

# TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 623 Berkeley, California 94701  
www.tef-usa.org

“En hakiki mürşit ilimdir.” Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



Fall 2004

## EDITORIAL

Alison Hicks

**"Education is not just a good thing in itself. The evidence shows that it is crucial to reducing poverty, improving general health... and enabling people to play a full part in their communities and nations."**

**The United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF)**

TEF has been dedicated to educating needy children in Turkey for over three decades. Since then research has grown showing that educating children, and girls in particular, benefits not only the children involved but also their communities and generations to come. Recently TEF started funding a special program targeting girls in rural southeastern Turkey.

The United Nations emphasizes the crucial part education plays in economic development and improved quality of life. In fact the UN claims that "None of the world's developed countries developed without making a significant investment in education."

**Expectations high, but funding low**

**Despite growing recognition that access to education is key to eliminating poverty, rich countries have reduced their support for education and development over the decades.** Aid to developing countries dropped 18 percent in the 1990s and International Development Association loans to education dropped 33 percent between 1997 and 2001. In 2002 United Nations agencies and bilateral donors launched a Fast Track Initiative (FTI) intended to reverse this drop in educational development aid and thus fund UNICEF's education-based poverty eradication efforts.

A year later, however, when they requested an FTI progress report, they instead got a "No Progress Report." In this report

the Global Campaign for Education stated that "there is no progress to report. The chief responsibility for this embarrassing predicament rests with the rich countries... donors have failed to deliver convincing backing."

Given the outcome of the recent election, it appears that tax revenues will fall even further and military spending will increase in the U.S. Funding for educational programs will be left increasingly up to individual donors like yourself.

**If you are a conservative who believes that individuals should voluntarily pay for human services like education, now is the time to step forward and show that this approach works. If you are a liberal who believes that we should be taxed to pay for essential services like education, now is the time to tax yourself.**

**That is why, when you plan your holiday, Bayram or year-end giving, I urge you to make as large a donation as possible to TEF's scholarship programs.** Remember that more than 98 percent of your donations go directly to children in Turkey. You cannot find a more direct way to fund poor children's education.

I also urge you to expand TEF's circle of donors. Pass this newsletter on to a friend. Write an article about TEF in your community newsletter. If a friend asks you what you want for the holidays, ask for a donation to TEF.

Lastly, I want to pay a short tribute to Celik Guracar who has been writing TEF's editorials for years. I, personally, have been inspired by the wealth of information and heartfelt sincerity in his writing and hope that he will contribute an occasional editorial in the future.

**RAMAZAN BAYRAMINIZ KUTLU OLSUN.**

## TEF NEWS

### TEF Financials

Over the last fiscal year, TEF's total income was \$65,171, approximately \$12,000 over the previous fiscal year's total and thus closer to our pre-recession income of 2001. We received \$49,130 in donations, \$15,000 for our Endowed Scholarship Fund and \$1,041 as interest.

### Expenses only 1.5% of income

TEF's expenses totaled \$995 or only 1.5% of our total income. We spent \$735 on brochure printing and mailing, and the rest on PO Box, bulk mailing and bank transfer fees.

Last year TEF transferred \$64,640 to 6 organizations in Türkiye to sponsor a total of 313 children.

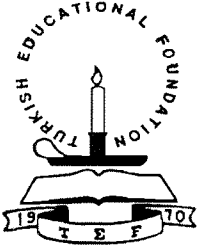
Türk Eğitim Derneği	140	\$30,240
Çağdas Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği	75	\$12,000
Anadolu Çağdas Eğitim Vakfı	50	\$10,000
Kadın Araştırmaları Derneği	18	\$ 5,400
Rize Vakfı	20	\$ 5,000
Ege Üniversitesi	10	\$ 2,000
Total	313	\$64,640

### A Salute to Hediye Çelebi and Seviğ Ayter

This year two long time trustees, Hediye Çelebi and Seviğ Ayter, stepped down for health reasons.

Hediye Çelebi and her husband Mehmet arrived from Canada over thirty years ago, when TEF was a fledgling organization. They had long believed that impoverished children deserved the gift of education and joined immediately. During those early years, Hediye served as the Foundation's Chair for Social Activities. She organized numerous events to publicize TEF's work in the Bay Area. She organized, cooked and cleaned, sometimes single-handedly, and played a leadership role in recruiting members. We thank Hediye for her tireless efforts on behalf of TEF.

