

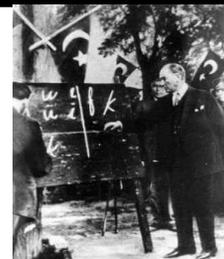


TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 391165 Mountain View, CA 94039

www.tef-usa.org

"Hayatta en hakiki mürşit ilimdir." Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



Fall 2016

I go to school in Şırnak (eastern Turkey). I have nine brothers and sisters. My 16-year-old brother and 14-year-old sister work in construction during the summer. We need their money to survive. I am an honor student; I want to stay in school, but we are very poor, and I may not be able to continue.

— Berivan, seventh grade

I have four siblings. My family gets by on my father's retirement income. We have very little money. I am both going to school and working part-time. The scholarship I received from you gives me hope and makes me study even harder. Because of the aid you give me I am less of a burden to my family.

— Havva, tenth grade

In rural areas of Turkey and in shantytowns in the outskirts of cities, poverty is still the norm, and poverty goes hand-in-hand with difficulties in attending school. Poverty frustrates the dreams of children to continue their education and make some. A small amount of money—a few hundred dollars a year—often makes the difference between attending school and getting married or going to work at an early age. It is TEF's goal to provide the financial assistance that makes this difference and keeps children in school, not at home or in the work place.

The children, as well as their families, realize that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy, to achieving a brighter future. However, they need a little help to break this cycle. The assistance TEF provides is very modest by American standards, averaging about \$400 a year, but it is the margin that enables these children to attend school. TEF's goal is to make the difference between having a bright child stay in school and drop out in order to help his/her family. Because we are an all-volunteer organization, we have very low overhead, typically around 2-3%. The funds that you, our generous donors, send to us go almost in their entirety to students who need and deserve them.



TEF's objective is to enable bright children from low-income families to complete their secondary education. For every child we help, there are hundreds that we cannot support. The need remains huge, but every \$400 that we send to Turkey means that one more child is given the chance to go to school for one more year. We ask you to join in this endeavor by sponsoring a talented and needy child. We invite you to light a candle in a far-off corner of Turkey, to give a young child you will never see the gift of hope, the gift of education. Please help send a child to school.

Sincerely yours,

Duygu Demirlioğlu, President

Board of Trustees: Murat Alaybeyi, Sumru Aral, Müge Bakırcıoğlu, Duygu Demirlioğlu, Ahmet Karakaş, Dilek Zafar

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 **one student**.
About \$1 a day covers the educational expenses of one student in Turkey.
- Yeni Ay** (New Moon) \$2,000 will support **5 students**.
- Dolunay** (Full Moon) \$10,000 will support **25 students**.
- Güneş** (Sun) \$20,000 will support **50 students**.

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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*

Gündoğdu: A Comprehensive Approach to Furthering the Education of Children

One of the organizations with which TEF collaborates is the Gündoğdu Çağdaş Toplum Gönüllüleri Derneği in Bornova, near İzmir. This organization is led by a group of volunteer women, many of whom are former teachers.

Gündoğdu has an approach to educating children that goes beyond simply awarding them monetary aid; it actively involves the family and community in a joint effort to improve the children's learning; it provides group study sessions after school, supplemental instruction with volunteer tutors, two houses to hold these study sessions, activities that promote social and cultural adjustment to urban life, and an extensive support network.

Gündoğdu focuses on children whose families have recently migrated from rural areas to slums in İzmir. These families often face difficulties getting integrated into city life, and tend to congregate in ghettos; their social circumstances severely limit the success of the children in school. Gündoğdu therefore attempts to remove familial and social barriers to student success by involving the families, mothers, fathers and siblings, in a collaborative learning endeavor. The families are part of the effort to keep the children in school and encourage them to put forth their best effort. And the children do flourish with family and community support; they do excel academically.

The organization rents two houses, brings students in for after-school work, provides space for group study in basic subjects—math, Turkish, science, history, geography, English—assisted by university students who serve as volunteer tutors. Mothers are welcome in a separate part of the house; they are taught reading and writing, hand crafts and nutrition. Siblings and neighbor children are also welcome and can participate in study so long as space permits. The goal is to combine academic assistance with a social support network, and to promote a collaborative effort to ensure student success.

The organization supplies financial assistance to students, as well books, school supplies, shoes, clothing, all acquired second-hand whenever possible. In addition to academic instruction and monitoring, Gündoğdu also tries to engage the whole community in the effort to learn, to get integrated into the life in the city, and to become productive citizens.

At this time we collaborate with Gündoğdu to support seventy children. We receive annual reports from them, including the report cards of all the students. In addition, a retired TEF President and Board member, Çelik Güracar, has visited the organization several times during his trips to Turkey, observed its activities firsthand, and held discussions with the teachers who spearhead this organization. Last time he visited, he came back with very positive reports: he found that the students had all passed their classes; nobody had failed. TEF's few hundred dollars of assistance per year, plus the enormous effort and dedication of volunteer teachers, had led to the heartwarming success of the students.