

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**BTF**   
BRIDGE TO TÜRKİYE FUND



## OUR WORK and IMPACT

- The Covid-19 pandemic posed a significant challenge to all individuals and institutions worldwide. By the end of 2020, we had to carry all our concerns about Covid restrictions and the new way of life under strict rules. Our lives have changed dramatically due to the ongoing pandemic, and we were worried that we would not be able to adapt to the new conditions.
- Nevertheless, as BTF, we had already steered to the latest tools and worked hard to synchronize our mission with the emerging pandemic struggles. All BTF events were online, including outdoor ones such as Run4Kids 5K or METU's Annual Marathon. As a nonprofit organization, we believe that the equality of opportunities is vital, and equity in sharing the resources should not be hindered. We believe that access to education and health care for children should be guaranteed for our target groups under any circumstance.
- The generosity of our donors was unprecedented, and we did our best to deliver our funds to underprivileged students in Turkey. In the end, 2021 was an exciting year, and we abound in creating happiness abroad.



## Tech4Students

In the 2020-2021 academic year, all schools in Turkey switched to remote education due to COVID restrictions. Students needed a computerized device to follow their curriculum online.

Most BTF scholars come from underprivileged backgrounds and they need computers or tablets to be successful. Although in person learning has resumed in 2021, we continue to provide laptops to our scholars and tablets to elementary school students to leverage their education needs.

**Total number of laptops and tablets provided: 679**

# Scholarships for University Students

**Total number of scholarships provided: 1121**

BTF Scholarship4Students is one of the most significant BTF projects in the BTF Empowerment Scholarship program. The number of BTF scholars has been rising throughout the years.

This year, BTF delivered scholarships to 1121 university students on a monthly stipend basis. The allocation of scholarships among partner



## ÇYDD 732 Scholars



ÇYDD has the biggest share in the BTF Empowerment Scholarships Program. Last year, 732 scholars were funded with BTF Scholarships via ÇYDD. The scholar profiles vary, and ÇYDD's scholarship program contains students from different universities across Turkey. Thanks to its organizational structure, BTF Scholarships can reach out to various regions and cities in Turkey.

Koruncuk gives scholarships and shelter to children who come from vulnerable social groups and do not have access to education. BTF granted 155 scholarships to students in Koruncuk under the Empowerment Scholarship program.



## Türkiye Korunmaya Muhtaç Çocuklar Vakfı (KORUNCUK) 155 Scholars



**İstanbul ODTÜ  
Mezunları Derneği  
(ODTÜMİST)  
88 Scholars**



ODTÜMİST is an alumni organization founded in İstanbul by METU graduates. The grant program includes METU students that need financial support. 88 METU students were granted BTF scholarships in 2021.

Boğaziçi University is another prestigious university in Turkey. BTF granted 24 scholarships to Boğaziçi University students via Boğaziçi University Foundation (BÜVAK).



**Boğaziçi  
Üniversitesi Vakfı  
(BÜVAK)  
24 Scholars**

**Hacettepe Üniversitesi  
Mezunlar Derneği  
(HÜMED)  
12 Scholars**



Hacettepe University is another prominent university in Turkey. It's medical school is especially prominent in Turkey. BTF granted 12 scholarships to Hacettepe students via Hacettepe University Association (HUMED).

## Other Turkish NGO's that support allocation of BTF Scholarship Funds:

**AHBAP: 43**

**İstanbul Kafkas Kültür Derneği: 27**

**Bilkent University: 16**

**İzmir Fen Lisesi Vakfı & Bornova  
Anadolu Lisesi Vakfı: 15**

**Adana Soroptimist Kulübü: 12**

**Darüşşafaka Vakfı: 5**

**Türkiye Eğitim Derneği: 4**

**Payda Platformu: 3**

**Türk Eğitim Vakfı: 1**

**USA Impact Scholarship: 1**

**BTF Scholarships impacted 1121 students  
from various universities and NGO's  
in Turkey.**

# BTF 4KIDS EDUCATIONAL SETS

- BTF 4Kids program aims to provide educational materials that are essential for comprehending subjects and increase the learning capacity of students by doing so. Our primary goal is to reach out to children who continue their education with limited opportunities in the remotest towns in Turkey.
- The number of schools and students that benefited from the BTF 4Kids Program is as follows:



114  
Sets

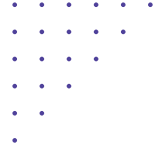
**BTF**   
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# BTF IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

