



GIVINGTUESDAY

Your Gift is the Bridge to Bright Futures.

Join Us this **Giving Tuesday** and Transform the World for Children and Youth in Türkiye.

DECEMBER 2, 2025

BRIDGE TO TURKİYE FUND
2025 GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN



bridgetoturkiye.org
info@bridgetoturkiye.org



When We Put Children First, We Elevate the World.

A Special Note to Our Vibrant, Growing Community of Supporters

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all you do. We are grateful for all the ways our supporters like you have helped us change lives of children and youth over the past 22 years.

This year as we prepare for **Giving Tuesday 2025**, all of us at Bridge to Türkiye Fund believe in something simple yet powerful: **when we put children first, we elevate the world**. That belief, along with the commitment to education, scholarship, and learning, we know gives back in so many ways, and it has guided us since 2003. This year, I join in that vision as I step into my new role with deep purpose, gratitude, and unwavering commitment.

As someone with strong personal ties to Türkiye, I carry with me not only the memory of my grandparents and the breathtaking landscapes and rich culture but also the warmth, generosity, and resilience of its people. If you've experienced Türkiye—its hospitality, its vibrant spirit—you understand why this mission matters so deeply.

Bridge to Türkiye Fund has been focused on uplifting the potential of children, youth, and young people since its founding, and we continue that focus and invite you to join us this year and be the bridge to bright futures with your support.

We have put together this **Giving Tuesday** catalog to share with you personal notes from teachers dedicated to giving the world of opportunity to their students with accessible educational materials and safe and nurturing school and classroom environments to further their love of learning and set them on the path to a bright future. The lack of basic school supplies and limited access to creative learning tools that educators in Türkiye share with you, underscores that, despite these shortcomings, their students still show up every day eager to learn and grow.

Together, we can bridge to bright futures for children and youth in Türkiye—with tools to learn, safe places to grow, and the encouragement to dream beyond their circumstances.

This Giving Tuesday, we are reaching higher than ever—with an ambitious goal to raise \$65,500 in this giving season. For instance, to provide 360 children this year with warm coats and boots, we need to raise a combined total of \$18,000 in donations. That's nearly double what we achieved last year. It's bold, but we believe our children—and our communities—need us now more than ever.

And here's the truth: every gift, no matter the amount, can spark something extraordinary. Whether you give \$10, \$100, or \$1,000, or more. If you want to start a personal fundraiser, share our mission with your circle, or cheer us on—you are part of this movement to reach our goal, please join us.

We are pleased to also share that to kick off the giving season, three generous donors have stepped up with Matching Gift Challenges. Each has committed \$20,000 to match gifts across our four funding priorities. These matching funds will support Warm Winter Gear, Adopt-A-Classroom, Empowerment Scholarships, and Area of Greatest Need. Make gifts directly at bridgetoturkiye.org.

Join us and let's make **Giving Tuesday and the whole month of December** filled with compassion, generosity, and possibilities.

Onward with deep gratitude, kindness, and hope,



Deniz Taşdemiroğlu Conger

What is Giving Tuesday?

DECEMBER 2, 2025

Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement that takes place on the first Tuesday in December, celebrating the power of generosity, where individuals like you uplift communities and support nonprofits around the world.

This Giving Tuesday, turn your generosity into immediate impact with your support of Bridge to Türkiye Fund.

This year, children in Türkiye need your continued support.

From classroom science kits, school supplies, and backpacks that are age-specific to scholarships and winter essentials like warm boots and coats, your gift is life-changing to children and youth living in underserved and under-resourced communities in Türkiye.

**Join Us this Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025.
Transform the World for Children and Youth in Türkiye.**

Why give to Bridge to Türkiye Fund on Giving Tuesday?

For 22 years, **Bridge to Türkiye Fund has been a force for good with direct, life-changing impact, prioritizing the education, health, and well-being of children in Türkiye**. Each year, thanks to our growing global community of generous donors, Bridge to Türkiye Fund reaches over 20,000 children and youth with access to quality education, essential school supplies, modern learning spaces, and rebuilt schools. Even after the devastating 2023 earthquake, our supporters continue to help children heal by providing prosthetic limbs that restore mobility, development, and hope for a brighter future.

