

TPF GALA 2025 NYC

Thursday, May 8, 2025

The New York Public Library

Stephen A. Schwarzman Building

5th Avenue and 42nd Street

New York City



TURKISH
PHILANTHROPY
FUNDS

A JOURNEY of *IMPACT* and *HOPE*

Cocktail Reception

7 PM, Astor Hall

Dinner and Program

8 PM, Celeste Bartos Forum

The Final Chapter

10 PM, Astor Hall



TURKISH
PHILANTHROPY
FUNDS

TPF
GALA
2025 NYC

GALA CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Merve Gürsel
Board Member, TPF

—

GALA HONORARY COMMITTEE

Mustafa Kemal Abadan, Co-Chair
Chair of the Board, TPF

Mehmet L. Kırdar, Co-Chair
Chairman Emeritus, TPF

Haldun Tashman
Chairman Emeritus, TPF

Aykut Karaaliođlu
MobileAction

Hamdi Ulukaya
Chobani

Şenay Ataselim Yılmaz, Ph.D
Executive Director, TPF

WELCOME

Welcome to the Turkish Philanthropy Funds Gala.

This evening is a tribute to purpose—a reflection of what becomes possible when vision, generosity, and shared commitment come together. Our theme, “A Journey of Impact and Hope,” reflects everything we’ve built together. Through your support, we’ve responded to urgent needs, invested in recovery, empowered women and youth, championed the arts, and expanded access to education.

Each initiative began with hope. Each outcome was shaped by your trust.

Tonight, we are privileged to honor Eren, Fatih, and Eda Özmen, recipients of the TPF Philanthropic Leadership Award, whose strong commitment to meaningful change reflects the very spirit of this evening.

As we look to the future, we do so with a clear purpose—to deepen our reach, expand our efforts, and continue this journey, together.

With Gratitude,

Mustafa Kemal Abadan
*Co-Chair,
Gala Honorary Committee*

Mehmet L. Kırdar
*Co-Chair,
Gala Honorary Committee*

Merve Gürsel
*TPF Gala
Creative Director*



Şenay Ataselim-Yılmaz, Ph.D
Executive Director

B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S

Mustafa Kemal Abadan, *Chair*
Osman Coşkun Kurtuluş, *Vice Chair*

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Ergün Kırıkkovalı

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Gamze Ateş

Maria Figueroa Küpçü

Merve Gürsel

Metin Negrin

Onur Erzan

Seran Müdüroğlu Trehan

Tamer Seçkin

Ülkü Rowe

Şenay Ataselim Yılmaz, Ph.D, *Executive Director*



A B O U T T P F

For 18 years, Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) has been on a journey—a journey fueled by hope and defined by impact. With the support of over 100,000 generous donors, we have disbursed nearly \$50 million, directly transforming more than 3 million lives.

As a community foundation, we listen closely, act strategically, and invest boldly in solutions that reflect the evolving needs of the communities we serve. We help donors turn their generosity into lasting change, offering guidance and partnership every step of the way. TPF is more than a funder—it is a movement.

A collaborative hub where donors, nonprofits, and businesses come together to create resilient, inclusive communities across borders. Together, we are not just meeting challenges—we are redefining what's possible, one act of giving at a time.

*Thank you for being
a part of this extraordinary journey.*



www.tpfund.org

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[Read the TPF Earthquake Fund Impact Reports](#)

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P R O G R A M

CELESTE BARTOS FORUM

Digital Art | Presence by Mert Onaran

*

Musical Performance | Emma Shapplin

Performing Spente Le Stelle, La Notte Eterna, and IRA di Dio

Digital Art | *Echoes of Water*

*

TPF Gala 2025 Film

*

Welcome

Jülide Ateş | *Master of Ceremonies*

*

Opening Remarks

Change | *Nothing Moved. Then Everything Did.* | *Digital Art*

Mustafa Kemal Abadan | *Chair, Turkish Philanthropy Funds*

*

Hope | *Hope Rises Quietly...* | *Digital Art*

Merve Gürsel | *TPF Gala Creative Director & Board Member, Turkish Philanthropy Funds*

