



## SEV/ABH and the 17 August Earthquake

Dear Friends and Graduates,

In our last Alma Mater issue, we sent you a brief summary of SEV, ABH and our schools' earthquake relief efforts and invited you to contribute to these through donations in money or kind. Your contributions continue to be important, particularly in light of the second large earthquake that hit Düzce, Bolu and surrounding towns and villages on 12 November. We extend our deepest condolences to all the communities and families affected by this last earthquake.

In this newsletter, we will review some of the relief activities SEV, ABH, our schools and our hospital have undertaken since the first earthquake on 17 August 1999. Due to the urgency of our last newsletter, we were unable to include our traditional annual greetings from each of our schools' superintendents. We have included these in this issue and hope you will take the time to review their plans and goals for the new academic year.

Immediately after the 17 August earthquake, SEV and ABH focused its earthquake relief efforts on Adapazarı, where ABH once had a school. Adapazarı is also the hometown of SEV's General Coordinator, Ziya Köseoğlu, so Ziya Bey had been working in rescue and relief efforts from the beginning of the tragedy. Immediately after the earthquake, ABH and SEV used their unrestricted funds to purchase a truckload of emergency supplies and deliver these to a warehouse in Adapazarı.

Shortly thereafter, Northwest Medical Teams contacted us, through the good offices of Gaziantep Head Nurse Sheryl Jackson, with an offer for 100 haemodialysis units for both earthquake victims and the Gaziantep Hospital. Dr. Barclay Shepard, Gaziantep's Chief of Staff, expedited this donation and saw to the distribution of the units to appropriate medical institutions caring for dialysis patients.

At the same time, the SEV Board of Directors met to consider how SEV and the schools could contribute on a longer-term basis to meeting the needs of the affected communities. Board Member Şükran Çelebi

agreed to do the necessary research and draw up a proposal with our Educational Advisor, John Chalfant. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of both individuals and the contributions of our schools and graduates, SEV is now in the process of constructing a social center for pre-school children at Adapazarı's largest tent city. The details of this project and contact people for further information or contributions are given on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter.



*A mosque on the way from Düzce to Kaynaşlı*



*Dr. Barclay Shepard receiving the haemodialysis machines from Red Crescent depots*

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## News From Üsküdar

Monday, October 4 was the second opening day of school. We were very pleased to see our students and teachers again after the three week break. While the late start of school was disappointing to all, it did allow us to finish many projects on the Üsküdar campus.

Martin Hall, a lise building, has six new classrooms. These additional classrooms allow us to have smaller class sizes, which means a better learning environment for both students and teachers. Additionally, new windows have been installed in Martin. All classrooms have been re-painted.



*John Heard at the opening ceremony of SEV Elementary School*

This is the second year that the SEV Primary School has been at the Üsküdar Campus. We now house grades 1-6. In early October the Kindergarten moved into the Emir Konak building. Thus, we have grades K-12 here. The small "Çalidere Cottage" has been converted into a library for the younger children.

In the secondary school we have opened a new Lise Hazırlık program with 44 students. Looking back to June, the ÜAA Class of 1999 had very strong Turkish and American University results. The valedictorian, salutatorian and number 3 in the class are at Princeton, Williams and the University of Chicago respectively.

These are exciting times. Slowly the old Üsküdar Academy is being transformed into a new institution. We are keeping our wonderful traditions and values while we move into the new millennium.

**John E. Heard**  
Superintendent

## Announcement

We plan to focus the upcoming Winter Issue of the Alma Mater Newsletter on the educational quality of our SEV/ABH schools. For this, we are asking teachers, students, graduates, parents and employers to contribute their thoughts on what distinguishes an ABH graduate from others and on what they are expecting from SEV/ABH education in the coming decade. If you are interested in contributing to the discussion, please contact Leyla Keskiner, SEV/ABH Public Relations, by e-mail at [sevbilgi@sevakfi.org](mailto:sevbilgi@sevakfi.org), by telephone at (212) 514 15 74 or by fax (212) 519 08 83.

