if you like it. Thank you!