*

Impact | *Beneath the Silence...* | *Digital Art*

Şenay Ataselim Yilmaz, Ph.D | *Executive Director, Turkish Philanthropy Funds*

TPF PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

Introduction | Hamdi Ulukaya

Founder & CEO, Chobani | 2022 TPF Philanthropic Leadership Awardee

*

2025 TPF Philanthropic Leadership Awardees

Eren Özmen | *Turkish-American Philanthropist & Entrepreneur, Co-Owner, SNC & Sierra Space*

Fatih Özmen | *Turkish-American Philanthropist & Entrepreneur, Co-Owner, SNC & Sierra Space*

Eda Özmen | *Social Impact Investor & Philanthropist*

*

Closing: A Moment of Gratitude

Jülide Ateş | *Master of Ceremonies*

A S T O R H A L L

THE FINAL CHAPTER

Reflections and Conversations

Music by DJ Memos

Coffee & Dessert

A R T I S T ' S S T A T E M E N T

Mert Onaran | *Digital Artist*

CHANGE | *Nothing Moved. Then Everything Did.*

Change is a meditation on transformation, not as a sudden event, but as a quiet movement shaped by time. The land becomes the canvas: dry earth softens into luminous paths, the terrain shifts, and life begins to bloom in quiet synchrony. At its center, a clock turns slowly, buried like memory.

It measures more than time—it holds intention. It marks the moment when vision aligns with direction and change begins to take root. From the return of white birds to the shifting rhythm of light, this piece captures the quiet force of transformation, rooted in care, collective will, and time.

It mirrors the spirit of Turkish Philanthropy Funds where hope inspires action, impact grows with intention, and change is not passing, it endures.

HOPE | *Hope Rises Quietly...*

Hope rises quietly. Sometimes as light. Sometimes as motion. Sometimes as the soft arrival of something unfamiliar, until we recognize it's been with us all along. This piece is a visual meditation on the theme of this year's Gala: Be the Change: A Journey of Impact and Hope. A white bird, drawn by the warmth of dawn, becomes more than symbol, it becomes a force. Not to disturb, but to awaken. As it nears, it stirs the stillness, and what once felt distant becomes transformative. Its presence doesn't break the silence, it reveals what was already waiting beneath it: a community shaped by belief, united by generosity, and moved to act. This is hope, not imagined but embodied.

Hope, in motion.

IMPACT | *Beneath The Silence...*

Beneath the Silence reflects the stillness after devastation when sound fades, dust settles, and the world holds its breath. It is the quiet between heartbreak and healing, where grief lingers and hope feels just beyond reach. And yet, even there, something begins.

A silent force persists beneath the weight of loss. From the ruins, a white flower emerges—not to erase the past, but to mark the return of possibility. This piece captures the delicate shift when stillness gives way to resilience, and recovery begins to take root.

It is in this precise moment that Turkish Philanthropy Funds begins its work, transforming silence into care, presence into progress, and stillness into lasting impact.

TPF PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP AWARD



The **TPF Philanthropic Leadership Award** celebrates extraordinary individuals who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to strengthening communities through visionary leadership, generosity, and meaningful impact.

Presented biennially, this prestigious award honors those whose lifetime dedication to philanthropy has transformed lives, inspired others, and set a lasting example.

Recipients embody the very essence of philanthropy—through their careers, leadership, and sustained efforts to create positive change.

TPF PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP AWARD



EREN and FATİH ÖZMEN

*Turkish-American Philanthropists and Entrepreneurs
Co-Owners of SNC and Sierra Space*

Fatih and Eren Özmen are the visionary leaders behind SNC, transforming it from a modest startup into a multi-billion-dollar global leader in aerospace and defense. Since acquiring SNC in 1994, the Özmen family nurtured it into a next-generation prime contractor renowned for delivering leading-edge technologies and transformative solutions that address the most pressing national security challenges.

