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## JOB CORNER: Positions Available

### **Full-Time Paid Positions**

(1) Executive Director: Full position description available now at [tycvf.org](http://tycvf.org), send cover letter and resume to [jobs@tycvf.org](mailto:jobs@tycvf.org).

### **Volunteer Positions (4-5 hours/month)**

(2) Development Consultant and Outreach Consultant. Invaluable nonprofit experience and you get to help the Turkmenistan Youth and Civic Values Foundation grow our donor base, increase our visibility, and engage more of our community in our fundraising and development efforts. An online application is available at [http://www.tycvf.org/Development\\_outreach\\_consultant.php](http://www.tycvf.org/Development_outreach_consultant.php). Contact Sari Long, Development Director, at [sari.long@turkmenistan-foundation.org](mailto:sari.long@turkmenistan-foundation.org) for more information.

(3) Turkmen Advisory Council: **For citizens of Turkmenistan only**. Advise on Foundation programming and how we can help Turkmen help themselves, e-mail [tac@tycvf.org](mailto:tac@tycvf.org).

(4) Curriculum Advisor: Social sciences, history, philosophy, literature, or classics major or have an interest in those or similar liberal arts? This is a chance to work with bright, inspiring Turkmen students and teach them to think analytically and creatively. Please contact Isaac Scarborough at [curriculum@tycvf.org](mailto:curriculum@tycvf.org) expressing an interest or if you have any questions.

## The Turkmen Mentors Program: A Look Into The Future, A Hope For The Present

The Turkmen Mentors Program, now into its second month, connects American college graduates and bright young Turkmen students to help those students chart a path to a brighter educational future.

The students come from all five *Welayats* (regions) of Turkmenistan. Some want to be the head of an IT department, still others dream of being journalists for the top news agencies throughout the world. What they all share, however, is an unwavering dedication to continuing their education.

In their own words, here are some of the mentees. Nargiza wants to be a psychologist:

*"Happiness is when understanding people are near you. That is the reason of my chosen field of study – psychology... There is no developed psychological service in Turkmenistan, and I would like to be the first person to improve it. This is particularly needed in every family since every day people face many stresses, misunderstanding with relatives, problems or addictions."*

Rahman seeks a legal career:

*"...I imagine myself in Massachusetts...in Boston at Harvard Law University. I imagine myself as one of the best students at Harvard and becoming a world class lawyer."*

Maksat is interested in linguistics:

*"I have 12 siblings and my mother. My mother, 62, is a pensioner and supports every one of us. Every one of my siblings has some quality to learn from...Another thing I learned is that nobody is perfect, but that's doesn't mean you shouldn't try...I hope to study linguistics in the USA in five years. The reason I want to study linguistics is because it can open many doors above an individual."*

Their Mentors, who are scattered around the globe and keep in contact over e-mail and Skype, share something in common too: a commitment to a brighter future for these youth. "As an RPCV in Turkmenistan as a Health Education Volunteer, I saw firsthand the difficulties and challenges that Turkmen youth have when attempting to continue their education," said one Mentor. "I just wanted to help. Plus, I have always been the fan of the underdog."

"My mentee and I have had weekly email contact and so far we have primarily gone over the timeline for a college application," said another Mentor. "We have also started going through the Turkmen College guide to decide on schools...I really look forward to hearing more about the successes of the mentees as they start to be accepted for programs around the globe." If you are interested in learning more about our Turkmen Mentors Program please contact us at [tmc@tycvf.org](mailto:tmc@tycvf.org)



## Meeting of the New Board of Directors

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation’s new Board of Directors met for the first time to review the Foundation’s vision, programming, budget, fundraising and publicity. Jenik Radon, Professor at Columbia University’s School for International Public Affairs, and Amy McGoldrick, of the Institute for International Education, discussed the possibility of starting an SAT program in Turkmenistan. Director Radon also brought up Columbia University’s “Zawadi” program ([www.zawadiafrica.org](http://www.zawadiafrica.org)) as a potential model for future programming.

The Foundation is in need of new sources of funding, especially institutional sources. Jill Miller, a senior officer at IREX, and Bob Hsu, an independent business consultant, laid out specific steps that would be required for any successful institutional fundraising drive by the Board members. The Board asked for Foundation volunteers in the Development Group to prioritize drafting a fundraising strategy by the next meeting. *[Join our Development Group! See job listing on Page 1.]*

The Board also considered the Foundation’s unique position as a U.S.-based NGO that works exclusively in Turkmenistan, a country that has no registered foreign NGOs. The Board asked for a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) report on attempting a more public profile in Turkmenistan, including an attempt at registration.

The new Board was joined by Executive Director Kenyon Weaver, who moderated and took minutes, Director of Development Sari Long, and Foundation volunteer Nate Truitt. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is August 10<sup>th</sup>.



### Open Executive Committee Meeting

#### Join and Listen in to What's Happening with the Foundation:

Our Executive Committee Meeting is  
Open to All!

This July 6th, at 8:30 p.m., the  
Foundation Executive Committee  
will be hosting another meeting  
open to the public. We welcome  
everyone who is interested in  
knowing more about the Foundation  
and its programming.

Please e-mail Kenyon Weaver at  
[kweaver@tycvf.org](mailto:kweaver@tycvf.org) for call-in  
information

### Help us support programs!

You create a better future for Turkmen  
youth when you donate to the  
Foundation. The contribution you make  
is a huge contribution to the lives of  
Turkmen Youth.

[Click here to make your tax  
deductible donation today](#)

## Foundation Scholars: Safe and Sound in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

As followers of the Foundation know, we have two scholars now in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. They are Ruslan Leontyev and Natasha Amirova. These two winners of the 2009 Honor Spingarn / Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. scholarship were the last group who made it to American University – Central Asia (AUCA) before Turkmenistan barred the exit of Turkmen AUCA students. (The Spingarn/King scholarship now sends its winners to American University – Bulgaria (AU-BG))

Ruslan and Natasha decided to remain in Bishkek over the summer, a decision made before the outbreak of violence in Kyrgyzstan’s southern city of Osh. They report that Bishkek is calm unlike in the south, where there is significant strife. Still, they are among hundreds if not thousands of Turkmen students who study in Bishkek and remain there over the summer, and they are keeping an extremely close eye on the developments in the south. They know that if there is any question of safety that they should immediately leave.

We will keep you updated about Ruslan and Natasha, and hope for peace in Kyrgyzstan.

If you have questions on the King/Spingarn scholarship program, please contact Program Manager Ginny Winter at [scholarship@tycvf.org](mailto:scholarship@tycvf.org).