What started in 2003 with a clear mission to make quality education accessible to every child in Türkiye has grown into a **trusted and recognized leading U.S. nonprofit with a vibrant community of more than 40,000 donors and 5,000 volunteers**. Thanks to 22 years of unwavering generosity from our donors, nearly 1,000,000 children and youth in Türkiye have experienced life-changing support, opening doors to a brighter future. We are deeply grateful for every gift that has made this extraordinary impact possible.

Yet education is just the beginning.

Bridge to Türkiye Fund partners and empowers community schools, regional universities, and local NGOs to support children's learning, health, well-being, academic scholarships, disaster relief, and environmental sustainability.

Our grassroots model was launched by a small group of visionary volunteers who believed in the power of peer-to-peer, friend-to-friend giving. Their idea sparked a community-driven movement that connects life-changing initiatives with charitable resources to meet the greatest needs and strengthen the foundations of education, health, and well-being for children and youth in Türkiye.

We do the hard work of carefully vetting every project and partner, so you can give with confidence, knowing your support goes directly where it is needed most. When you give to Bridge to Türkiye Fund, you are also joining a deeply generous and dedicated community of changemakers and champions, driven to make a world of difference for children and youth.

Join us this Giving Tuesday, make a life-changing impact with your gift and be the bridge to a brighter future.



What you can do.

There are many ways you can support Bridge to Türkiye Fund this Giving Tuesday.

Your gift helps Bridge to Türkiye Fund bring life-changing support to children and youth in underserved and under-resourced communities in rural Türkiye, opening doors to brighter futures.

Whether you:

1. Make a donation,
2. Start a fundraiser,
3. Fundraise as a community with friends and peers, or
4. Spread the word on social media,

Your support inspires others and fuels lasting change.

Join Us. December 2, 2025.

Make an individual donation



Every gift counts, and whatever amount you can give has a positive impact. Whether you give \$10 or \$1,000, your donation provides school supplies, scholarships, and essential resources that empower children to learn, grow, and pursue their dreams.

Start your own fundraiser



Want your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to join you in making a difference? **Start your own fundraising campaign - it's easy to set up and a powerful way to invite others to support programs for children in need.**

Fundraise as a community



There's power in community. Rally your friends, colleagues, and community to launch a collaborative fundraiser. When a community unites around a shared purpose, the impact is extraordinary. **Together, you can maximize your impact in supporting children in Türkiye.**

Spread the word



Your voice has power - use it! Post, share, text, or talk it up. **One simple post on social media or in conversation can spark a chain reaction of kindness.** You never know who'll be inspired to give, join, or make a difference simply because you helped spread the word. Let's make generosity fill social media on Giving Tuesday!

Your Gifts Will Be Matched This Giving Tuesday!

Your generosity will be doubled thanks to **three generous donors** who **have made Matching Gift Challenges** to kick off our giving season! Each has committed \$20,000 to match gifts across our four funding priorities.

Help Us Unlock Two \$20,000 Matching Challenges for Education Needs **Gifts from Individuals and Fundraisers in support of:**

Two Matching Challenges—each unlocking \$20,000 in matching gifts as we hit key milestones:

- Unlock \$20,000 when we raise our first \$20,000
- Unlock another \$20,000 when we reach \$40,000 raised

Every dollar brings us closer to our \$65,000 goal—supporting:

- Warm Winter Gear for Kids
- Adopt-A-Classroom
- Empowerment Scholarships

Let's turn your gift into double the impact. Help us unlock every dollar!

\$20,000 Matching Challenge for Area of Greatest Need

Flexible, unrestricted gifts by individuals will be matched 1-to-1 up to \$20,000 — supporting and sustaining our mission and operations, and enabling rapid response to emerging needs. This funding also allows us to bridge our donors' support to Türkiye.