Eren and Fatih lead a portfolio of tech companies focused on disruptive innovations that will have lasting impacts on humanity. In 2021, they launched Sierra Space, a bold venture into commercial space exploration, leveraging innovations like the Dream Chaser® spaceplane and LIFE™ habitat to shape and accelerate Low Earth Orbit commercialization. Their visionary Dream Chaser spaceplane will launch in 2025, ushering in a new era of space travel.

Eren and Fatih have received many prestigious awards and recognition for their achievements and impact. Under their leadership, SNC was recognized as a US Best Managed Company. Eren and Fatih have also received various industry awards including the BENS Eisenhower Award. Eren is named among the Top 10 Most Successful Self-Made Women and "50 Over 50" lists by Forbes, and is a recipient of the Laureate Award from Aviation Week and Howard Hughes Memorial Award. Fatih is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Beyond their business success, the Özmen family is deeply committed to philanthropic giving and paying it forward to the next generation. They champion many causes like STEM education and medical research, as well as supporting Turkish students through a robust scholarship program. Their dedication to giving back reflects their belief in the power of education and innovation to create a better future for all.

TPF PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP AWARD



EDA ÖZMEN

Social Impact Investor, Philanthropist

Eda Özmen is a dedicated student of human behavior, focused on fostering peace, connection, and sustainable change. As a first-generation Turkish-American, her personal experiences inspired her commitment to growth, discovering and addressing the root causes of disconnection and divisiveness. Through her leadership in her family's philanthropy, Eda supports innovative initiatives that promote social, emotional, and spiritual well-being by incentivizing collaboration and coordinated efforts.

As a member of Leap Forward, a global nonprofit dedicated to cultivating self-awareness, resilience, and

co-evolution, Eda is part of a community pioneering solutions to dismantle barriers to collective thriving. Inspired by Leap Forward's mission, she is co-developing a transformative initiative to unite values-driven leaders and bridge-builders, from diverse backgrounds, to strengthen collaboration between Muslims and Jews.

Guided by her passion for and study of human behavior, Eda values authentic self-expression and relationships, holistic education, and diverse perspectives, which she believes are essential tools for catalyzing understanding, sustainable impact, and collective flourishing.

THANK YOU

THE NORTHSTAR

Eren and Fatih Özmen
Hamdi Ulukaya, Chobani

THE PIONEER

Haldun Tashman
Mert Onaran

THE PHILANTHROPIST

Turkish Airlines
Aykut Karaalioğlu, MobileAction

THE CHANGEMAKER

Mustafa Kemal and Susan Abadan
Gamze Ateş
The Marmara Park Avenue

THE CHAMPION

Ender and Murat Ağırnaslı
Aslı and Alper Dağlıoğlu
Ece Calgüner Erzan and Onur Erzan
Selin and Ali Gülçelik
Merve and Kağan Gürsel
Morgan Stanley
İpek Kıraç
Peter Eyüp Ulu

THE INNOVATOR

Hakkı Akbulak
Başak Yavuz and Özgür Altan
Batur Biçer

Zeynep and Evren Bilimer
Fatoş and Ahmet Bozer
Assia and Vedat Eyüboğlu
Contemporary Istanbul Foundation
Juliana and Ergün Kırıkocalı
Seran and Ravi Trehan

THE SUPPORTER

Ozan Bilgen
212 Venture Capital
Fügen Neziroğlu

MEDIA SPONSOR

Firefly

A Voice
Beyond Borders

EMMA
SHAPPLIN

French Operatic Coloratura Soprano. Composer.

Emma Shapplin, born Crystèle Madeleine Joliton in the Paris suburb of Savigny-le-Temple, is a visionary French soprano whose music transcends category. Merging the purity of classical opera with the pulse of electronic, pop, and cinematic sound, she has forged a genre uniquely her own, lyrical, daring, and deeply evocative.

