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A NATION

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TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE FUTURE OF
TURKMENISTAN...



February 2010 E-Newsletter

Donor Impact Report available Feb. 28, 2010

The Foundation's 2009 Donor Impact Report is finalized and will be available the last day of February. We will post it on our website and include a PDF version with next month's eNewsletter. Thank you especially to Jen Wos who generously donated her skills in layout and design for the Report. Any questions on the Report can be directed to Kenyon Weaver at kweaver@tycvf.org.

Make a contribution that will last for generations!

You can be a part of the lives of Turkmen by volunteering to select projects and scholars or be a mentor. And donate online to the Foundation now – a \$10/month makes all the difference!

Two Community Development Projects approved January

Middle East Peacemaking in Turkmenabat and Outreach near Mary



The Community Development selection committee selected two programs to fund this January.

In Turkmenabat, Ali H. is leading an "International Crisis Game" that will be "based on the 'real life' situation in the Middle East and the real interests held by the actors." According to Ali's grant, "The project will last for a week and will contain of 2 parts –preparation (country studies) and the actual game, where negotiations will take place. Around 30 participants will be involved and play roles of different countries and organizations." Ali was awarded \$350 for materials, media, and awards for active participants.

In Mary, Rozalina A. and other recent high school graduates will be working with students ages 9-12 over three months to provide instruction in teambuilding and English instruction and conduct discussions about responsibility and values. Rozalina and her fellow leaders will be looking to reach out to those in Mary who do not have the same kind of access or encouragement as others.

Special thanks to the selection committee, comprised of the two Program Managers and three Foundation volunteers who have generously donated their time to review applications and work with applicants and grantees. For more information, go to www.tycvf.org or e-mail community@tycvf.org.

Letter from Viktoriya F., Foundation Grantee in 2009

Viktoirya was awarded two Community Development grants from the Foundation in 2009; here is part of a letter she wrote recently to the Foundation:

Dear Foundation:

Summer 2009 stays in my memory as one of the most exciting summers for me as I developed and directed the English and Leadership Skills Camp. What camps are about is to help children to get the kind of knowledge that is not available in their ordinary lives. The goal of the English and Leadership Skills Camp 2009 was to let its participants practice English (one of the Camp's rules was to speak only English), develop their leadership skills and individuality through games, plays, teamwork, and...

See "Letter from the field" on page 2...

Attention Turkmen Students: 2010 Spingarn / MLK Deadline is FEBRUARY 20, 2010

Attention students in Turkmenistan: the application deadline for this year's Honor Spingarn / Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship is only days away – February 20, 2010. Applications are available at www.tycvf.org and questions can be directed to scholarship@tycvf.org. Many questions will be answered by looking at the Application, which has a "Question and Answer" section in the front.

Food For Thought Fundraiser in Phoenix raises Funds for Foundation

January 23, 2010- Foundation Director of Communications, Chris Schirm, held the first bi-monthly "Food For Thought" for 15 people.

He combined a delicious three course meal, a short presentation and discussion about the Foundation and generated over \$300.

The next Food For Thought is planned for March 13th and already has a media sponsorship! If you would like to find out more or learn how to host your own fundraiser, email Chris at schirm2605@gmail.com

New Program: Mentors for Turkmen Students

The Foundation will be launching a new Program in 2010, the Turkmen Scholars Program ("TSP"). The TSP will pair mentors here in the U.S. with students in Turkmenistan. The goal of the TSP is to provide encouragement for students in Turkmenistan to take advantage of educational opportunities outside of Turkmenistan, to support those students in their efforts, and to provide them a forum and resources to help themselves and help one another.

The truth is that many Turkmen students seek education outside of the Turkmenistan, but there simply are not enough scholarships – from the Foundation, or from anywhere else – to meet the demand. Meanwhile, there are plenty of returned Peace Corps Volunteers and others in the U.S. (and Europe and abroad) who are interested in helping Turkmen to try to find educational opportunities and guide them through those opportunities.

The TSP will select between 10-15 Turkmen students, pair them with Mentors, provide TOEFL and SAT testing preparation and testing, college guidance, and, of course, moral support. The Foundation will provide Mentors with Skype credit and/or calling cards so they can communicate with their Scholars outside of e-mail.

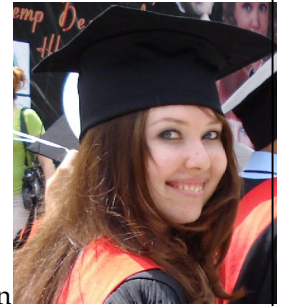
Those who would like to be a Mentor for Turkmen students, please contact Executive Director Kenyon Weaver at kweaver@tycvf.org.

For Turkmen students who would like to be a Turkmen Scholar, an Application will be available at www.tycvf.org beginning March 1, 2010 and will have a deadline of April 1, 2010. Questions can be directed to kweaver@tycvf.org.

Letter from the field:

From page 1

... tasks on public presentation. Students had a chance to learn more about American culture, gender and health issues, and education opportunities.



The information children got during the Camp is not available in local schools, and, therefore, makes it all the more valuable. I believe that most of the students will continue learning English, seek out new knowledge, pursue education abroad. It makes me very happy that organizations such as the Turkmenistan Youth and Civic Values Foundation exist because through its grants gives us an opportunity to raise personalities and leaders.

In conclusion, I have to point out that these projects are appreciated by local people – a mom of one of the camp participants made a small thank you gift for me because she was glad her son spends his time effectively. I was nicely surprised and I became assured one more time that projects directed on civic society development here in Turkmenistan are needed and appreciated. Another grant for the existing recourse centers helped me to get materials for the Recourse Center in Dashoguz city, where the most often visitors are disabled people.

Finally, I have to say that it was a big pleasure for me to work with Luisa [Angelsmith] and Mariely [Neris] during Camp organization, implementation and completion [Luisa and Mariely were the Program Managers in 2009 for the Community Development Program].

Sincerely,
Viktoriya F.

Turkmenistan
Grant Leader, English and Leadership Skills Camp 2009