

Frequently Asked Questions

What is TPF's Mission?

TPF's mission is to help put together donors' philanthropic goals with community needs in Turkey and in the US. Through TPF, donors in the United States can not only contribute to charities in Turkey but also support their local causes in the US. We strive to create long-lasting social change in our communities through supporting high-impact organizations.

How did TPF start?

In 2006, TPF's founder, Haldun Tashman, started to look for a vehicle to send funds to his hometown, Bolu. His search brought together leaders (Mustafa Abadan, Ozlenen Kalav, Erinch Ozada, and Haluk Soykan) from the Turkish-American community, which resulted in a passionate and ambitious project: starting a foundation to send tax-deductible contributions to Turkey while having the means to support local causes in the US.

After a feasibility study and a detailed research TPF was established as an independent public charity in February 2007 and has adopted the community foundation model. TPF became an official 501(c)(3) public charity in December 2007.

What is a Named Fund?

A donor can establish and name a fund with an irrevocable contribution of a minimum of \$5,000. The donor receives a tax deduction in the current year while contributions are invested in professionally managed investment pools and can grow over time. Through grants donors can support NGOs of their choice, in an area that is important to them, or work with experts and advisors at TPF to determine where to give in Turkey and in the US in the current year or in the future.

Why give through TPF?

Giving through TPF offers an easy way for you to realize your philanthropic interests. Donations that are intended for NGOs in Turkey are channeled through TPF with full tax-deductibility under US laws. You gain access to the highest level of strategic thinking on ways to meet community challenges to help make your contributions as effective as possible.

What is a Social Needs Fund?

Social Needs funds are established to support charitable beneficiaries or institutions in specific issue areas with pooled contributions in a variety of amounts. TPF has identified four issue areas as pressing needs in Turkey: Livelihoods, Women Empowerment, Education, and Arts & Culture.

Can I give to a US-based Turkish organization through TPF?

Yes, you can support a US-based Turkish NGO by establishing your own named fund and designating your donation to go to that organization.

How does TPF make sure my donation reaches the right need and organization?

TPF makes sure that donors' dollars are not lost in transition and that at least 97% of donors' contributions reach the specific causes by:

- * Working closely with grantee organizations.
- * Making sure recipient organizations are effectively monitored.
- * Encouraging grantees to think about evaluation and the impact of their projects on the community.

What is TPF's approach to making grants?

TPF understands that it has the responsibility to re-grant any unrestricted funds contributed to social needs fund in the most effective way. These grants are particularly important in the growth of the nonprofit sector in Turkey. Therefore, TPF developed a grant making philosophy that reflects the values and vision of the organization.

Does TPF partner with other organizations?

TPF believes in partnering with other organizations and collaborates with like-minded institutions both from the Turkish community and other communities. We hope to set a legal precedent for sending funds to social projects in Turkey, and to be an operational model which other Turkish-American community groups across the US can benefit from.

How can I get my company involved?

There are multiple ways to engage your company in the work of TPF. The following are a few suggestions:

1. Get TPF added to your company's list of approved non-profit organizations.
2. If your company has a corporate foundation, suggest TPF for corporate funding.
3. You can start a corporate fundraiser within your corporation to support one of TPF's projects.
4. You can start a "Named Fund" for your company
5. Or, you can ask your company to match your gift.

Can I volunteer?

TPF welcomes volunteers! Please send an email to volunteer@tpfund.org indicating your interest.