Her debut album, *Carmine Meo*, became a global phenomenon upon release, reaching multi-platinum status and captivating audiences across five continents. She has since followed with acclaimed works including *Etterna*, *Macadam Flower*, and *Venere*, each marking a chapter in her ongoing artistic evolution—an artist in motion, fearless in voice and vision.

Emma's performances resonate with both intimacy and grandeur. From the Acropolis in Athens to the Kremlin Grand Palace in Moscow, she has captivated global

audiences—including for UNESCO and the G8—through a sound that feels both timeless and profoundly contemporary.

We are honored to welcome Emma Shapplin to the TPF Gala 2025.

Her performance is not only a moment of artistry, but a fitting tribute to this year's theme, **Be the Change: A Journey of Impact and Hope**. Her voice captures what this evening stands for—hope that resonates, and impact that moves beyond words.

At the Gala, Shapplin will perform three evocative pieces: *Splente le Stelle*, from her iconic debut *Carmine Meo*—alongside *La Notte Eterna* and *Ira di Dio*. These works, drawn from different chapters of her career, echo the emotional arc of the evening: moving from longing to transcendence, from quiet intensity to a crescendo of power and grace.

MERT ONARAN

New Media Artist, Infinity FX Studio Founder

Mert Onaran is an award-winning generative designer recognized for creating immersive digital experiences that merge emerging technologies with a deep reverence for nature. His multidisciplinary work explores the intersection of art, technology, and emotion—crafting surreal landscapes that captivate, inspire, and transform.

A pioneer of anamorphic 3D illusion installations in Turkey, Mert's large-scale works have illuminated Istanbul's largest public screen, integrating 3D projection mapping, synchronized LED lighting, and intricate sound design.

Beyond his artistic innovation, Mert Onaran is also a committed philanthropist.

His contribution to this Gala—offered entirely in support of Turkish Philanthropy Funds—is a reflection of his belief in the power of art to serve something greater.

“I create to spark wonder—but more importantly, to give something back. To offer a moment of meaning that reminds us we're part of something greater.”

Mert Onaran

JÜLİDE ATEŞ

Master of Ceremonies

Jülide Ateş is a renowned Turkish journalist and TV presenter. A Boğaziçi University graduate and former Miss Turkey, she gained prominence anchoring news on major networks and later created the acclaimed hardtalk program "40?" known for its impactful interviews.

*Thank you Turkish Philanthropy Funds
for turning generosity into lasting impact.
Your mission unites us all in
meaningful purpose.*

*Here's to building a brighter,
stronger future—together.*

Fatih, Eren, Eda & Kerem Özyen





Chobani. ♥ L. COLOMBE.

TPF
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It is with deep admiration and gratitude that I extend my warmest congratulations to Eren, Fatih, and Eda Özmen.

Your commitment and philanthropic leadership are a true inspiration to us all. Thank you for being a guiding light to our community and for setting a powerful example of what it means to give with purpose.

HALDUN TASHMAN



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Congratulations to the Özmen Family on receiving the
Philanthropic Leadership Award.

Your commitment to building lasting impact reflects the
very essence of meaningful change, quiet, steady,
and deeply human.

As an artist, it is rare to witness such alignment between
purpose and presence.

It has been meaningful to contribute creatively
to a night that honors your legacy and the values you represent.

MERT ONARAN



CELEBRATING THE WORLD RECORD!

Turkish Airlines now holds the **Guinness World Records™** title for
The Most Countries Flown to by an Airline.
We are proud to share this moment with you.



TURKISH AIRLINES

FIREFLY

BE THE CHANGE

INSPIRE EVERY JOURNEY.

At Firefly, we believe even the smallest sparks can ignite lasting change. We're honored to support Turkish Philanthropy Funds in their continued journey to create hope and impact.



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Spikey AI is proud to support Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) and congratulates the Ozmen Family for their generous contributions!