## News From İzmir

This academic year promises to be an exciting school year. First of all, we welcomed the new members of our first Lise Prep Class. Our Lise students should look carefully at the impact school grades had on the university entrance scores this year and study accordingly.

There were changes in the campus. Parson's Hall has been renovated. The old gymnasium in Parson's is gone and four new classrooms have been created. The old balcony has been changed to department offices and working areas. All ACI science classes from Orta 2 through Lise 3 have been scheduled where they should be, in the Hill Science Center. The new gymnasium is being constructed.

The sixth graders from our sister school will be sharing Junior with Orta 2 and Orta 3 classes. All classrooms in Junior have been air conditioned. A new prefab kitchen building has been erected behind Junior and the lunch room has been enlarged.

The business offices for both ACI and the sister school are now located on the upper campus where the P.E. offices and changing rooms used to be.

Three more Beacon classrooms have been air conditioned and four split unit air-conditioners have been located in the auditorium. We are hoping that, in more comfortable classrooms, our students' concentration skills will improve along with their achievement.

We need to seek excellence in our human relations as well as academic achievement. Have a pleasant and satisfying school year.



*Hale Baran, Turkish Vice Principal  
at ACI opening ceremony*

**Dr. Frederick Thompson**  
Superintendent

## Announcement

Sedef Mahanoğlu (ACI '83) teaches at Piri Reis İlköğretim Okulu in Gölcük. Her school and students have been severely affected by the 17 August earthquake and she has told us that they need help. If you want to be part of the relief organization, please call Sedef at 0 532 509 9606 or the school's director, Salim Şanlı, at 0 532 641 58 77.

## News from Tarsus

I know you think I don't know how to speak Turkish but I kept hearing one phrase over and over again this summer and I had to learn it. Over and over I would hear, "Yeni Müdür niçin daima gülümsüyor?"



*Dr. Bernard Mitchell at the opening ceremony of TAC*

So today, I will tell you why the new director is always smiling!

I am smiling because I know that we have parents who really understand TAC. Our parents know that the true measure of a TAC education is not only reflected in university entrance exam scores. The university entrance exam rewards rote memorization, universities do not. To succeed in

university you must have higher order thinking skills/problem-solving skills, the skills you learn at TAC. To succeed in life, you need friendships that will stand the test of time, people who you can contact 10-20-30 years from now and know they will assist you. These are the friends you make at TAC. TAC is more than entrance exams. If all we give you is great university exam scores and nothing else, we will have failed.

I smile because I get to work with the greatest students on earth. Students do not graduate TAC and lead normal lives. We graduate students to be leaders... our graduates have been leaders in business, politics, medicine and education not only in Turkey but throughout the world. Our motto is 'Leaders for Turkey... Leadership for the world.'

I smile because I get to work with great administrators. I smile because we share a love for our young people and they deserve to have administrators who love them. I smile because we have come to this wonderful point in time where, as Stickler is rebuilt and better than ever, so is our TAC community.

**Dr. Bernard Mitchell**  
**Superintendent**



*Students at the opening ceremony*

## The Transition of the SEV Gaziantep Nursing School



*School Director Mehmet Avşaroğulları with nurses at the commencement ceremony*

As the SEV Gaziantep Nursing School ended June 25, 1999, we had mixed feelings. We look expectantly to how the school building will be used. We also look with pride at the 73 women who have been given a valuable profession and the ability to knowledgeably help people. There are also a large number of our graduates who have seen a dramatic improvement in their entire family. The majority of our students were from poor families and the graduates' income is contributing significantly to raising the financial status of their families.

In the 1970s, the Gaziantep American Hospital Nursing School was closed by the government as nursing education was moved from middle school to the more appropriate high school level. We are facing another change in the government regulations for nursing education. In an effort to be compliant with standards for nursing education in the European Community, the Health and Education Ministries have determined that all nursing education will be in

universities and will be 4-year baccalaureate programs. We have tried unsuccessfully to find a way to bring our nursing school up to that level at this time. We are fully supportive of the Turkish government's courageous move to immediately make this change and hope that in the near future a nursing school can be opened again under the auspices of SEV University.