Seviğ Ayter served as Board member for many years and more recently as the secretary. The Foundation owes much to his work organizing our records, and to his clear vision when TEF expanded its collaboration with nonprofits in Turkey. We will miss his common sense, foresight and articulate analysis at Board discussions. Seviğ has not been well recently, but he is recuperating. We thank him for his work, wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him among us again.



## TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

I/We would like to join TEF and have enclosed membership dues.

- |                                     |       |                                  |         |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$30  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$250   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family     | \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor   | \$500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   | \$_____ |

**This is all we need for one child's entire year of education. Please become a sponsor.**

I do not want to become a member but I am interested in helping children in Turkey. Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

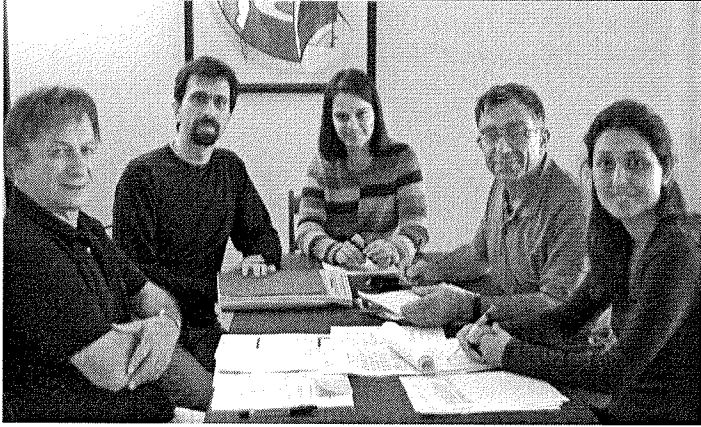
I am already a member. Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Turkish Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 623, Berkeley, CA 94701

All donations and membership dues are tax deductible.



Meet some of our Trustees (from left to right): Erdem Esengil, Kutay Üstüner, Müge Bakırcıoğlu, Duygu Demirlioğlu and Asena Uğur Gencil. Missing trustees are Çelik Güracar and Turgut Gür.

### TEF Welcomes New Trustees

Asena Uğur Gencil and Müge Bakırcıoğlu were elected to two-year terms. Müge is continuing as Treasurer of the organization, and Asena is the new Secretary.

Born in Ankara, Asena attended school in Ayvalık and Darüşşafaka in Istanbul. She was elected by the Ministry of Education to represent Turkey in the United World Colleges in Canada. She received her Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University and now works at Cisco.

Müge, born and raised in Istanbul, received a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She now works on virtual reality products at the Immersion Corporation.

### TEF student successes!

ANACEV informed us that eight TEF-sponsored students have moved on to universities around Turkey. Kasım Ağbaba is a sophomore at Antalya's Akdeniz University. Görkem Demirdöğler is a junior at Istanbul's Boğaziçi University. Oğuzhan Üçler is a freshman at Izmir's Dokuz Eylül University. Zuhale Haman and Hülya Durusoy are sophomores at Kırıkkale University. And Sevil Özkan, Reyhan Koç and Pelin Köstekçi are sophomores at Ankara's Hacettepe University.

Sevil Özkan continues to work with ANACEV, taking an active role in ANACEV's Youth Commission. All eight students are from poor Turkish families. Most will be the first person in their community to graduate from a university. We hope they inspire their sisters, brothers and neighbors to aim for a university education as well.

### Informational tabling increases TEF's support

TEF members tabled, leafleted and networked this year at the annual Monterey Turkish Festival, the Turkish Republic's 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebration in San Francisco, both organized by TAAC, and the Stanford Turkish Student Association's Commemoration of Ataturk. Events like these offer an invaluable opportunity to meet community members and increase TEF's visibility and base of support.

**Your event can make a contribution too  
It's as easy as a phone call!**

**We encourage you to have one of TEF's informational tables at your local event. Call our outreach and fund raising coordinator Kutay Üstüner at (650) 964-8203 and we will gladly set you up with tabling materials. We may be able to supply a volunteer as well.**

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