Make Your Individual Gifts or Start a Fundraiser today directly at
[bridgetoturkiye.org!](http://bridgetoturkiye.org)



**When We Put Children First,
We Elevate the World.**

How you can help. Support any one of our four funding priorities.



Area of Greatest Need

Flexible, unrestricted support allows us to sustain our daily operations, including:

- Rapidly respond to urgent needs as they arise
- Sustain impactful, year-round programs
- Support our dedicated team who carry out our mission
- Keep our infrastructure strong to bridge our donors to impactful programs in Türkiye

Your gift, of any size, helps us to fulfill our mission every day. This Giving Challenge matches gifts made by individuals.



Adopt-a -Classroom

Transform an entire classroom by providing essential educational tools, 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!

To meet the needs of all 11 schools featured, we need a total of \$25,000 in donations.

How you can help. Support any one of our four funding priorities.



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.

To meet the needs of 360 children this winter, we need a minimum total of \$18,000 of donations.



Sponsor Student Scholarships

Give a bright student the opportunity to continue their education by sponsoring a 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 university scholarship for one student: \$900

Our total shared goal across all university scholarships is to support 25 students or a total of \$22,500 in donations.

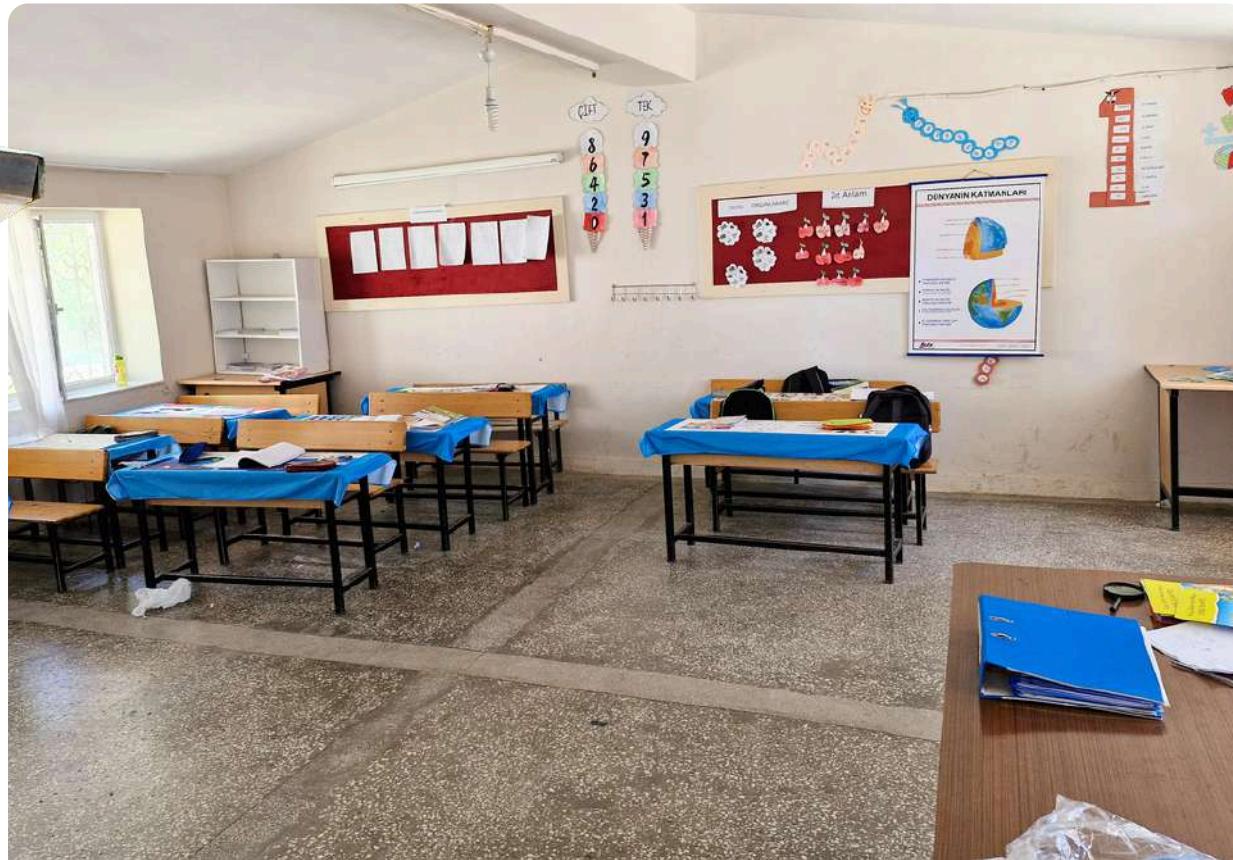
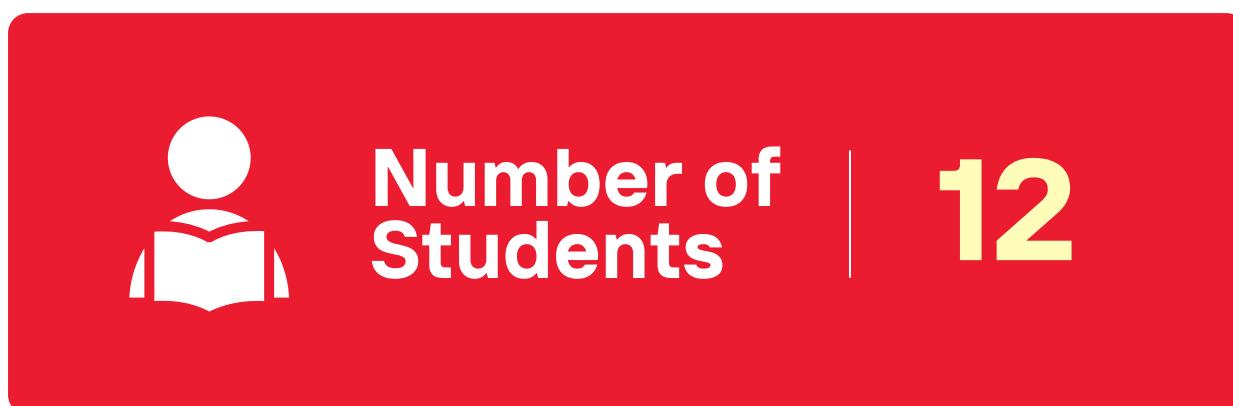
Adopt-a-Classroom

