



TURKISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 391165 Mountain View, CA 94039

www.tef-usa.org

“Hayatta en hakiki mürşit ilimdir.” Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



Spring 2017

I am writing these lines on April 23. As you well know, Ataturk dedicated the opening of the Grand National Assembly and the birth of the Turkish Republic on April 23, 1920 to the country's children. Since then, April 23 has been celebrated as Children's Day in Turkey. Schools close on this national holiday; there are ceremonies and parades; children take symbolic seats in the Parliament; children from around the world visit Turkey to take part in the festivities. There are celebrations to mark the day in California as well.

The joy of this holiday is marred by the caption of the picture at right. According to the Turkish Statistics Institute, 37% of the nearly 23 million school-age children in Turkey celebrate April 23 by working for pay. That is 8.4 million children working to earn money during Children's Day!

The income from a day's work is meager, but for many families, the need is so great that even a few dollars that a child worker earns in a day makes a difference.



The financial difference is small between going to school and working to earn money or staying at home to help with household chores. TEF's goal is to make up this difference, to provide an inducement for the family to keep talented children in school. Books, school supplies, shoes and school clothes all cost money—not much, but sometimes an insurmountable problem when money is scarce.

All of our scholarship recipients come from impoverished backgrounds. Most of the children live at home; many work occasionally to help their families. The children are often one of many siblings. They are mouths to feed when there is not enough to go around. They are burdens. TEF scholarships, although quite small by US standards, aim to lift some of this load off the family's shoulders, to furnish an incentive for bright children to continue their education. As a recipient of TEF's assistance expressed it, “Because of the scholarship you gave me, I am less of a burden to my family.”

We invite you to join this endeavor to help a bright child stay in school. For every child we help, there are hundreds of thousands that we cannot support. The need remains huge, but every scholarship that we send to Turkey means that one more child is given the chance to go to school for one more year. Please sponsor a child through our **Aydın Bir Türkiye İçin Elele** campaign. Light a candle in a far-off corner of Turkey. Give a young child the gift of hope, the gift of education. Help send a child to school.

Sincerely,

Duygu Demirlioğlu

Board of Trustees: Murat Alaybeyi, Çağlan Aras, Müge Bakırcıoğlu, Deniz Demiray, Duygu Demirlioğlu, Kutay Üstüner, Dilek Zafar

460 students were awarded TEF scholarships last year

Last year TEF collaborated with four educational organizations in Turkey to select and supervise scholarship recipients. It awarded \$137,000 in scholarship aid to 460 impoverished students through these organizations:

Organization	Students	Total
Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği	255	\$77,500
Anadolu Çağdaş Eğitim Vakfı	120	\$36,000
Gündoğdu Çağdaş Toplum Gönüllüleri	70	\$17,500
Kadın Araştırmaları Derneği	15	\$6,000
TOTAL	460	\$137,000

These students came from all parts of Turkey, always from poor families. In addition, TEF sent a general grant of \$50,000 to Darüşşafaka Lisesi for a total of \$187,000.

Our operating expenses were about 2%; 98% of our total expenditures went to support students.



Help transform this picture → into this. Support TEF's work.



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**.

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