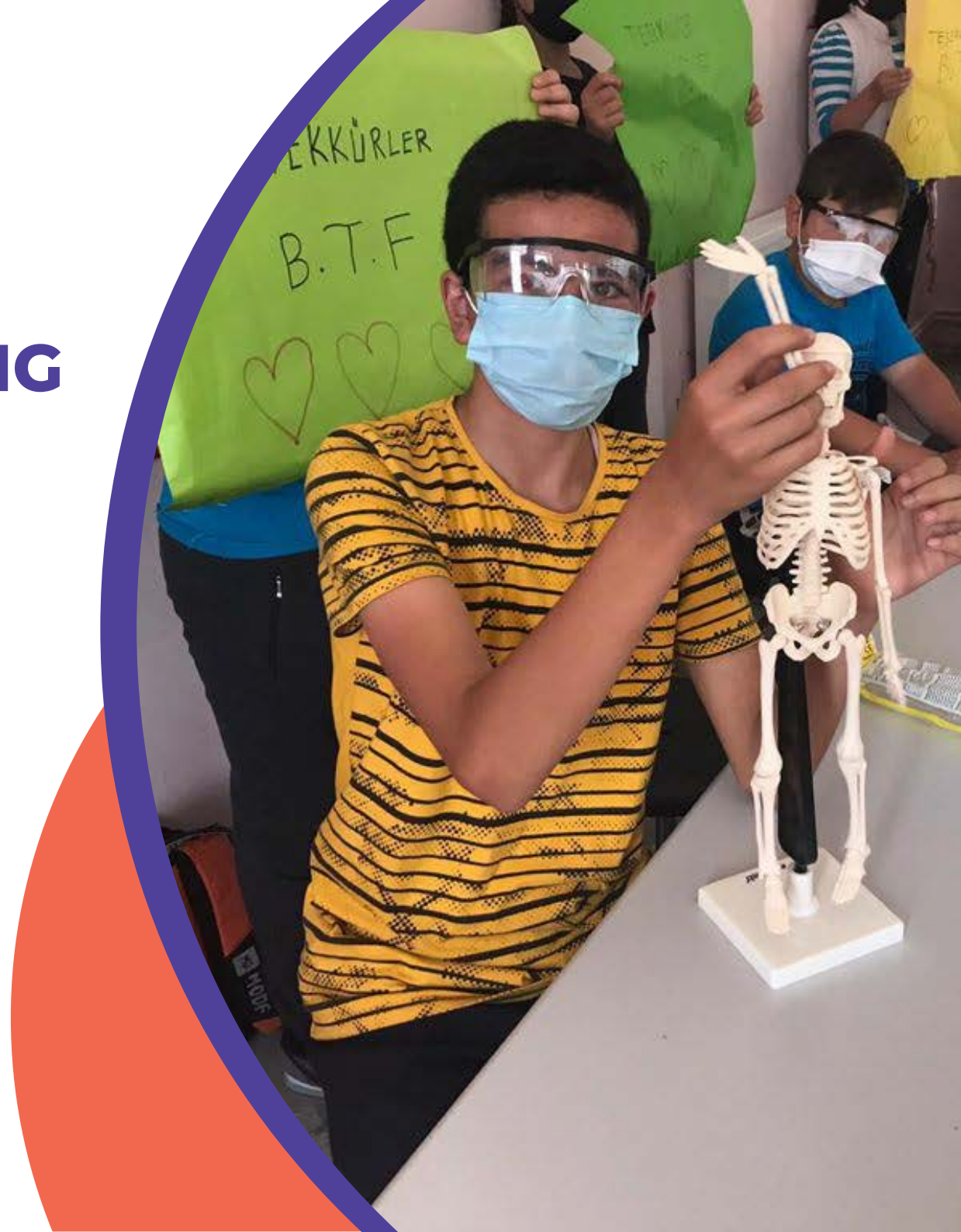
- **Music4Kids:** 23 Schools 5,301 students
- **Math4Kids:** 28 Schools 5,640 students
- **Science4Kids:** 29 schools 4,872 students
- **Dictionaries4Kids:** 17 schools 1,122 students
- **BackPack4Kids:** 29 schools 929 students
- **Toys4Kids:** 17 schools 2,416 students
- **Art4Kids:** 30 schools 4,633 students
- **Books4Kids:** 44 Schools 10,630 students
- **Tech4Kids:** 8 Schools 245 students





# NEW LIFE CHANGING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

BTF continues to focus on students' educational needs and develop sustainable strategies to meet them. For this aim, new projects and programs have been designed and implemented as follows:





## School-Labs4Kids: 4 have been constructed

It is a well-known fact that the most effective way of learning is based on experiments and observation. Although we talk about our current age as a period of innovation and technological advancement, many schools in Turkey are deprived of Science laboratories. Students lack proper tools or the environment to have a solid learning process, and thus they can not realize their full potential.

At BTF we believe that with the Science Laboratories we establish, our students will learn information in more concrete ways and will use their sense of curiosity to understand the natural world.

In 2021, we transformed 4 unused classrooms into fully equipped science laboratories in different cities of Turkey: Denizli – Akbaş İlkokulu, Şırnak – Buğdaylı İlkokulu, Diyarbakır – Köseli İlkokulu, and Antalya – Değirmenci İlkokulu



## BTF Donor-Inspired Program (DIP):

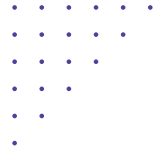
Since our establishment, BTF has been producing happiness by trying to meet the needs of students thanks to our bighearted donors.

We are glad to convey our support in the direction of which BTF project is warm in the hearts of our donors. In some cases, more than one BTF project may become charming for the generosity of our donors.