Güzelyurt Elementary School

Needs

- School bags & stationery

TOTAL: \$300



School Location
**Adiyaman
Güzelyurt**

01

Murat Şahin, Principal

Shortly after the February 6, 2023, earthquake, I began teaching at Güzelyurt Elementary School. Since then, I've worked hard on my own to make up for many of the school supplies and resources the school doesn't have to support our children. Even with limited resources, my students love coming to class and they show up eager to learn every day.

The families in our community live on modest means. Most rely on agriculture or travel to other provinces in Türkiye as seasonal workers to make a living.

I don't want my students to fall behind their peers in better-resourced schools. That's why I'm asking for your support.

With your help, we can ensure they have essential educational materials and supplies, and bring joy, confidence, and a stronger sense of possibility into their learning and classrooms.

02 School Location
Sakarya
Pamukova

**Number of
Students**

272

**Boots &
Coats**

64

Özlem Ceylan, Elementary Teacher

I've been a primary school teacher for 13 years, and like many of my students, I grew up in a rural village with very limited opportunities. I know firsthand how even the smallest resource can make a meaningful difference in a child's life.

Most of our students come from families who work as seasonal laborers or farmhands, often struggling to meet even their basic needs. These families want their children to continue their education, but the lack of resources makes it incredibly difficult.

With your support, our classrooms can be transformed. Science kits and hands-on learning materials will allow students to explore, experimenting, observing, and truly engaging in what they learn. Toys and early learning sets will help our youngest learners develop creativity, problem-solving skills, emotional expression, and social awareness. These are opportunities we simply can't provide on our own.

