



2024 Campaign Catalog

Let's build
bridges of generosity
for Türkiye!

BTF 
BRIDGE TO TÜRKIYE FUND

GIVINGTUESDAY

What is Giving Tuesday?

GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to use their individual power of generosity to support their communities.

On GivingTuesday – December 3, 2024 – the whole world comes together to give back in many different ways: through acts of kindness, gifts or donations.

This Giving Tuesday, BTF aims to amplify its impact by giving donors a variety of options to build bridges of 'radical generosity' with Türkiye. We plan to mobilize our community to raise funds for classroom supply kits, scholarships, and winter clothing for children to ensure students can thrive despite their circumstances. Our goal is to make education accessible and empowering for every child, and with your generosity, we can continue to transform goodwill into life-changing opportunities.

Will you join us in making a lasting difference this Giving Tuesday? Together, let's open doors of opportunity and create a brighter future for children in need.



Radical Generosity

/ˈrɑ-də-kəl/ /ˌdʒen.əˈrɑː.sə.ti/
noun

The concept that the suffering of others should be as intolerable to us as our own suffering.

Who we are & what we do

Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF) set out in 2003 with a straightforward mission: to ensure that every child in Türkiye has access to quality education—equipping them with the tools to dream bigger, reach higher, and one day transform their communities. Back then, a group of Turkish Americans in North Carolina’s Triangle area came together with the belief that someone needed to take action. It wasn’t long before they realized they were the 'someone' they had in mind.



Twenty-one years later, BTF has touched the lives of nearly **200,000 children across Türkiye**, expanded its mission to include disaster management, wellbeing, and environmental sustainability, and grown into **a vibrant community of 40,000 donors** across the United States.

With the support of our **local giving circles in 22 states**, BTF has facilitated countless fundraising events in the US.

BTF’s goal is to be the bridge that connects brilliant ideas with philanthropic resources to benefit Türkiye’s future generations. Our trusted and collaborative platform is designed to enable NGOs and social entrepreneurs to flourish and transform their ideas into reality.

We maintain a portfolio of carefully vetted Turkish NGOs and localized projects to accomplish this goal. This makes it possible for BTF’s donors to support impactful causes simply and safely from abroad.

What you can do

Feeling inspired? Let's take a look at what you can do to support BTF's mission this Giving Tuesday.

Together, we can unlock opportunities for children in Türkiye's underserved communities and create brighter futures. Whether through a donation, a fundraiser, or simply by spreading the word, your support can spark lasting change.



GIVINGTUESDAY

Make an individual donation



Every contribution counts—whether it's \$10 or \$1,000. Your gift will help provide school supplies, scholarships, and essential resources to children in need, empowering them to pursue their dreams.

Start your own fundraiser



Create a personal campaign to rally your friends and family around a cause you care about. Whether you run a social media challenge or host a small event, your effort can help raise awareness and critical funds for BTF's programs.

Fundraise as a community



Join forces with your colleagues, classmates, or local groups to launch a collaborative fundraiser. The collective impact of a community working toward a shared goal can create extraordinary change.

Spread the word



Don't underestimate the power of your voice! Share our mission on social media, talk about it with your circle, and inspire others to join in. A simple post or message can lead to new supporters and spark a ripple effect of generosity.

How you can help



Adopt a classroom

Transform an entire classroom by providing essential educational tools—such as books, science kits, musical instruments, sports equipment, and more. With your support, students in underserved schools will gain the resources they need to learn, and thrive.

Explore the following pages to find a classroom in need, and be the reason a class looks forward to learning every day!



Sponsor a student's scholarship

Give a bright student the opportunity to continue their education by sponsoring a high school or university scholarship. Many talented students from low-income families need a helping hand to pursue their dreams. Your sponsorship can unlock opportunities and change the trajectory of a student's life.

One-year scholarship: \$600

One-semester scholarship: \$300



Donate winter boots & coats

Winters in rural Türkiye can be harsh, and many children lack proper winter clothing. By donating boots and coats, you ensure that children stay warm and healthy throughout the season, allowing them to focus on learning instead of struggling with the cold. A warm coat today can make all the difference tomorrow. **Each set costs \$50.**



Merve Çetinpolat

Many of the families in our community face serious financial challenges, and unfortunately, this has had a direct impact on my students. Even though our school allows casual clothing, some children have no choice but to attend class wearing the same clothes for days. Many of them lack the most basic supplies like notebooks and pencils, and most don't have the necessary materials like scissors, crayons, or backpacks to fully engage in our lessons. This inequality makes it difficult for some students to participate, creating challenges that hold us back from progressing in the classroom.