SPRING 2025  **Momentum Leader**

SPRING 2025  **High Performer**
MID-MARKET

SPRING 2025 AMERICAS  **High Performer**
SMALL BUSINESS

SPRING 2025  **Easiest To Do Business With**
SMALL BUSINESS

SPRING 2025 MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA  **Regional Leader**



Anyone, from anywhere, can achieve anything.
And if you're Turkish-American,
there's no ceiling — the sky is just the beginning.
It's time to rise. It's Action Time!

AYKUT KARAALIOĞLU

Congratulations to tonight awardees,
Eren, Fatih and Eda Özmen!

The Özmen Family's unwavering commitment to philanthropy
is a shining example of what we can achieve together as a
vibrant community driven by hope and purpose.
As TPF, we are honored to have been entrusted to
transform your generosity into impact.

**MUSTAFA KEMAL and
SUSAN ABADAN**



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NEW YORK, NY
akdo.com

Congratulations to Eren Ozmen, Fatih Ozmen, and Eda Ozmen on receiving the TPF Philanthropic Leadership Award! Your generosity and dedication inspire us all to create a brighter, more equitable future.



“Salutes **Turkish Philanthropy Funds** on its 18th anniversary. Congratulations to the **Özmen Family** on receiving the Philanthropic Leadership Award.”

PETER EYÜP ULU

Heartfelt congratulations to the Özmen Family!
Your exemplary leadership in philanthropy and your unwavering dedication to inspiring our community are truly commendable. I am deeply honored to be part of the TPF Family and I am proud to be a part of the impactful journey we will embark on together in the future.

GAMZE ATEŞ



YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME IN NEW YORK CITY



The Marmara Park Avenue
proudly supports
Turkish Philanthropy Funds
in celebrating 18 years of impact and
honoring **The Özmen Family**
for their visionary leadership in
philanthropy.

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WITH A GIVING FUND

TPF is your trusted partner in turning your personal values into lasting impact—through your OWN GIVING FUND

A giving fund at TPF allows you to make a tax-deductible contribution, then advise on the causes and organizations you'd like the fund to support.



[Learn More](#)



COMMUNITY-BASED MARKETING: THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS

At **TurkNetwork Magazine**, we build lasting connections with the Turkish-American community.

As the **only monthly Turkish magazine in the US**, we offer exclusive access to 20,000+ subscribers and a social network reaching 560,000+ users.

Partner with us to amplify your brand and lead the conversation.



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THE AĞIRNASLI FAMILY

celebrates Turkish Philanthropy
Funds' 18th Anniversary and
congratulates tonight's honorees
Fatih and Eren, and Eda Özmen for
their philanthropic leadership.

Congratulations to tonight's
honorees, Eren and Fatih
Özmen, along with Eda Özmen,
on receiving the prestigious
Philanthropic Leadership Award!
We are honored to be part of
TPF community and to celebrate
its incredible philanthropic
contributions over the years.

ASLI and ALPER DAĞLIOĞLU

We are honored to celebrate
Özmen family's recognition for
philanthropic leadership and
TPF's 18 years of impactful
philanthropy tonight.

ECE CALGÜNER ERZAN and ONUR ERZAN

We are proud supporters of
TPF because we believe in the
power of the Turkish American
community and collective giving
that TPF represents. Today, we
would like to extend our heartfelt
thanks to the Özmen Family for
their incredible generosity and
support. Also, we congratulate the
entire TPF team for their stellar
work and dedication.

SELİN and ALİ GÜLÇELİK

Congratulations to Eren, Fatih, and Eda Özmen, recipients
of the Philanthropic Leadership Award.

Your commitment to giving, grounded in vision, integrity,
and purpose, stands as a powerful testament to what
enduring leadership can achieve.

We are proud to honor your legacy and celebrate the impact
of your leadership and generosity.

MERVE and KAĞAN GÜRSEL

Congratulations to tonight's
honorees, the Özmen Family,
and to the entire TPF community
for the incredible work
you've been doing since 2007.

