



TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 391165 Mountain View, CA 94039

www.tef-usa.org

“ Egemenlik, kayıtsız şartsız ulusundur.” Mustafa Kemal



Spring 2007

23 Nisan Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramınız Kutlu Olsun

EDITORIAL

Çelik Güracar

TEF Trustee

This year TEF is celebrating its 37th anniversary. In these 37 years many things have changed in Türkiye. For example annual income per capita has grown from \$1,200 to \$5,000 and compulsory schooling has increased from 5 to 8 years. These improvements, however, hide many problems.

One problem is income disparity.

According to the Turkish Institute of Statistics, the bottom 5% of the families, which represent 3.3 million people and 877,000 households, are living on \$135 a month, and the bottom 20% of households are living below the hunger level of \$445 per month. According to another source, the Ankara Chamber of Commerce, there are 18 million people in Türkiye living below the poverty line. Of these, the bottom 1.4% has to live on \$71 per month. These families can understandably spend only 0.25% of their income on education.

Another problem is the education gap.

Twelve million children are in the paid labor force.

Twenty-one percent of those over six years old are illiterate. Twelve million children are in the paid labor force. For poor female children the future holds early marriage, hard work and many babies.

TEF's efforts seem to be a rescue operation. Certainly TEF cannot solve the systemic problems in Türkiye. We can only extend a helping hand in the form of scholarships to the brightest of poor students.

In this TEF cooperates with several organizations in Türkiye, including Türk Eğitim Derneği, Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği and Anadolu Çağdaş Eğitim Vakfı (ANAÇEV). These organizations search out likely candidates for TEF's scholarship

program and send profiles of those students to TEF. The TEF board makes sure that all students we choose to send scholarships match our selection criteria. TEF monitors student progress through school reports sent by the schools or organizations.

Each TEF scholarship is one-year long, but students will continue to get scholarships until they graduate from high school as long as they stay enrolled and successful in their studies.

Over the 2006-2007 school year, TEF granted 278 scholarships totaling \$76,910. TEF's income is made up of membership fees, donations and Endowment Fund income.

A \$5,000 donation gives the donor the right to name a scholarship for a parent, sibling, teacher, mentor, or even oneself.

TEF's Endowment Fund is relatively a new program. While we welcome donations of all sizes to this fund, a \$5,000 donation gives the donor the right to name a scholarship for a parent, sibling, teacher, mentor, or even oneself. The latest scholarship is dedicated to the memory of late TEF Trustee Dr. Sevig Ayter. Donors to this memorial fund include Prof. Dr Umran and Mrs. Elif İnan, İsmayil Guracar and Sharon Levin, Güner and Başak and Yavuz Ayter, Tunç and Lale Doluca, Dr. Sam Maslak, Erdem and Tülay Esengil and Turgay Güven.

As you can see, need in Türkiye for the kind of help TEF is providing is great. TEF members and the TEF Board of Trustees are doing their part. The Turkish American Community and the friends of Türkiye should certainly unite at least in this least common denominator. Please help us expand our membership base. Tell your friends about TEF and its activities. More importantly take an active role in TEF governance and programs. We do need your help.



TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

- I/We would like to join TEF and have enclosed annual membership dues.
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$250 | This is all we need for one child's entire year of education. Please become a sponsor. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$500 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$_____ | |
- 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 391165, Mountain View, CA 94039
All donations and membership dues are tax deductible.

TEF NEWS

More Students Received Scholarship This Year

TEF's income for the previous 2005-2006 fiscal year was a record \$103,115. Of this amount \$74,782 was membership dues and donations, \$25,000 was for Endowed Scholarship Fund and \$3,333 was interest. This was a significant increase in income. As a result we were able to increase the scholarship fund to \$76,910, an 18 % increase over the last school year's \$65,610. The number of scholarships also increased from 240 to 278.

2006-2007 School Year Scholarships

The organizations, the number of students and funds transferred to each organization were as follows:

Türk Eğitim Derneği	81	\$23,432
Anadolu Çağdaş Eğitim Vakfı	58	\$20,474
Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği	86	\$19,604
Kadın Araştırmaları Derneği	18	\$ 5,400
Rize Vakfı	20	\$ 5,000
Ege Üniversitesi	15	\$ 3,000
Total	278	\$76,910

Would You Like to Serve as a Board Member?

Since its foundation hundreds of people served TEF as Trustees and as members of executive boards as treasurers, secretaries, vice presidents and social activities chair persons. Many a time trustees doubled as executives. We would like to see the burden and the pleasure be shared by more people. If you can spare a couple hours a month and are living in the Bay Area and willing to serve TEF, we will be delighted to hear from you. Send us an email at ustuner@pacbell.net.

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