With your support, I know that we can change this. If each of my students had the supplies they need, our lessons would become more engaging, colorful, and fun—helping every child feel included and motivated to learn. Simple items like pencils, notebooks, and art supplies could make a world of difference, boosting their confidence and encouraging them to actively participate in class.

I believe that every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and dream. Your donation could put smiles on their faces, unlock their potential, and ensure they have the tools they need to thrive. Please consider supporting my classroom.

School bags & stationery **\$2,850.00**

Books **\$345.00**

Art supplies **\$325.00**

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

Musical instruments **\$315.00**

Sports equipment **\$500.00**

TOTAL: \$4,610.00





Murat Şahin

Hello, I am a teacher at a small village school in Güzelyurt Village, Adiyaman, where I teach a single classroom made up of four different grade levels. Our village has only about 50 households, and the financial situation of my students' families varies greatly; some families can manage, but others are struggling to provide even the most basic school supplies. Many of these children are in need of essential materials that their families simply cannot afford.

With your support, my students would have access to learning experiences they could otherwise never enjoy. The educational sets and materials you provide will help bridge the gap between my students and those in city schools, giving them the same opportunities to grow, explore, and succeed. Your generosity will allow us to offer equal opportunities in education—a gift that can change the future of these children.

In our small school, even the simplest things can make a huge impact. I've seen firsthand how excited my students become when they receive new supplies. With your help, we can foster that same joy and inspiration, giving them the tools they need to thrive both academically and personally.



School bags & stationery	\$300.00
Science lab tools	\$525.00
Books	\$345.00
TOTAL:	\$1,170.00



Begüm Özdemir

I teach at a village school where most parents are unemployed or without steady jobs, making it difficult for them to provide their children with the educational materials they need. Many of my students have never seen the kinds of supplies included in the sets we are hoping to receive. They'll be discovering these tools for the very first time—tools that will not only teach them new things but also open their minds to new possibilities.

These materials will allow my students to catch up with children in other parts of the country, giving them the same opportunities to learn and grow. With your help, their time in the classroom will become more enriching and joyful, filled with hands-on activities that make learning fun and meaningful.

But before I ask for your support, let me tell you a little bit about my students. They are children whose eyes light up with joy and curiosity. When they talk, their eyes sparkle with excitement, and when they learn something new, they listen with eager anticipation. They are incredibly polite, kind, and respectful, and their sweet accents will always make you smile.

As for me, I am a preschool teacher doing my best to give these children the opportunities they deserve—opportunities that other children already have. But I can't do it alone. With your support, I know I can help them reach their full potential.



Educational toys **\$290.00**

Art supplies **\$325.00**

Musical instruments **\$315.00**

TOTAL: \$ 930.00



Ali Hasırcı

Dear BTF supporters, our school is located a bit outside the city center, in İstasyon Neighborhood. We serve children from the surrounding area, students from nearby villages who are bussed in, and the children of seasonal workers. Many of these students come from low-income families, struggling to meet their basic needs.

If we receive the backpacks and school supplies we are hoping for, I know the impact will be incredible. I wish you could see the light and joy that fills their eyes when they get the supplies they need. Right now, some children feel embarrassed or hang their heads low when they don't have the necessary materials. But your support can change that. Just imagine how their faces would light up when I say, "We're having art class today," and they cheer with excitement instead of feeling left out because they don't have the supplies to participate.

These children didn't choose where they were born, who their parents are, what language they speak, or what faith or ethnicity they belong to. If only we lived in a more just and equitable world, where all children had the chance to grow up happily and without worry. Thanks to supporters like you, we can create that happiness, at least within the walls of our school.



Art supplies	\$325.00
School bags & stationery	\$1,100.00
TOTAL:	\$1,425.00



Özge Tümçelik

Our school is located in a community where many families work for minimum wage or rely on daily wages to make ends meet. Most of the parents in our area face financial hardships, which makes it difficult for them to provide their children with the educational materials they need.

Ensuring inclusivity and equal opportunities in education is essential for these students. Having access to the same school supplies as other children allows them to participate actively and effectively in their lessons, ensuring they receive a high-quality education.