The children will never forget these experiences. They will gain knowledge and the confidence to share what they've learned with others and in the belief that they, too, can succeed. Most importantly, they'll begin their journey in life on more equal footing, with brighter eyes and a deeper curiosity.

**On behalf of my students, thank you for giving them the chance
to dream bigger and to learn in ways they deserve.**



Adopt-a-Classroom

Cumhuriyet Elementary School

Needs

- Art Supplies
- Coats and boots
- Cognitive training games
- School bags
- Science lab tools/book kits (kindergarten and elementary level)
- Sports equipment
- Stationary

TOTAL: \$6,880

Adopt-a-Classroom

Altınpaşa Elementary School

Needs

- Special education supplies
- Cognitive training games
- Sports equipment

TOTAL: \$1,085



School Location
Adıyaman
Merkez

03

Mehmet Bulur, Assistant Principal

With this support, our students will grow academically, socially, and artistically, as well as learn the value of sharing and solidarity. Experiencing kindness encourages them to help one another, and these are values they will carry throughout their lives, developing essential life skills.

Most of our families are lower-to middle-income, and opportunities remain limited. These educational sets will remind our children that—even in disadvantaged areas—there are people who care about them. That feeling of being seen and supported will stay with them and inspire them to extend the same compassion to others.

Until recently, I worked at a multi-grade village school. Just last month, I began serving as assistant principal in another rural school in the same district. Here too, students grow up with limited social opportunities due to the region's conditions.

Your generosity helps us overcome these barriers - giving children not only the educational resources, but also the encouragement to dream bigger.

04

School Location
Hatay
Iskenderun

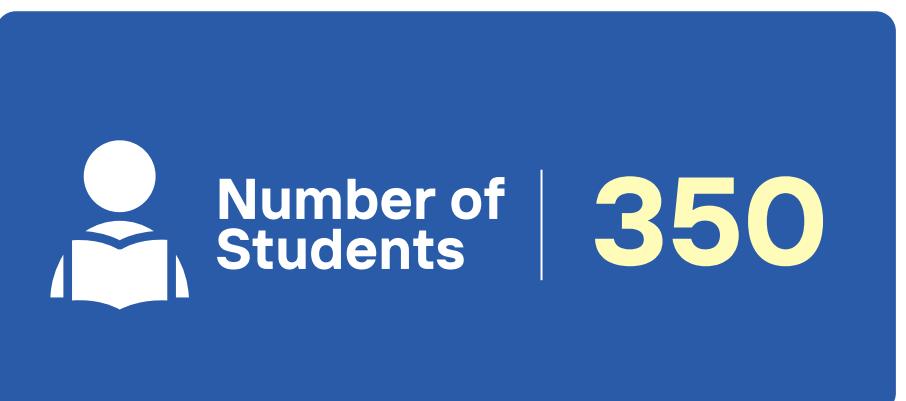
Yusuf Karasu, Elementary Teacher

Our school is located in a disadvantaged neighborhood where it is very difficult to provide educational materials. Most of our students come from low-income families, and as teachers, we try to organize activities with the limited resources we have.

With your support, our children will gain the chance to learn by exploring, experimenting, and thinking for themselves in a joyful classroom environment. Providing our children with learning sets will improve their skills and bring happiness and motivation back into their school days.

We are from Hatay, a community deeply affected by the 2023 earthquake. Our school has been closed for a year due to repairs to ensure a safe school building. While we wait for our school to be ready for our students to return, we have been hosted at another community school. When we do return to our school, we will need to replenish our educational materials and school resources. We urgently need educational sets and basic equipment such as air conditioners, printers, computers, and photocopiers.

On behalf of my students, we kindly ask for your support. Your generosity will help us rebuild our classrooms and restore a sense of normalcy for children have already endured so much.



