



TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 623 Berkeley, California 94701

www.tef-usa.org

“En hakiki mürşit ilimdir.” Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



EDITORIAL

Turgut Gür

Every year one or more TEF Board members visit our sister organizations in Turkey to strengthen ties, monitor progress, and discuss programmatic needs. This winter, I visited three organizations in Istanbul to personally deliver the TEF scholarship checks for the 2004 - 2005 academic year and to discuss matters of mutual interest to our joint programs.

My first stop was with the Rize Foundation which independently provides support for more than 400 students. Through our joint program, TEF supports 20 students in grades six through eight at Orgeneral Kamil and Saadet Güney School of Primary Education located in the Uçaksavar district of Istanbul. The students here are largely from the outlying gecekondu or slum areas.

I met with the school president Mr. Veysel Güvendi, and Foundation coordinator Ms. Çayhan Dervişoğlu, who also teaches at the same school. Of the 20 students TEF supported at this school, eight graduated last June. Four of the graduates had excellent academic records and qualified for Super High Schools (Super Liseler) requiring 5.0./5.0 grade standing, two qualified for Anadolu High School (Anadolu Lisesi), and another enrolled in a public high school. This is quite an accomplishment for both the students and our program.

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My second stop was with the Women’s Research Association (Kadın Araştırmaları Derneği, or KAD) at Istanbul University. I talked with the program manager Ms. Yeşim Ozer and program Chair Prof. Necla Arat. Through KAD, TEF currently supports 18 female high school students who are geographically spread across Divriği/Sivas, Bozöyük/Bilecik, Nevşehir, Ankara and Istanbul.

I also visited the Association for the Support of Contemporary Living (Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği, or ÇYDD). Since its inception, ÇYDD has supported and made a difference in the lives of more than 20,000 students. Currently, ÇYDD provides educational scholarships for nearly 10,000 university and about 8,000 female high school students. Although the numbers may be impressive, it is important to note that more than 600,000 young girls in Anatolia still lack the means and opportunity to attend schools. So the need for resources and funding is immense.

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I spoke with ÇYDD President Professor Türkan Saylan and Program Coordinator Gülser Alparslan, who is in charge of the "I Have a Daughter in Anatolia, She Will Be a Teacher" (Anadolu’da Bir Kızım Var, Öğretmen Olacak) program. For the last several years, TEF has been supporting 75 female students mostly from towns in Eastern Anatolia in this acclaimed program. But the numbers fell to 47 students this year, in part because 20 students graduated. These students are selected mostly from towns in Eastern Anatolia, and are expected to impact their communities upon graduating and becoming participating and productive citizens. TEF is committed to increasing the number of recipients back to 75 students next fall after Ms. Alparslan scouts Anatolia and identifies additional qualified students.

Please be assured that your generous contributions to TEF are fully dispensed to students in Turkey by TEF’s all-volunteer Board without any administrative overhead, with the exception of minimal incidental expenses such as bank transfer fees, postage, and printing charges. The scholarship monies are deposited in full in the personal bank accounts of the recipient students without any administrative overhead by our sister organizations. Please help TEF make a difference in the lives of needy bright young minds of Turkey.

Dr. Turgut Gür is TEF Vice President and Trustee.

TEF NEWS

Last Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees met on February 26th. The Board approved a proposed set of by law changes, authorized implementation of online donations, and decided to increase the number of scholarships provided through the Ege University Program from 10 to 15.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will beheld on Saturday April 10th at 2:00 pm in Mountain View. If you would like to participate, email us at ustuner@pacbell.net.

Geçmiş Olsun to Çelik Güracar who, after several days at the hospital, is now back home and recovering.

TEF Accepts Online Donations

Our web site www.tef-usa.org now offers convenient online donating. To donate using your credit card, go to our web site and click on the Donate Now button. This secure online donation service is provided by Network for Good, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help individuals connect with their favorite charities. Three percent of your donation is used to cover the credit card fees. The rest is deposited directly to TEF’s bank account. You receive an email from Network for Good, in addition to the letter you receive from us, to confirm your donation. Either the email message or the letter from TEF can be used for tax purposes.



TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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

Individual \$30 **Sponsor** \$250
 Family \$50 Donor \$500
 Sustaining \$120 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 \$_____.

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Checks payable to: Turkish Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 623, Berkeley, CA 94701
All donations and membership dues are tax deductible.

More girls attend school

The number of girls attending school increased by 73 thousand in 2004-2005 through a joint campaign of the Ministry of Education and community organizations. The biggest increase was in Urfa, a city in South Eastern Anatolia, where the number of girls attending school reached 120 thousand, a jump of over 10%, compared to 107 thousand a year ago. In the nearby city of Van the number went up from 74 thousand to 82 thousand. Through this campaign, the percentage of female students increased from 47% to 48%. This is an achievement to celebrate! However, according to the Ministry of Education, there are 566 thousand more school age girls who are currently not able to attend school, mostly due to poverty. The campaign will continue in the coming years. And, you are an important part of it.

Students work to help their families

According to a recent nation-wide survey by Egitim Sen (the Education Union) of a million students of Turkish elementary and high schools, 71% of the students are from families with incomes below the poverty line of 500 YTL (\$400) per month. In Eastern and South Eastern Anatolia, the poorest regions of Turkey, 24% of the students are from families struggling to survive on less than 100 YTL (\$80) per month. As a result, many students join the workforce to help their families. In South Eastern Anatolia, 50% of school-age boys are in the workforce. Nationwide, the percentage of students who are in the workforce is 14% for boys and 5% for girls. Three and a half million Turkish laborers are between 12 and 18 years old. Therefore a modest TEF scholarship of \$250 a year makes a big difference in our students' and their families' lives.



In a ceremony on Feb 23, 2004, organized by Rize Foundation, TEF VP and Trustee Dr. Turgut Gür distributed annual scholarship funds to 20 students at Orgeneral Kamil ve Saadet Güney School of Primary Education. The group picture includes recipient students and several distinguished guests including: 2nd Row, far right - Prof. Cem Alptekin (Dean of Education at Boğaziçi University), 3rd from right Beşiktaş Governor (Kaymakam) Mehmet E. Avcı, far left - School Principal Veysel Güvendi, 3rd row, far right - Rıdvan Kartal (VP of Rize Foundation), 2nd from right - Seref Çalışır (Superintendent of Education of the Beşiktaş School District, center - Çayhan Dervişoğlu (teacher, TEF liaison, and Rize Foundation Board Member), 4th row, center - Dr. Gür.

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