

EAST EUROPEAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

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Have Questions or Feedback for Us?

We're always listening. Please email board@eefc.org with your thoughts and ideas.

No one knows us better than our community, and your thoughts are invaluable as we plan for the future.

A Note from Alex Markovic

When I became President in 2019, the Board was just finalizing a new Strategic Vision for our organization. We laid out some plans that felt pretty radical at the time, and we thought it might take two to three years to reach our goals. But 2020 completely redefined our perception of "radical change." When the Board revisited that document during our Fall 2020 daylong meeting, we were thrilled to find that we'd achieved what we aspired to in 2019 in much better fashion than we could have hoped given the tumult of this past year.

In 2019, our top priority was to address our organization's shaky financial health. To that end we debuted a sliding-scale tuition structure. Before 2020 camps were canceled, our would-be campers registered at every tuition tier, thereby showing us that it could be done. Since then, the EEFC community has been seamlessly navigating these structures for weekly online classes and virtual camps. What once felt like a risky idea has become our community norm, and our financial position has been much strengthened without compromising the accessibility of our offerings.

Our focus on financial stability also meant that the Board wanted to build the internal infrastructure to accept bequests. While the pandemic made this a sensitive issue in 2020, we felt obligated to see our commitment through in a respectful manner. We are already having meaningful discussions with friends and community members who are considering how they might make a lasting impact on the EEFC's future, and developing plans for collaborative stewardship of such generous gifts.

The Board is looking forward to building out a new Strategic Vision for the EEFC in spring of 2021. While it's difficult to imagine the state of affairs in our world in just a few months, we feel confident that the EEFC will always find a way to land on its feet no matter

A Fond Farewell

Jenna Shear will be moving on from her position as Manager of Marketing & Development. We are happy to report that she will continue to be involved in our organization as a volunteer on the Programming, Remote Offerings, and Development Committees. She has a few words for our community:

I will forever be grateful for my time as a staff member of this organization. Not only was it a full-circle-dream-come-true chance to give back to the community that's directly and indirectly shaped almost every aspect of my life, connecting with both coasts has made my life so much fuller. The multifaceted work I've experienced during my time with this organization has shown me strengths that I didn't know I had and pushed me to grow in so many ways. The inspiration taken from working with so many devoted individuals will affect me for years to come.

I really don't have words for all the gratitude I feel, and this decision was bittersweet. Thank you, everyone, for this wonderful opportunity, and I look forward to supporting the EEFC and its work for years to come.

Sincerely,
Jenna Shear

what comes—not least because of the support of our extraordinary community. We are always listening. Please get in touch with [the Board](#) to share your ideas, suggestions, and offers.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2021, with the fervent hope that the winds of change will be in our collective favor!

Reflecting on 2020

Program & Remote Offerings Committees

Over the years, the Program Committee has overcome its fair share of unexpected challenges. We've dealt with last-minute faculty swaps, an endless array of visa issues, numerous travel snafus, and much more, but we've never had a year's worth of work summarily tossed out the window. Well, that's 2020 for you. So before we review this strange and wonderful year, we would like to thank the members of our 2019 committee, who never got to see the fruits of their labor come to fruition.

As the Board made the unhappy decision to cancel Mendocino and then Iroquois Springs, the question went from, "Will we have camp?" to "What now?", which is when a patchwork of innovative and steadfast task forces and subcommittees led by Corinne Sykes and Jenna Shear rallied to the cause of figuring out how to create virtual programming.

We started with online classes led by Michael Ginsburg, Alex Markovic, and Michele Simon. They were all eager to volunteer their time and stepped out into the unknown, while we hustled in the background to develop a systematic and user-friendly approach for our community to enjoy. We are indebted to them for jumping in with gusto and can-do attitudes during one of the most difficult pivots our organization has ever made.

Many of our programming decisions were based on unusual factors. Normally, the Program Committee has over nine months to plan the slates for camp and invite faculty to teach. This year, we were trying to create online classes with just a few weeks notice. In a typical year, we see that our teachers have everything they need once they arrive at camp. This year, we cobbled together teaching setups with whatever laptops, cameras, phones, and speakers our intrepid teachers had handy. We would like to commend all of our faculty members for their pioneer-like spirit this year. They made much with very little, and it was a privilege to bring their artistry and expertise to screens around the world.

More Ways to Help

- **Help us build our audience**

by inviting friends and family to participate in our online classes and Virtual Camps. They can enjoy a free or low-cost taste of camp from the comfort of home.

- **Volunteer your expertise and time.** Lend your skills to one of our online classes or Virtual Camp events.

- **Have other ideas?** Contact office@eefc.org. We'd love to hear them!

Online Classes & Events

We're constantly adding new dance, singing, and instrumental classes to our online offerings. [Watch this page](#) to see the latest class updates and to register.

Virtual Camp: Save the Date!

West Coast: June 25th - 27th

East Coast: August 13th -15th

Stay tuned for additional details and updates!

Brainstorming, planning, and implementing all happened simultaneously throughout the spring and summer as we built out our weeknight classes, debuted two Virtual Camps, and collaborated with The Kitka Institute on our first online "residency." We are indebted to our volunteers for their raw determination and professionalism in the face of the unknown.