We are deeply grateful to our generous donors in the U.S. for their support. Because of you, many children who would have struggled to keep up will have the tools they need to succeed. Although our school has a large student population, we are fortunate to have a team of dedicated and passionate teachers who are committed to helping every child thrive.



School bags & stationery **\$3,000.00**

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

Musical instruments **\$315.00**

Special education set **\$390.00**

Books **\$345.00**

Educational toys **\$290.00**

TOTAL: \$4,615.00



Edibe Karacan

In my class, I have students from a variety of family backgrounds. Some come from families where both parents are public employees, but many come from households that rely on minimum wage to make ends meet. Unfortunately, some of these families struggle to provide their children with the materials they need to fully participate in school.

With your support, I'll be able to distribute essential supplies to the children from low-income families—gifts that will truly brighten their school experience. I can already imagine telling them, "These came from people far away who care about your education." And I know the sparkle in their eyes will be priceless, a reflection of their excitement and gratitude.

These supplies will make a real difference, ensuring that every child has what they need to stay on track and succeed throughout the school year. I am looking forward to the day when I can tell my students, "Here are the tools you need to achieve your goals."

I know these materials will have a lasting impact on their learning and growth, and I'm deeply grateful to everyone who helps make this possible.



Educational toys **\$290.00**

Art supplies **\$325.00**

TOTAL: \$615.00

Celal Kurudure

We live in Davuthan Village, located in Adiyaman's central district, with a population of around 200 people across 80 households. Unfortunately, our village was deeply affected by the recent earthquake, resulting in significant loss of life and property. Nearly 50 homes were destroyed, and most of the people here now live in temporary shelters or container homes, struggling to cope with the harsh realities of life after the disaster.

While some families in our village are financially stable, most are facing serious economic challenges. Without proper resources, my students are missing the essential tools needed to fully engage in their education. With your support, I will be able to provide these children with the educational sets and materials they need to continue learning without disruption. These materials will allow them to easily understand their lessons through hands-on learning and concrete examples.

The sets we hope to receive will also include interactive tools that give students the opportunity to learn through experiments, placing them on par with children in better-resourced schools across the country. These materials will make their lessons not only easier to understand but also more enjoyable—turning learning into something they look forward to each day.

I can't wait to see the joy on their faces when these supplies arrive, knowing they will finally have what they need to learn effectively and with confidence.



School bags &
stationery

\$400.00

Books

\$220.00

Musical
instruments

\$315.00

TOTAL:

\$935.00



Halil İbrahim Ak

In my class, I have students from a variety of family backgrounds. Some come from families where both parents are public employees, while others are from households that rely solely on minimum wage to get by. Many of these children struggle to access even the most basic educational supplies. With your support, I will be able to provide essential materials to the children from low-income families—supplies that will brighten their school experience and boost their learning.

I can already imagine handing out the gifts and saying, “These were sent from people far away who care about your education.” I know the sparkle in their eyes will be unforgettable, a reflection of their joy and excitement.

These materials will play a crucial role in their education, equipping them with the tools they need to succeed throughout the entire school year. The ability to learn without struggling for supplies will help them stay on track, meet their goals, and feel confident in the classroom.

I am truly grateful for everyone who will contribute to this effort.



Musical instruments **\$435.00**

Books **\$450.00**

Educational toys **\$290.00**

TOTAL: \$1,175.00

Öztürk Taşdemir

Our school is located in Hamur District, connected to Ağrı Province, with 170 students, most of whom are bussed in from nearby villages. These students often come from low-income families and large households, making it difficult for their parents to provide the necessary support and materials for their education. As teachers, we are left to fill in the gaps, doing our best to meet all of their needs.

With your help, we hope to provide these students with the stationery sets they need for the entire school year. Without these supplies, many children would struggle to keep up in class, and their lack of materials would make them feel disconnected from their peers. This would damage their motivation and school attendance, leading to lower performance and, in some cases, causing them to drop out of school altogether. Sadly, many of these students come from farming families where parents often prioritize farm work or livestock care over education. But with the right supplies, we can change these perceptions and show the value of learning.

Our mission as teachers goes beyond education—we want each child to feel unique, valued, and important. One of the most powerful ways to achieve this is by making sure they have the tools they need to succeed. When their basic needs are met, students feel more connected to the school and begin to see themselves as part of the community. Their engagement grows, and so does their academic performance. Many even take ownership of the school environment, helping to clean classrooms and take care of shared spaces because they feel like they belong.