And in some cases, our donors may prefer to transfer the total amount they have set aside for Turkish students at once and appoint us to allocate this sum between various BTF programs.

When we saw this tendency among our donors, we designed BTF DIP Program. It is more or less similar to a usual bank account. The fund transferred by our donors is pooled within their DIP account, and then desired amount is allocated between BTF projects when they ask us to do so.





# PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

In 2021, we have continued our quest to make the world a better place. In addition to the existing ones, we built new bridges with our dream partners.







### 1. İlkyar:

By the end of 2020, we settled with İlkyar for the same purpose; and built a bridge to improve village students' conditions through 3 main projects: Curious Science Ambassadors, Libraries for Village Schools, and Scholarships for Village Students. All three went well. In 2021, we raised \$72K for these three projects.

### 2. Göçmen Kadınlar Platformu:

Göçmen Kadınlar is a Facebook group founded by women living in different parts of the world. Its main goal is to generate a solidarity-based environment among women. Together with them, we run a fundraiser campaign on Facebook to honor March 8 Women's Day. We have raised \$17K, and with this fund, they started to grant scholarships to 12 female college students throughout their undergraduate education.



### 3. Eğitimde Gönüllü Aileler (EGA)



Eğitimde Gönüllü Aileler is another Facebook platform, and its founders are women living in different countries. They were worried about students' access to remote education in rural areas. They started to call their friends to take action and run a fundraiser campaign on Facebook on behalf of BTF. The theme was coordinated around BTF's Tech4Students project, and the target group was kids in rural areas. By the end of the campaign, \$12K was raised, and this amount was used to fund tablets for village students.



#### 4. KAHEV:

Kadın Hekimler Eğitime Destek Vakfı (KAHEV) is also a solidarity-based association, and its founders are women M.D.s. Their main goal is to support education, especially in rural Turkey. Since the beginning of our bridge, \$17K has been transferred to various projects, and some of them were directly pooled in BTF's 4Kids Program.

### Partners Joined Us via DIP Projects

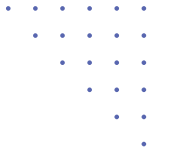
#### 5. Adana Soroptimist Kulübü:

12 female college students have been granted scholarships with the BTF Empowerment Scholarship Program



#### 6. İstanbul Kafkas Kültür Derneği:

27 college students have been granted scholarships with the BTF Empowerment Scholarship Program



# DONATIONS

Thinking about all the unprecedented developments, the pandemic, and the economic crisis, we are full of gratitude for the example of solidarity that we are a part of. This year will be remembered as a milestone in BTF's history.

We established this circle with the principle of meeting needs and caring for our beloved country by giving back. Our sincerity must have been anticipated by our donors (or family members as we call them).

Contributions and support in such dire times, the hardest when we talk about the millennium, are much more precious and consequential than ever.

# COUNTRIES:

In 2021, BTF had over a million dollars of funding for the first time in its history, thanks to those generous supporters worldwide. The supporters' profile proves BTF's grassroots features by acclamation. Its story begins in North Carolina and spread all around the US year by year. Last year, people answered our call from:

- Austria
- Bolivia
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Cyprus
- Ireland
- England
- France
- Hungary
- Italy
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Qatar
- Russia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Singapore
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates



# BTF FUNDRAISERS

## On Facebook

Our donors have not left us alone in our shared mission to meet the needs of underprivileged students by raising educational standards as much as we can. Plenty of philanthropists across the globe who wanted to make a wish come true reached out to us through Facebook to support our various projects. Some of them took the initiative to start their campaigns on behalf of BTF. There were 106 Facebook campaigns last year. 84 of them received donations, and the total contribution across campaigns ranged from \$12 to \$90K.

There was a devastating natural Disaster in Southern Turkey during summer, with wildfires ravaging the Mediterranean region. This has resonated a lot among our community. And as a family, we were able to raise \$90K on Facebook for Bizim Türkiye'miz Relief Fund.





# BTF EVENTS

Since its foundation, BTF community has organized local events and activities in its circles for friend-raising purposes. At the same time, these events provided the environment to contribute to social well-being altogether.

However, due to the pandemic restrictions, these events were canceled. Yet still, BTF family members, who are dedicated to raising joy for students, have continued holding events online.

Many events were organized, even though not as many as pre-pandemic times. Some of the highlights from the last year were Virtual Run4Kids, The 80's Night, The Game Night, The Comedy Show with Geveze, and Stay-Fit Have-Fun.

After pandemic restrictions were lifted, we organized the Run4Kids event outdoors. Our family members came together after a long curfew period, and this reunion was rejuvenating.

Our most remarkable outdoor fundraising event was the Bike4Kids, which ran from Antalya with a stop in Cyprus and a finish at Göbeklitepe archeological site. Throughout this adventurous trip, our local cyclist friends have also joined the BTF team on the road.

All these activities had only one purpose: to help the disadvantaged. And all of these events went really well, and as the BTF Family, we have proved that there were no real obstacles against helping people.





**bridgetoturkiye**

**[www.bridgetoturkiye.org](http://www.bridgetoturkiye.org)**