İPEK KIRAÇ

Congratulations to
Özmen Family for their incredible
leadership in philanthropy.
We are proud to be members
of this inspiring community.

**ZEYNEP and EVREN
BİLİMER**



**Leave a
Lasting Legacy for
Future Generations**

WITH PLANNED GIVING

Whether through a will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance, or real estate, you can ensure your values and philanthropy live on—benefiting future generations while potentially offering financial advantages for you and your loved ones.



[Learn More](#)

It's a privilege to stand with the TPF community in acknowledging the exceptional achievements and profound philanthropic impact of the Özmen Family this evening. Their dedication serves as a powerful inspiration to us all.
Congratulations!

HAKKI AKBULAK

We're honored to congratulate tonight's honorees Eren, Fatih, and Eda Özmen for receiving the Philanthropic Leadership Award- a tribute to their extraordinary impact. Let us celebrate TPF's 18th anniversary—a testament to enduring commitment to philanthropy and positive change.

**BAŞAK YAVUZ and
ÖZGÜR ALTAN**

We take great pride in being part of the TPF family and are honored to celebrate tonight alongside the TPF community.
Congratulations to this evening's honorees Eren, Fatih, and Eda Özmen for their inspiring achievements and commitment to philanthropy and positive change.

**ASSIA and VEDAT
EYÜBOĞLU**

Congratulations to the Özmen Family for their outstanding philanthropic endeavors and to the Turkish Philanthropy Funds for its continued success. TPF has grown from strength to strength, championing high-impact projects in Türkiye while building and nurturing a vibrant, committed community of philanthropic supporters in the United States.
Thank you for your inspiring leadership and dedication to making a meaningful difference.

**SERAN and RAVİ
TREHAN**

REMEMBER WHEN
SOMEONE BELIEVED IN
YOU?

That Someone can be YOU.



DONATE

TPF Changemaker Scholarships empower students committed to community service by funding their education in the U.S.

Empower a Changemaker. Transform a Future.

We, Rabia and Ali Güreli, founders of CIF, believe in the power of art to unite, inspire, and change. We are honored to be part of this philanthropic circle and grateful for the opportunity to grow together through collaboration, creativity, and a shared vision for a more compassionate and connected world. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Özmen Family and TPF for their invaluable impact for our community.

**Contemporary
Istanbul Foundation**

We congratulate TPF for cultivating and managing charitable giving among the Turkish American community. Almost 100 million dollars raised in 18 short years is a spectacular success!

**JULIANA and ERGUN
KIRLIKOVALI**

Congratulations to Turkish Philanthropy Funds on an inspiring Gala! A heartfelt tribute to the remarkable Özmen Family—your leadership, generosity, and vision are transforming lives and creating lasting impact.

Morgan Stanley

**C
H
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A Journey of
IMPACT
and
HOPE

**B
E** t h e

T P F M A N A G E M E N T

Şenay Ataselim Yılmaz, Ph.D *Executive Director*

Sandra Escauriza Rubio *Director of Finance*

Pınar Özyürek *Director of Philanthropy*

Seval Gülen Arıkan *Programs Lead*

Amber Deniz Kale *Communications Lead*

Burçak Küçükusta *Institutional Partnerships Lead*

Seda Özdemir Şimşek *Earthquake Fund Lead*



FOUNDERS CIRCLE

TPF's six founding members had a vision for a foundation that could encourage philanthropy among those interested in supporting Türkiye and addressing vital needs in local communities. TPF's success is a direct result of these pioneers, who have stood behind the organization and have brought ideas, positive energy, and a beautiful intensity. Their leadership contributes daily and to our legacy. And, we are forever grateful for their service.

Haldun Tashman *Chairman Emeritus*

Mustafa Kemal Abadan

Murat Ağırnaslı

Özlenen Eser Kalav *CEO Emeritus*

Erinch Özada

Haluk Soykan



TURKISH
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www.tpfgala.org

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