Adopt-a-Classroom

Selahattin Alanya Elementary School

Needs

- Cognitive training games
- Musical instruments (Elementary)
- Sports equipment
- Art supplies
- Science lab tools (Elementary)

TOTAL: \$1,845



Adopt-a-Classroom

Aksu Elementary School

Needs

- Art supplies
- Books (Kindergarten)
- Books (Elementary)
- Books (Middle School)
- Sports equipment
- Science lab tools (Elementary)
- Musical instruments (Elementary)
- Special education supplies

TOTAL: \$3,100



School Location
Sivas
Koyulhisar

05

Saliha Coşkun, Special Education Teacher

This is my very first teaching experience in a small rural village school. I have one student, and in many ways I am not only his teacher but also a trusted adult to him and his family to support his special education learning. As a special education student, he requires extra attention and care, and sometimes struggles to focus.

In rural areas, the lack of materials is a real challenge, especially during the winter months when access becomes even harder. For children here, even something as small as a colorful pencil or a decorated sharpener can become a treasured companion, carried and cherished for days. Through your support, I hope to bring joy and motivation to my student's learning journey.

His family lives in the village with very limited means. Despite this, he is a child full of excitement - someone who treasures every little gift and proudly tells me about it all day long. He cares for his belongings with such love that even a small accident, like breaking a toy, leaves him sad for days. Sometimes the smallest thing can mean the whole world to a child.

Please consider supporting the learning of my student so I can provide him with the special resources and educational experience he so deserves.

06

School Location
Ağrı
Hamur

Öztürk Taşdemir, Principal

Hello. Our school sits in the district center. With no schools or suitable buildings in their villages, students are bused in each day. Many families have minimal means; children often arrive without the basics for learning. The kits you send help them settle into school, and just as crucial, spare them the sting of standing beside better-resourced peers.

Most come from large households with stretched budgets. Parents cannot meet every child's needs, and as a result, readiness suffers. In some homes, educational shortfalls are easy to overlook, and the weight shifts to us, the teachers; thus, your support matters a great deal.

Your help strengthens their bond with school, smooths their adjustment, and lets them feel at ease among their classmates. There is, in every way, a gap between town children and those who travel in from the villages. The more we narrow it, the better for them.

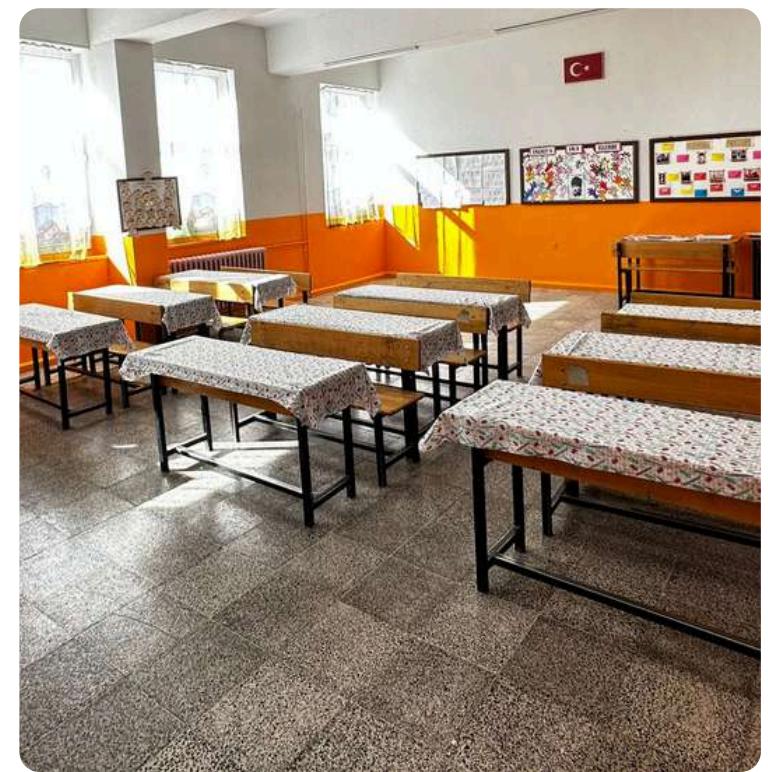
Many of our students wake before dawn, ride long miles from remote villages, and are still eager to learn and experience the joys of being part of a caring school with their classmates.

