



Turkmenistan Youth and
Civic Values Foundation

HELP CHANGE
A NATION

WE INVITE YOU
TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE FUTURE OF
TURKMENISTAN...



January 2010 E-News Letter

New Year Wishes

Kenyon Weaver-

The Turkmen people, predominantly Muslim, celebrate the new year with as much enthusiasm as anyone crowded into Times Square at New Year's Eve. The most spacious interior *jay* (room) of the Turkmen's *ak oy* (main house) will be decorated with streamers and tinsel, and heads of families will plan ambitious menus of *shashlyk*, *plov*, and other specialities. Instead of champagne, bottles of vodka flow freely. And of course, the Turkmen tradition of guesing, with friends and family members visiting each other's houses to give toasts of good health and peace in the coming year.

In the spirit of that enthusiasm and of the warm welcome you feel as a guest in a Turkmen house, all of us at the Foundation raise our glass to you and make this traditional Turkmen toast in your honor:

Taze yylyngyz gutly bolsun; sachygamyz hemeshi doly bolsun, mashgalangyz salgyk bolsun, we parahatchylyk bolsun.

(Happy New Year; may your table be full and your family healthy; and may there be peace.)

*Looking for a New Year's
Resolution?
How about volunteering to
work with Turkmen?*

Community Development

For 2010, the Foundation has \$6,000 available for small-scale projects in Turkmenistan. We want you to help choose which ones we should fund! E-mail Luisa Angel at lfangel@gmail.com or Casey Farrar at casey.farrar@gmail.com to sign up to participate in deciding what kind of projects the Foundation should support.

Karakum Scholars Roundtable –
March 19-22, 2010

What are *you* doing the Newruz Bayram weekend, March 19-22, 2010? Well, the Foundation invites all interested individuals to assist with the planning and operation of the Foundation's four-day conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for Turkmen university students.

The Roundtable is a conference on civic values for Turkmen. Between thirty and fifty individuals are expected to attend the conference and participate in its discussions, seminars and trainings. In addition, NGO leaders, diplomats and others will be invited to lead further sessions with the conference participants. Broadly speaking, the Roundtable has two goals

- (1) Provide a context-appropriate background on the relationship of individuals to society, rule of law, peacemaking, negotiation and mediation.
- (2) Present context-appropriate training about the planning and implementation of small-scale community oriented projects in Turkmenistan.

How can you help out? Help us plan the trainings! Let us know your interest by e-mailing roundtable@tycvf.org. And if you can make it to Bishkek for that weekend to help lead the trainings (Aeroflot roundtrip flights going at just \$800 recently), we welcome you with open arms. We can pay for your food, drink, and intracity transportation for the conference. Just e-mail Isaac Scarborough or Kenyon Weaver at roundtable@tycvf.org.

Overhaul and Board Of Directors Search

The Foundation is now undertaking an overhaul of its institutional structure and programming to expand our reach, provide more opportunities for volunteer involvement, and deepen our commitment to our beneficiaries and our mission.

First, we are in the middle of a search for new Directors for our Board. The Foundation seeks leaders in the diplomatic, corporate, academic, and non-profit sectors who have an interest in our work in Turkmenistan. We have already reached out to some 50-odd individuals and have several extremely qualified candidates, but we always welcome suggestions. If you have a candidate to recommend or would like to be a candidate yourself, please e-mail Kenyon Weaver at kweaver@tycvf.org.

Second, we will be expanding our programs from three to five. These five programs are:

- (1) The Honor Spingarn / Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship
- (2) The Turkmen Scholars Program
- (3) The Karakum Scholars Roundtable
- (4) Community Development Projects
- (5) The Foundation Curriculum

More on these programs is available (or will be available soon) at www.tycvf.org. Look for more on these programs in your eNews.

Third, and finally, we will be reorganizing ourselves into three working groups. These three groups are the Programmatic Working Group (overseeing the programs), the Development Working Group (overseeing fundraising), and the Strategic Planning and Outreach Working Group (overseeing volunteer participation and ensuring the Foundation's adherence to its mission).

We'll have more about this makeover and how you can get involved in the new programs and Working Groups in these (electronic) pages and at www.tycvf.org.

Fundraising Update

The Foundation Presents: Guesting in a Box

House Parties done right!

Impress friends and family and give to the Foundation, all in one event! The Foundation is pleased to announce the Guesting in a Box, which helps you to plan and throw a party at your house for your friends, with Turkmenistan as the theme and Foundation fundraising as one of the goals.

So, how does it all work?

We ask you to commit to throwing a party for at around 20 of your friends, family, colleagues, peers, drinking buddies, whoever. You let us know when. You let us know where. (We may have a Foundation volunteers in your area who can help and participate.) We ship you a package that's an all-in-one for event planning.

So, what's in the box?

Recipes, plans, goodies, suggested activities, invitation blanks, materials about Turkmenistan, materials about the Foundation, and a stipend to help defray the cost of the party. It's everything that you might need minus a quick trip to the store.

E-mail Kenyon Weaver at kweaver@tycvf.org to get started!

Volunteer Spotlight

Casey Farrar is our Volunteer of the Month! Thanks to her help as a project Manager for the National Endowment for Democracy Grant that went into effect last Spring TYCVF was able to help teachers and community builders alike develop projects for students.



"I was amazed at the quality of projects that we received," said Farrar. "I've been excited to work on this project because I think it offers an opportunity to people in communities across Turkmenistan that they may not otherwise have. For many of the grantees we've worked with, they're full of ideas, but have few opportunities to fund the work they'd like to do. It's exciting because these projects are truly grassroots. They're coming from within the community – from people who identify needs within their own communities and know how to best reach people. What the foundation provides is a link between agencies that have the funding to support projects, and people on the ground eager to get involved."