**Sheryl Jackson**  
**Administrative Director,**  
**SEV Private Nursing School**



Gaziantep Nursing School facilities hosted the third "Living with Diabetes" Camp between September 3-11, 1999. Gaziantep Lions Clubs sponsored the activity, which included 22 children between the ages of 8 and 20, from low-income groups and all over Turkey. The children were educated about the disease by Azariah Smith Memorial Hospital Diabetes Center doctors. The picture shows the children at the camp doing handicrafts.

## Impressions

I love the opening ceremonies at ACI. Whenever I have time, I like to be present for the opening and commencement ceremonies. Such ceremonies are special to me because they animate my feelings of "belonging". Although the number of faces that I know decrease each year, to see what is traditional takes me back to those "good old years". The presence of "male" students does not bother me. Nor does the fact that students no longer sing the old Turkish school song that goes "Biz Türk kıızıyız," although it saddens me a little because I do not know the new song. I can still join the crowd singing the "Alma Mater". However, not hearing the school clap hurts me. From what I have heard, there are two major reasons why people are not doing it. First, as Bercis Hanım has left there is nobody to initiate the clap. Second, the boys have quickened the tempo of the clap (shame on you boys!), making it

unrecognizable and less popular. To me, the school clap is the "sine qua non" of any school ceremony and one of the traditions that we should keep. Despite these changes, I still know where I am: this is ACI, the school that helped shape who I am.



After the opening ceremony of the 1999-2000 Academic Year, I walked around the campus proudly. I was proud to hear of the success of our 1999 class in the University Entrance Exam. The campus site has changed a lot since I graduated. I passed by Taner

Hall, which now belongs to the SEV Elementary School, and the main office and stopped by the COOP. "Mehmet Abi" is no longer there (and it's been a long time) but they still make "Leyla" – chocolate sandwiches. Then I visited Parsons Hall, as Dr. Thompson recommended. The old building is renovated, and what used to be the gym has turned into classrooms. Here, I noticed that they had removed our motto "Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve" from the façade. I thought to myself that there was no reason to panic, they probably took it down temporarily while restoring the building (inşallah that is the case!). I am not against change per se, but I do not like to see changes in the spirit of the school and the loss of traditions that are tied to this spirit.

I looked at some of the new classrooms and saw the new gym construction from their windows. I went downstairs to where there used to be "hazırlık" classes, walked by the Hill Science Center and reached the lower campus. I visited the library and thought, "these new generations are so lucky!" Actually, when I was a student (between 1978-1985), I thought we were very lucky too, in many different ways if not the same! We did not have the same facilities: we used the laboratories in the basement of Parsons Hall and our library was old, but we still had a very good science education and a good collection of books and magazines. We had fewer buildings, so our campus was less crowded.

As I walked the campus, I thought about the advantages of being a graduate of this educational institution, of which I am still a part through its traditions. I remembered meeting Zeynep Oral in Bodrum and doing the school clap one night. The Bodrum clap brought different generations of graduates together, just as the SEV Elementary School's opening ceremony at the amphitheater united me with the children of my former classmates. Our school traditions, large and small, are what create and sustain our community.

### **"Children's Center" Project Emirdağ, Sakarya**

We have all been touched by the devastating events of August and November and have done what we could to help ease the horrific sufferings of those directly affected by the earthquakes. At Sağlık ve Eğitim Vakfı (SEV), we continue to search for ways we can help those in need. For example, on November 3, 1999, a protocol was signed between SEV and the Sosyal Hizmetler ve Çocuk Esirgeme Kurumu to establish a "Children's Center" at Emirdağ, Sakarya. The actual construction has begun, and it is hoped that the Center will be operational by mid-December. It is an ambitious project made possible by the efforts of Şükran Çelebi, a member of the SEV Board of Directors, and we would like to thank her for helping to realize this project on behalf of SEV and the ABH Schools and family.