Yet obstacles stand in their way at every step, including the limited resources we have to support their education. **Please help us with school supplies and bags, and in any way you can. For the future, for the peace, for the well-being of this region, education is essential.**



Number of Students
120

Boots & Coats
88



Adopt-a-Classroom

Osman Gazi Elementary School

Needs

- Special education supplies
- School bags & stationery
- Boots and Coats

TOTAL: \$6,185



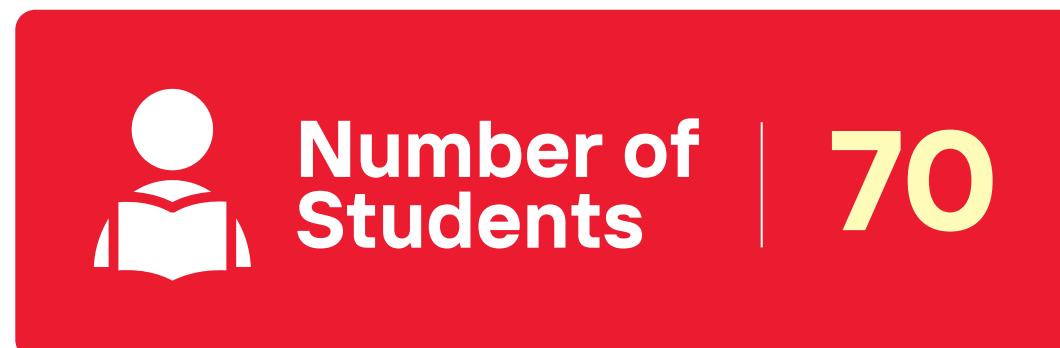
Adopt-a-Classroom

Akbaba Middle School

Needs

- Sports equipment
- School bags & stationery
- Books (Kindergarten)
- Books (Elementary)
- Books (Middle School)
- Cognitive training games
- Educational toys

TOTAL: \$3,920



School Location

Kars
Merkez

07

Demet Pamuk Daştan, Science Teacher

Our students come from a small village in one of our country's northeastern border provinces, where winters are cold and harsh, and summers are brief. Far from city life, they grow up alongside animals and the land; outside school, many spend their hours helping their families with livestock. As their teachers, we want to positively impact their lives, broaden their horizons, and equip them with the skills this century demands. For that, I ask for your support.

As their teacher, I care that our children's interest in science deepens; I care that what they learn lasts; I care that the opportunities in our village are on par with those in city schools. For this, we need your help.

I believe that learning by doing, by trying, and by experiencing builds problem solvers.

Please join us in our goal to provide an excellent educational experience for our students. We would be so grateful and really appreciate any support you can provide.

08

School Location

Mardin
Kızıltepe

Nurşah İztaş, Elementary Teacher

Hello, and thank you in advance to everyone who will lend a helping hand in supporting our children's education. I'm teacher Nurşah, now in my fourth year in this village, and this is my first teacher position. While I am their teacher, I find joy in helping them learning and making a difference in the lives of these lovely children who gather around me with such hopeful eyes. There is so much each of my students has never seen, yet they still wait for better days with hope.

While a few of our students come from middle-income families, all come from large households and have limited resources. I want to create a learning environment in which my students feel special. Not one of them has ever played a musical instrument. None have had adequate learning supplies, like a variety of colored pencils. With your support, I hope to build a classroom where my students learn with joy. I imagine them, one day, as musicians and artists.

I want them to learn while playing and to develop a love for school and learning. I would be pleased if you could help me bring this dream to life. Thank you in advance for your support.