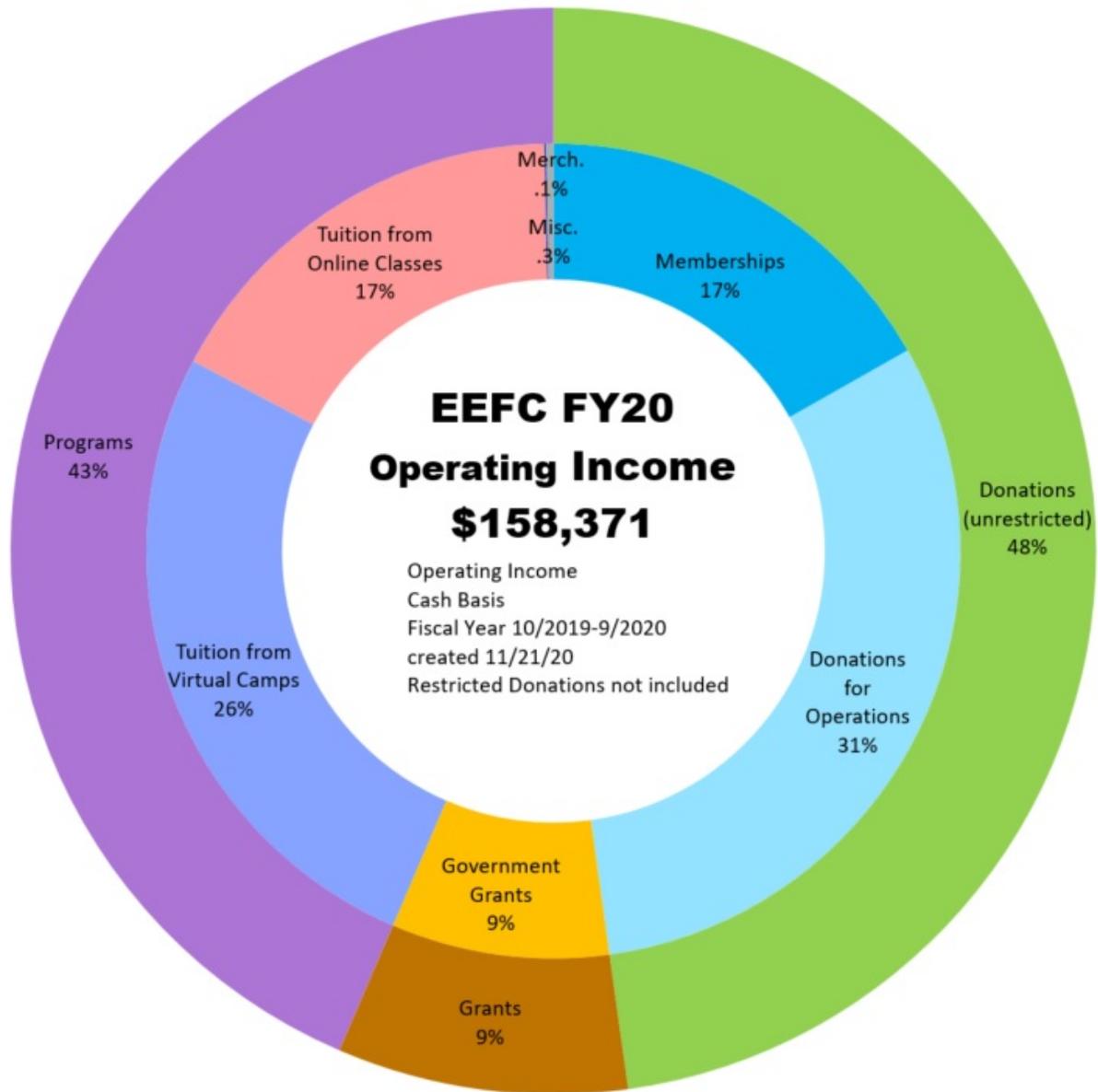
Compared to our in-person workshop process, which runs like a well-oiled machine after decades of practice, this year's planning and execution was admittedly rough around the edges. However, the adventure has given us new appreciation for the journey our organization's founders embarked upon to create our beloved Balkan Camps, and perhaps even more importantly, 2020 has fostered unprecedented innovation that will serve our mission for years to come.

Now that we understand the breadth and scope of our work, we have divided up the planning and execution between the Program Committee and the new Remote Offerings Committee. The two will work in tandem to create online learning opportunities year round, even when we are able to gather in person once more. With stronger sea legs and a better compass, we're eager to navigate another unusual year and promise to offer bigger and better classes, events, and digital camps in 2021.

Fiscal Year 2020

Following an unprecedented rollercoaster ride, the EEFC ended this fiscal year with an operating surplus of \$59,037 as of September 30, 2020. We wish to thank everyone for their support in helping us navigate through this time of uncertainty.

We ended the year with assets of roughly \$348,222, compared with \$196,000 in FY19. This surplus has helped bring us back to a more stable financial position following significant deficits in FY18 and FY17. We received Nest Egg (Endowment) and Crum/Kef Scholarship donations of \$1,797 and \$4,852 respectively. Other contributions include \$9,904 to the Susan Anderson Scholarship Fund, \$20,000 designated toward programming costs, and an additional \$25,835 to the Endowment. These contributions give us a combined total of \$62,388 in restricted donations for FY20, which is not included in the graphs showing annual operating income. The Endowment is invested in no-fee, no-load market index funds and is not included in the graphs below.



Notes:

- Due to the cancelation of in-person camps, no scholarships were awarded in FY20.
- Inner rings show more detailed categories; outer rings are summary categories.
- FY2019 charts are [here](#). FY2018 charts are [here](#). FY2017 charts are [here](#).