School bags & stationery **\$3,000.00**

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

Musical instruments **\$315.00**

TOTAL: \$3,590.00



Sergen Selman Buz

Most of the students at my school come from families with financial challenges, living below the national average income level. Many of their parents are construction workers or rely on day-to-day jobs to make ends meet.

Whenever my students see a new product or learning material, their excitement and enthusiasm instantly increase, and they become more eager to participate in class. Even something as simple as a magazine set I occasionally bring to school fills them with joy and sparks curiosity. I know that improving their access to educational resources would not only boost their spirits but also help them feel more confident and motivated to learn.

One of the most important lessons I want to teach my students is empathy. My goal is to nurture a kind and understanding generation, open to different perspectives and ready to make the world a better place. These are the values I believe our world needs most right now.

With your support, we can provide the materials and resources these children need to succeed, ensuring they feel valued, capable, and ready to reach their potential.



Science lab tools	\$1,400.00
Cognitive training games	\$275.00
Books (Middle School)	\$450.00
Books (Elementary)	\$345.00
TOTAL:	\$2,470.00



Süleyman Kalaycıoğlu

The families of my students are generally in moderate financial situations. We don't have any families that are extremely wealthy or struggling deeply, but most can only meet their basic needs. With the educational sets we hope to receive, my students will have the chance to learn while having fun and also develop their creativity—something they don't get many opportunities to explore.

Unfortunately, my students rarely have the chance to experience activities outside of their neighborhood. Events like movies, theater performances, or other shows are out of reach for them. Right now, in Hatay, both children and adults are facing limited opportunities to socialize and engage in enriching activities.

Since the earthquake, I've been living in the same village as my students, far from my own home. While we try to make the most of our time together, there are few activities available beyond spending time at the local picnic area.

These materials will open new doors for my students, giving them tools to learn, express themselves, and grow creatively. They'll finally have resources that help bring joy and enrichment to their lives—something they need now more than ever.



Musical instruments **\$315.00**

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

Sports equipment **\$500.00**

TOTAL: \$1,090.00

Sümeyye Birinci

In my class, I teach 18 gifted students, all officially identified and supported through RAM (Guidance and Research Center). While most of my students come from financially stable families, two of them face significant economic challenges. One of these students, who is part of a family with three siblings, recently lost their father, which has made life even more difficult for them.

With your support, the educational sets we hope to receive will enhance the learning experience for all of my gifted students, adding excitement and variety to their activities. These materials will provide new ways to challenge their minds, nurture their creativity, and keep them engaged.

Though my students have exceptional abilities, they still need resources and tools to unlock their full potential. Your generosity will help us ensure that all students—regardless of their personal circumstances—can access enriching and meaningful learning opportunities.



Musical instruments **\$315.00**

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

TOTAL: \$590.00

Tuba Ay



While my students are generally able to bring some basic supplies to class, they often don't prioritize materials for activities like sports, art, or other creative lessons. As a result, these important subjects are sometimes overlooked, and our lessons don't run as smoothly as they could.

Although my students are capable and understand the lessons well, there is often little reinforcement at home. When parents don't provide the necessary support, it falls to us, as teachers, to act as both educators and caregivers during class.

Just yesterday, during an art lesson, I noticed some students didn't have crayons. I pulled out extra supplies from my cabinet and made sure every student had what they needed, ensuring that everyone had an equal chance to participate and enjoy the activity. Moments like these remind me of how important it is to provide equal learning opportunities for every child, regardless of their personal circumstances.

If you decide to support us, we can ensure that all students have access to the materials they need—not only for core subjects but also for activities that foster creativity, teamwork, and self-expression.



Sports equipment **\$500.00**

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

Science lab tools **\$525.00**

TOTAL: \$1,300.00



Zübeyir Küçük

Our school is located in Eyyübiye, one of the most disadvantaged areas of Şanlıurfa. Most of our students and their families work as seasonal agricultural laborers, and they are deprived of many resources and opportunities that other children enjoy.

With your support, the educational sets we hope to receive will introduce these children to materials and experiences they've never encountered before. What might seem like a small change for us will be a significant and exciting new opportunity for them.

While they may not achieve great academic gains right away, these materials will give them the joy of discovery and exploration—a sense of happiness that will have a lasting impact on their growth.



