



EVKAF

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"Your compassion will bring compassion."

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Vakıflar Wheelchair Basketball Team, which operates under the sponsorship of the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, paid a visit to the Director-General of the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, Prof. Dr Mustafa Tümer, at his office following their great success in the Turkish Wheelchair Basketball First Division.

During the visiting, the team players and coaching staff presented the trophy they won at the end of the season to Prof. Dr Mustafa Tümer and expressed their gratitude for the support they had received.

Having delivered a successful performance in Group A of the Turkish Wheelchair Basketball First League during the 2025-2026 season, the TRNC Vakıflar Wheelchair Basketball Team advanced to the play-offs with 12 wins from the 14 matches played in the regular season, and, by finishing second in the final group, achieved promotion back to the Super League. Speaking during the visit, Prof. Dr Mustafa Tümer, Director General of the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, stated that the team's success was a source of pride and congratulated the players, the coaching staff and everyone involved.

Tümer expressed that the Cyprus Evkaf Administration would continue to support people with disabilities in taking part in sport and achieving success.

Officials from the Vakıflar Wheelchair Basketball Team, meanwhile, thanked the Cyprus Evkaf Administration for the contributions and support provided throughout the season, noting that they would strive to represent the TRNC to the best of their ability in the Super League as well.



Children enjoyed an unforgettable day at the events organised to mark 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

Face-painting and stone pencil-holder-making activities held at Konuklar Primary School provided a colourful spectacle, whilst the inflatable play area set up in the school playground was filled with the children's

joy. The face-painting stand set up at Girne Harbour also attracted a great deal of interest throughout the day. As the young visitors enjoyed themselves, the festive spirit was palpable across the event area.

In this organisation, which aimed to uphold the values of solidarity, sharing and contributing to society, the children's happiness was the top

priority. Officials emphasised that passing on these values, which lie at the heart of the waqf's culture, to future generations is an important responsibility.

The smiles on the children's faces throughout the event remained in everyone's memories as the day's most meaningful keepsake.

EVKAF'S INITIATIVES THAT MAKE PEOPLE SMILE



To mark Mother's Day, the Cyprus Evkaf Administration recently organised an event in the front garden of its premises for the mothers of children with special needs.

The event was also attended by the Director-General of the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, Prof. Dr Mustafa Tümer, and the wife of the President, Nilden Bektaş Erhürman.

In his speech, the Director-General of the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, Prof. Dr Mustafa Tümer, stated that the Administration strives to support all sections of society within the extent of its capabilities. Tümer said, "We are gathered here today not only to celebrate Mother's Day, but also to listen to you. Every challenge you

face is, in fact, a shared responsibility of society. It is not easy to describe the struggle faced by mothers of children with special needs."

"You put a great deal of effort into your children's lives in every area. As Foundations, we try to offer our support as much as our resources allow. Our budget is limited, but what matters is making people feel that we are here for them. Sometimes a need that may seem small can mean a great deal to a family. Every request raised here today is precious to us," he said.

In her speech, the President's wife, Nilden Bektaş Erhürman, highlighted the importance of the responsibilities shouldered by mothers

of children with special needs.

Erhürman said, "Being a mother is a challenging journey in itself. Mothers of children with special needs, however, take on many roles simultaneously in the course of their lives. You become a teacher when needed, a doctor when needed, and a guiding friend when needed. The struggle you undertake for your children is truly invaluable. Each of the issues addressed here today is, in fact, a call for a more accessible and a more considerate way of living. All sections of society have an important role to play in this regard," she said. The event, which continued with pleasant exchanges, concluded with the presentation of gifts to the mothers.



Winners of the "Competing in Kindness" Project

IN TURKEY

As part of the "Competing in Kindness" project, launched for the first time this year in collaboration between the Cyprus Evkaf Administration and the Education Counsellor's Office at the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Nicosia, the students who made it to the final had the opportunity to explore the legacy of the foundation civilisation at close quarters during a trip to Istanbul and Bursa organised as a prize.

Students from Hala Sultan Theology College, designated as the pilot school this year, earned their place in the competition's final by carrying out various socially beneficial tasks over the course of approximately one month.

Throughout the competition, the students took part in social responsibility activities, including environmental clean-up initiatives, visits to martyrs' memorials and graves, and visits to care homes and patients. Events centred on the themes of love for animals and social awareness were also among the competition's key highlights.