The "Children's Center" will become an important aspect of life in the Emirdağ Camp. A pre-fabricated construction of almost 500 square meters, complete with heating, utilities, special equipment and furniture suitable for this age group, it is expected to serve some 200 children a day.



The "Children's Center" will function as a study and recreational complex during the day and as an educational, entertainment and recreational center in the evenings and on weekends, available to the children and their parents. Some of the personnel will be selected, trained, and paid by SEV to manage these additional programs, in cooperation with the Sosyal Hizmetler staff.

The Emirdağ camp, near Adapazarı, is one of the largest in the district, with about 7000 inhabitants, and is being developed as a semi-permanent settlement that may be in place for several years. It is also a high profile camp, with a number of Turkish and international agencies on the site, but this "Children's Center" offers an opportunity that can be filled by SEV

and its affiliate institutions (ÜAA, ACI, TAC, the Üsküdar, İzmir and Tarsus SEV Elementary Schools, as well as by their graduate associations, PTAs, and Koruma Dernekleri.) By focusing on this pre-school age group, SEV will be working directly with the Sosyal Hizmetler organization.

As of now, most of the "basic needs" have been met, in the sense that various groups have pledged themselves to provide all the necessary items, such as chairs and desks, carpeting, appliances, art supplies, toys etc., within a limited period of time. The alumni/ae associations, the social service clubs, the teachers and administrators, the parents' groups, the SEV staff and Board members have all made significant contributions or commitments. The students have organized and begun to collect things. It should be pointed out, however, that most of the materials purchased and/or donated to date are for "start-up" purposes only, and that some items (art supplies for example) will have to be provided over an entire year or two. In this regard, we shall be requesting your further support to be able to sustain this project until the camp is no longer needed.

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Apart from the SEV projects above, the American Board office has served as the local headquarters for ACT International (Action by Churches Together), a coordinated relief agency of churches and church organizations from all over the world. This organization has built tent cities in İzmit, Adapazarı and Gölcük, dug wells in Adapazarı villages and provided shelter for homeless persons in Avclar with the support of churches in the US and Canada, Hong Kong and Japan, Finland and Hungary, among others. I have come back to Turkey twice from a six-month home assignment to coordinate this effort.



Alan McCain and Ömer Baylan visiting Mehmet Fahri Can

the Class of 1964. I hope we can all support him as he takes on the huge task of coordinating relief efforts for his newly battered town.

Before the second earthquake, the local ACT committee had planned to rebuild school facilities in Gölcük and, together with the German Church, in Adapazarı. We have now put these "Phase II" projects on hold in order to channel relief to the Düzce area. To date, TACT (Turkish Action by Churches Together) has pledged 900 tents for the province of Bolu, and is working to restore the water supply in Kaynaşlı. We are lucky to have an unexpected ally in our efforts in the region; the Kaymakamı of Düzce is Mehmet Fahri Can, a TAC graduate from

With warm wishes,

**Alan McCain**  
ABH General Secretary

## "Children's Center" Project Emirdağ, Sakarya

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To extend this mission we must establish a fund to ensure that there will be enough money to purchase additional materials and supplies for the Center in the near future, so **we are asking each and every graduate of our schools, who has not already done so, to make a personal donation of TL10 million or more to the Emirdağ Children's Center Fund.** If each of us can contribute this small amount, then, together we can truly make a difference in the lives of these unfortunate children.

Contributions to the "Children's Center Fund" may be sent to the Vakıflar Bankası Mercan Branch Turkish Lira account No. 8181 or US Dollar account No. 8183, or given directly to the Business Manager at any one of the SEV/ABH Schools. All donations will be recorded in the names of the donors, and receipts will be issued by the Foundation.

If you wish to learn more about this project, please feel free to contact us. In the meantime, we thank you for your support and send you our regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

**Ziya Köseoğlu**  
SEV General Coordinator

**Mehmet Gür**  
SEV Board of Directors  
Fundraising Committee Chairman