Books (Elementary) **\$345.00**

Educational toys **\$290.00**

Books (Kindergarten) **\$220.00**

Sports equipment **\$500.00**

Musical instruments **\$315.00**

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

Special education set **\$390.00**

TOTAL: \$2,335.00

Aliye Nur Şenelli



Most of the parents at our school work for minimum wage, placing them within the low-income segment of our country. In many families, the mothers are homemakers, dedicated to raising their children. These parents care deeply about their children's education and are eager for any opportunity that supports their development. They are always willing to do whatever it takes when we provide guidance, as they want the best for their children.

I know that both parents and students will be thrilled to receive the educational sets we hope to provide. When I told them there was a chance we might receive these materials, they were already filled with gratitude and excitement—seeing their happiness inspired and motivated me even more.

My class is quite large, and the day-to-day demands can sometimes be overwhelming. But thanks to your support, I can face these challenges with joy and energy, knowing that we are working together to create better opportunities for my students.

You've given me and my previous students the gift of this experience once before, and now I can't wait to share that joy with an even larger group of children. I'm still in the early years of my teaching career, and having your support from the very beginning has been a true privilege—for both me and my students.

Even in this age of technology, I believe that hands-on, experience-based learning is the most effective way to teach. Being able to see, touch, and explore concepts makes learning more meaningful and memorable. This is especially true for our science lessons, which are always a favorite among my students. They love the chance to explore, ask questions, and engage in discovery, and science is one of the best subjects to foster that curiosity.

Having seen the materials you've sent to my previous school, I can confidently say that these resources offer every child the chance to learn through experience. They create moments of joyful learning that leave a lasting impact and foster a deeper understanding of the subjects we teach.



Sports equipment **\$500.00**

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

Science lab tools **\$525.00**

TOTAL: \$1,300.00



Fatma Gül Çöllüer Dolgun

Since the pandemic, Akyaka has become a destination for many families relocating from different parts of Türkiye, creating a diverse student body at our school. Some of our students come from families who have lived here for generations and belong to low- or middle-income groups. Others have recently moved to the area, coming from middle- to upper-middle-income households. This diversity means that while some children have the resources they need, others struggle to meet even their basic school needs and receive little to no educational support at home.

That's why supportive educational kits are so crucial—they ensure equal access to learning opportunities for every student, regardless of their family's financial situation. These kits will level the playing field and allow all of our students to engage with their lessons on equal terms. Every child learns at their own pace and in their own way, and these creative, innovative tools will help us address diverse learning styles and strengthen their educational experiences. The more varied and rich materials we can offer, the more effectively we can support each student's learning journey.

I've been a teacher for 28 years. Over the course of my career, I've taught hundreds of students, working with different systems and curricula. For the past nine years, I've been teaching at Cahit Belkis Güneyman Primary School here in Akyaka. I am passionate about theater and creative arts, and I've seen firsthand how important these activities are for children's emotional and cognitive development.

Unfortunately, the opportunities for social interaction and play are more limited for children today compared to the past. Changing family dynamics, smaller households, and the decline of outdoor play have reduced their chances to connect with others in meaningful ways. In towns like Akyaka, where infrastructure hasn't kept up with the recent population growth, this lack of socialization is reflected even in how students play during recess.

But just like children everywhere, our students are curious and eager to learn, with eyes full of wonder and a desire to explore. Now, more than ever, our role as teachers is critical in preparing them for a better future. Creative and supportive tools, like these educational kits, will play a key role in their development, making learning more effective and enjoyable.

With your support, we can provide these children with the resources they need to grow, explore, and thrive. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact in their lives.



Cognitive training
games **\$275.00**

Books **\$345.00**

Musical
instruments **\$315.00**

TOTAL: \$ 935.00



Zeynep Acay

Most of my students come from middle-income families, with the father typically being the sole breadwinner. While they manage with the basics, there is often little room for extra educational resources that could enhance their learning experience.

With the educational sets we hope to receive, I know my students' interest in lessons will grow, and many of them will discover new ways of learning that they hadn't experienced before. This will not only increase their engagement but also improve their academic success. Learning through hands-on activities and experiences makes knowledge stick and ensures it stays with them for life.

Our mission is to help students grow by learning with joy and curiosity, encouraging them to explore the wonders of science and art. We work tirelessly to follow Atatürk's vision, inspiring students to pursue science and knowledge as he dreamed. Every bit of support we receive is used to enhance our students' education, helping them learn, discover, and develop their full potential.

Cognitive training games **\$275.00**

Sports equipment **\$500.00**

Musical instruments **\$315.00**

Science lab tools **\$525.00**

TOTAL: \$1,615.00





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