



THANKSGIVING CHARITY GALA DINNER

November 28 | 2025

The Thanksgiving Gala Charity Dinner has long been one of AmCham Slovakia's most cherished traditions. An evening where gratitude, community, and generosity meet in a celebration that reflects the very best of our values. For nearly three decades, this event has brought together members of the AmCham community for a night filled with elegance, shared purpose, and charitable spirit. This year's edition, held in the majestic setting of Bratislava Castle, was no exception, and it became a truly memorable celebration of unity and giving. As AmCham President Martin Maštalír said in his opening remarks, "Tonight, we celebrate more than just a tradition. For 29 years, this event has represented values that matter: gratitude, community, responsibility, and the ability to share."

And this year's theme, Bloom into Competitiveness, underscored the central message: competitiveness doesn't emerge automatically. It needs to be cultivated, through collaboration, resilience, and long-term commitment. "Competitiveness is not a privilege; it is a

shared responsibility," he emphasized. Just as flowers bloom under the right conditions, competitiveness emerges when people, organizations, and ideas are nurtured. Throughout 2025, AmCham's activities have centered on strengthening the business environment, elevating talent, and creating opportunities for sustainable growth. The Gala offered a beautiful, symbolic space to celebrate these ambitions and to inspire the community for the journey ahead.

The program for the evening was expertly guided by the ever-energetic and charismatic Vera Wisterová, whose warmth and stage presence set the perfect tone. Under her lively moderation, the event unfolded seamlessly, balancing elegance with joyful celebration.

A special artistic performance opened the program: an atmospheric "Flower Duet" choreographed specifically for this occasion and performed by Ladislav Cmorej & Vertigo Acrobats. Dancers moved with poetic precision, embodying the evening's message of growth, transformation, and

flourishing potential. Their performance was not only visually captivating but also emotionally evocative, a reminder of the creativity and vision at the core of a competitive, forward-looking society.

One of the most memorable moments of the evening was the Thanksgiving feast itself. Every table appointed its own "carver", often the most experienced, sometimes simply the bravest volunteer, tasked with skillfully slicing the turkey. The remaining Thanksgiving classics including mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, vegetables, and all the comforting flavors of the season, were passed from person to person, prompting conversations, smiles, and the kind of informal connection that makes this dinner unlike any other event of the year.

But Thanksgiving at AmCham has always been about something larger than the celebration itself. The charity component lies at the heart of the event, and this year was no exception. Since its inception, the event has raised significant funds



to support organizations that bring hope and dignity to those in need. This year, the community once again demonstrated extraordinary generosity. Through donations and the always-popular charity tombola, we raised 14,000 € in support of OASIS – Hope for a New Life, a nonprofit providing essential social services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Their work focuses on offering shelter, transitional support, and pathways to independent living and it has been life-changing for many. The contribution from the AmCham community will help ensure that OASIS can continue fulfilling its mission of restoring stability, dignity, and hope.

Another important part of the evening was the presentation of the annual AmCham Awards,

a recognition granted annually by the AmCham staff to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the organization's mission and its community. This award is not given lightly; it reflects long-term dedication, constructive partnership, and a willingness to invest personal time and expertise for the benefit of the whole chamber.

This year, the AmCham team proudly honored Katarína Matulníková, Managing Partner at Wolf Theiss and Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, Viliam Myšička, Managing Partner at Kinstellar and Chair of AmCham Slovakia's Restructuring and Insolvency Task Force, and Marek Holka, Partner at Čechová & Partners and Vice-Chair of AmCham Slovakia's Health Care Committee. Each of them has gone far beyond standard involvement, advancing policy initiatives, shaping key activities, and continuously supporting the Chamber with insight, passion, and reliability.

The rest of the evening unfolded in the spirit that defines Thanksgiving: lively conversations, a warm and welcoming



MARTIN MAŠTALÍR
President of AmCham Slovakia



H.E. GAUTAM RANA
US Ambassador to Slovakia



ALENA KANABOVÁ
Accenture



JANA LVOVÁ
Mastercard Slovensko a Česká republika



DIAMOND PARTNERS



GOLDEN PARTNERS



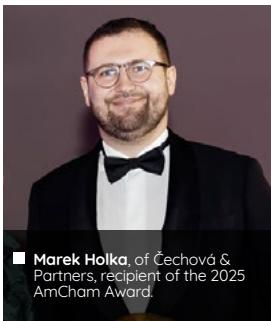
SILVER PARTNERS



BRONZE PARTNERS



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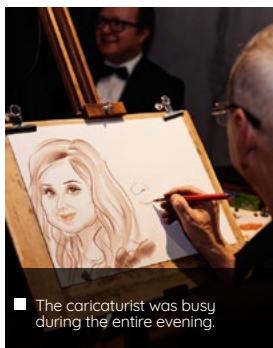


atmosphere, and the feeling that, despite challenges locally and globally, our community remains strong, purposeful, and optimistic. Various fun and creative side activities were available to keep the guests entertained, not to mention tastings of exclusive wines, rums, or gin cocktails.

Throughout the evening, the guests enjoyed enchanting musical performances by the Ladies Ensemble Philharmonic Orchestra. As the evening transitioned into its final hours, OQUOUS came on stage and their energetic selection of hits from the 2000s filled the dancefloor with joy and movement.

As we look toward the coming year, the message of the Gala is clear: when a community comes together, sharing talent, resources, and vision, extraordinary things can happen. Just as flowers bloom when nurtured, a nation's competitiveness grows when its people work together with purpose.

The popular raffle added an element of excitement and fun to the evening. Guests eagerly anticipated the drawing of prizes, which were generously donated by AmCham member companies. Laughter, applause, and joyful cheers filled the room as winners stepped forward, yet the greatest victory was the shared sense of doing good together.



■ From left: Martin Maštalír, President of AmCham Slovakia; Ladislav Kamenický, Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic; Gautam Rana, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic; and Kamil Šaško, Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic.