



TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 391165 Mountain View, CA 94039

www.tef-usa.org

“Hayatta en hakiki mürşit ilimdir.” Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



Fall 2018

Dear friends,

Today I want to share a letter one of our sponsored students wrote. She is a shining example of the kind of children we support, and describes, better than I ever could, the traditions and poverty that children in rural areas, especially girls, have to surmount to stay in school. Please take a few minutes to read her words. Her last name is withheld out of respect for her privacy.

Greetings,

My name is Tülay. I was born in Diyarbakır's Hani district. My father died the year I was born. I do not remember him. I am the youngest of seven children. I am fifteen. This is my first year in high school.

Four of my elder sisters married young and dropped out of school. That is the way it is in our part of the world. The fate of girls is all the same; they don't go to school.

I have an older brother. He is the only boy in the household. He used to work and pay our rent. He is now doing military service in Ağrı. Even if he were here, he probably couldn't have paid for my school expenses. Because my father is dead, we get 450 TL a month in death benefits from Bağ-Kur; 250 TL of that goes to rent. We make do with what is left, but after paying for electricity, water and heat, what is left is so little...

Our family elders say, “Girls don't need an education.” They didn't want any of my sisters to stay in school. Four of my sisters married young, but my sister Ceylan did not accept their advice. She fought back. Ceylan struggled against tradition for years. I remember the days she secretly went to school. I also remember how much she cried.

In the end she succeeded. Ceylan was one of the first girls in our small district of Diyarbakır not to drop out of school. She won a state scholarship and was able to attend middle and high school. She did not have all the required books and school supplies. She did not achieve everything she could have, but she tried hard to learn. She really tried. She is now at Çukurova University, majoring in Turkish Language and Literature, on a scholarship from Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği.

During her last summer vacation she came home and tried to enroll me in high school. Our family objected, this time not on the grounds that girls need not be educated, but because of our lack of funds. My sister says I have to continue my studies no matter what. I too want to continue. I want to overcome this old tradition, this outdated frame of mind. I want to show everyone how much girls can accomplish!

Tülay is one of the many bright children in Turkey striving to overcome poverty and tradition to continue their education. Their families have so little money that school is a luxury for them. Even a small donation can make the difference between staying in school and dropping out to get married.

All these girls need is a chance. Please sponsor a child. Give her the gift of hope, the gift of education.

Sincerely,

Duygu Demirlioğlu
Duygu Demirlioğlu

Scholarships doubled from 500 students last year to more than 1,000 this year

Last year your donations reached 500 students, funding a record number of scholarships for TEF. This year we broke the record again by funding **1,096** students. One donation of over \$100 thousand funded hundreds of students. But every donation, no matter how small, made a big difference in the life of a child. Thank you so much. For better or worse, the weak Turkish Lira also helped us out.

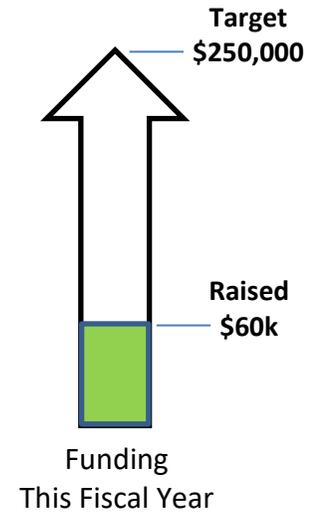
Four highly respected educational foundations selected students for TEF. The foundations set the average scholarship this year at \$210 per student.

Organizations	Students	Total
Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği	760	\$150,700
Anadolu Çağdaş Eğitim Vakfı	250	\$56,000
Gündoğdu Çağdaş Toplum Gönüllüleri	70	\$17,500
Kadın Araştırmaları Derneği	16	\$4,800
TOTAL	1,096	\$229,000

Help us help more students

Despite our success over the past years, **we are still turning down many promising students**. Therefore, we raised our fundraising target for this fiscal year to \$250 thousand.

Today, however, we are far from our target, with only \$60 thousand in donations. The end of the year is our most important fundraising period. Please grant a wish to students in need by giving TEF a generous New Year's donation. Because we are an all-volunteer organization more than 99 cents of every dollar you donate go directly to students.



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) \$400 will support **two students**.
Less than a \$ a day covers the educational expenses of one student.
 - Yeni Ay** (New Moon) \$2,000 will support **10 students**.
 - Dolunay** (Full Moon) \$10,000 will support **50 students**.
 - Güneş** (Sun) \$20,000 will support **100 students**.

NAME _____

Street Address _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

e-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Please make 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