



TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 391165 Mountain View, CA 94039

www.tef-usa.org

"Hayatta en hakiki mürşit ilimdir" Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



Winter 2009

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! Yeni Yılınız Kutlu Olsun!

Equal Opportunity in Education is Our Dream

Kutay Üstüner
TEF Trustee

Why Education?

Every country needs a generation of young people capable of tackling thorny economic and environmental problems. Every country needs a vibrant democracy with broad participation. Education is the key to meeting both of these needs.

At TEF we believe that all children should have a state-of-the-art education. All children should learn to be active and creative problem solvers. But in Turkey educational opportunities are still far from equal. Children from low-income families are at much higher risk of dropping out of school than children from higher-income families. Children from rural areas or *gecekondu* districts surrounding the big cities are at risk as do children from single-mother households. Without a helping hand these families often cannot afford to keep their children in school.

Surveys show girls are disproportionately affected. The ratio of girls to boys starts dropping at 4th grade. By the 6th grade the imbalance becomes significant. TEF has made keeping these children in school its mission since 1970. Over the past four decades, with your generous support, TEF has helped thousands of secondary school students continue their education and graduate from high school thanks.

Our Students

Döne is one of our students. She is from Seyifli village of Kırıkkale. She is a 10th grader. Her disabled dad and mom are farmers. Their annual income is less than 3000 TL (or \$2000). Both of her older brothers are university students studying to become Turkish teachers. Your support enables these remarkable parents to send their daughter to school.

Deniz is a high school student from Patnos, Ağrı. She lost her parents years ago. Her older sister takes care of both Deniz and her disabled brother on a mere \$100 per month income. Deniz could not have continued her education without TEF's scholarship.

Our Sister Organizations

We were introduced to Döne by Anadolu Çağdaş Eğitim Vakfı (ANAÇEV), a highly respected Turkish NGO whose mission is extending educational opportunities at all levels, from preschool to the university opportunities.

We learned about Deniz through Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği (ÇYDD), another well regarded NGO. ÇYDD dispatches thousands of volunteers every year to all corners of Turkey to reach bright needy students. ANAÇEV and ÇYDD are two of the six sister Turkish nonprofit organizations we work with to identify our students.

Besides Döne and Deniz, TEF's scholarships will keep another 287 students in school this year. Each student has a unique story. All students, though, have a love for learning. They all need a caring hand to help them overcome hardships so they can flourish and become productive and proud citizens of a democratic, contemporary Turkey.

Last month, the **Turkish American Association of California** (TAAC) recognized TEF's long years of service to education through a **Distinguished Service Award**. TAAC presented TEF with the award at their annual Republic Day Ball. We thank our sister organization for their recognition and pledge to continue our service to children throughout Turkey.

Share this newsletter with a friend. Help expand the family of TEF.



TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

- I/We would like to join TEF.
 - \$30 Individual
 - \$50 Family
 - Other _____
- Yes, I/We support the **Aydın Bir Türkiye İçin Elele** campaign.
 - Bir Mum** (One Candle) \$300 will support **one student**.
Less than a \$ a day covers educational expenses of a student for a year.
 - Yeni Ay** (New Moon) \$ 1,500 will support **5 students**.
 - Ay Yıldız** (Moon and Star) \$ 3,000 will support **10 students**.
 - Dolunay** (Full Moon) \$ 6,000 will support **20 students**.
 - Güneş** (Sun) \$15,000 will support **50 students**.

NAME _____
Street Address _____ CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____
e-mail Address _____ Phone Number _____

Checks payable to: Turkish Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 391165, Mountain View, CA 94039

All donations & membership dues are tax deductible. *IRS TIN: 23-7050060; CA Franchise Tax Board ID: D 0595318*

Some of our 289 students who will continue their education this year thanks to your support.



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