Number of
Students

52

Boots &
Coats

52



Adopt-a-Classroom

Yamanlar Elementary School

Needs

- Art supplies
- Musical instruments (Elementary)
- Sports equipment
- Books (Elementary)
- Cognitive training games
- Educational toys
- School bags & stationery
- Boots and coats

TOTAL: \$5,700



Çimenli Borsa İstanbul Middle School

Needs

- School bags & stationery
- Boots and Coats
- Sports equipment
- Art supplies

TOTAL: \$4,510



**Number of
Students**

170

**Boots &
Coats**

50

School Location

Hakkari
Merkez

09

Kardelen Akkoç, Science Teacher

Hello! My name is Kardelen Akkoç, and I teach science at Çimenli Borsa İstanbul Middle School in the Çimenli village area. Ours is a bused-in program: students travel from surrounding villages to reach us. Resources are scarce, the district center is far, and opportunity gaps persist. Most of our families are in difficult financial circumstances.

We run projects to help students grasp science more profoundly and to feed their curiosity. Yet our laboratory capacity is limited, so hands-on experiments are too rare. With your support, establishing a proper laboratory would boost motivation and enhance scientific thinking and problem-solving. Art and sports supplies would also raise students' enthusiasm and help attendance. I care deeply about art as a language of self-expression for our children, and we need materials to make that possible. Additionally, because many families struggle, winter clothing is an urgent need for many students.

We respectfully ask for your help, and your support makes a difference for our children's learning and their school experience. As their teacher, I thank you for considering my request.

10

School Location

Van
Erciş

Fatma Tutkun, Visual Arts Teacher

Our region, with its terrain and weather conditions, and the fact that we are a boarding school, puts us at a disadvantage when it comes to equal opportunity in education. For children to learn by doing and experiencing, they need materials and the right setting. State-issued lab equipment alone cannot carry that load. With the tools and supplies that generous donors can provide, our students will find it easier to view the world through the lens of science and to feel that learning is an integral part of their daily lives.

In our region, most families are low-income and work as seasonal laborers. We are a community that, despite every hardship, believes the future is built through education. In all circumstances, we prioritize education; we trust that this commitment will lead us toward a brighter future.

Not only for our tomorrows but for the generations to come, we continue to plant seeds of knowledge patiently and hopefully. Maintaining this purpose is our long-term goal.



**Number of
Students**

347

**Boots &
Coats**

107



Adopt-a-Classroom

Salihije Kız Yatılı Bölge and Middle School

Needs

- Art supplies
- Books (Middle School)
- Books (Elementary)
- Boots and Coats
- School Bags & Stationary

TOTAL: \$9,290



Adopt-a-Classroom

Umutlu Elementary and Middle School

Needs

- Musical instruments (Elementary)
- Books (Elementary)
- Books (Middle School)
- Musical instruments (Middle School)
- Sports equipment
- Educational toys
- Science lab tools (Elementary)

TOTAL: \$2,860



 **Number of Students | 300**



School Location
Şanlıurfa
Bozova **11**

Nurali Karababa, Assistant Principal

Thanks to your support, our students will not only benefit academically but also grow socially and artistically. More importantly, they will be inspired by the spirit of solidarity. Your generosity will strengthen their sense of sharing and caring for one another and encourage them to carry these values forward in their own lives.

Most of our families are of lower-to-middle-income, and resources for children are limited. With these learning sets, our students will feel that, even in disadvantaged areas, there are people in the world who care about them. That feeling of being seen and supported will remain with them, shaping how they treat others in the future.

Until recently, I worked in a multi-grade village school. Last month, I started a new role as assistant principal at another rural school in the same district. Here too, our children face many challenges and limited opportunities due to the conditions of the region. **Your kindness brings not only materials but also hope, confidence, and the belief that their dreams matter.**

Thank you for your generosity and for helping Bridge to Bright Futures!



If you would like to speak with us about making a special challenge gift or explore other ways to support our efforts, please reach out to **Sule Kivanc-Ancieta**

sule@bridgetoturkiye.org

Contact the development team and let us know how we can help:

info@bridgetoturkiye.org

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