The cultural tour programme organised for the students who achieved top rankings in the competition was combined with the Republic of Turkey General Directorate of Foundations' "Imagine, Discover, Endow" programme. Within this framework, 26 students from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus were hosted by the General Directorate of Foundations of the Republic of Turkey in Istanbul and Bursa.

Throughout the trip, the students not only

visited historic waqf monuments but also had the opportunity to observe first-hand how waqf culture is reflected in social life.

As part of the trip, the students visited Fatih Sultan Mehmet Endowment University, the Mihrişah Valide Sultan Imaret, various museums and the Hayır Çarşısı, where social welfare activities are carried out. The students also had the opportunity to examine numerous historic endowment sites at close quarters, including the Sultanahmet Mosque, the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque and the Yıldız Hamidiye Mosque.

During the visit to the Hayır Bazaar, the young people took part directly in solidarity initiatives by shopping alongside children in need. They also supported voluntary activities by observing first-hand the meal distribution processes organised for families in need.

Thanks to these field visits, the students gained practical experience of the culture of sharing and social benefit that lies at the heart of the endowment philosophy.

During the closing session of the programme, the students met with officials from the General Directorate of Foundations of the Republic of Turkey. Suat Faruk Giray, Deputy Director of the General Directorate of Foundations of the Republic of Turkey, expressed his pleasure at hosting the young people from Northern Cyprus and stated that the cooperation with the Cyprus Foundations Administration would continue

to strengthen. During the closing session of the programme, the students were introduced with officials from the General Directorate of Foundations of the Republic of Turkey. Suat Faruk Giray, Deputy Director of the General Directorate of Foundations of the Republic of Turkey, expressed his pleasure at hosting the young people from Northern Cyprus and stated that the cooperation with the Cyprus Evkaf Administration would continue to strengthen.

Giray also emphasised that the young people's engagement in volunteer-based work holds great social value, and congratulated the Cyprus Evkaf Administration and the Evkaf Kindness Volunteers Team for their contributions to the project.

Officials from the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, for their part, noted that the initiatives developed by young people centred on kindness offer hope for the future, and stated that projects aimed at passing on the culture of endowments to new generations would continue in the coming periods.





Ottoman Heritage in Nicosia: **Aziziye Tekke**

The Aziziye Tekke, referred to by various names in historical records dating from the Ottoman period, is situated on the south-eastern corner of Nicosia Municipal Market. The building, which appears in documents under names such as "Aziz Efendi Dergah", "Sheikh Abdulaziz Zawiya" and "Abdulaziz Efendi Zawiya", is also recorded in documents dating from the late 19th century. The fact that studies listing waqf properties in Cyprus mention a waqf established in the name of the Abdülaziz Efendi Zawiya, located in the Ayasofya Neighbourhood, indicates that the tekke had an institutional structure.

Over time, some parts of the tekke have disappeared, and only the mausoleum, the mosque and a limited number of other structures have survived to the present day. In the late 19th century, as the surrounding area was developed into a commercial district, shops were built on part of the tekke's grounds.

According to tradition, Aziz Efendi served in the Ottoman army during the conquest of Nicosia and was martyred during the fighting. The mausoleum built over his grave, together with the mosque and other structures added

in later periods, came to be recognised as a tekke. In this respect, the building serves as a space of both religious and historical memory.

The management and services of the tekke were maintained within the framework of the waqf system for many years. The archive documents contain records of the individuals who held the posts of imam, custodian of the mausoleum and trustee of the tekke. It is understood that these roles continued to be carried out regularly into the early 20th century.

By the Republican era, the tekke continued to be used as a place of worship and for making votive offerings for some time; it was visited in particular by women and market traders. However, the building fell into disrepair over time and suffered serious damage. Restoration work, initiated in the 1990s through collaboration between the Cyprus Evkaf Administration and relevant institutions, saw the building restored to its former state, and it was reopened for worship in 1996. During the same period, the street on which the tekke is situated was named after Aziz Efendi, thereby preserving its historical identity.

Today, the Aziziye Tekke is accessed via the gate leading to the Municipal Market. Access to the building is via a small entrance hall, followed by a few steps leading down to the courtyard. There is a fountain in the courtyard; from here, one proceeds to the mosque and the mausoleum. The mosque is notable for its wooden ceiling and simple mihrab, whilst the mausoleum has a square plan and is covered by a dome. Inside the mausoleum lies a tomb believed to belong to Aziz Efendi; there are also other unidentified graves in the surrounding area.

The Aziziye Tekke holds a significant place within the historic texture of Nicosia and remains one of the most valuable examples of Ottoman heritage and waqf culture that have been preserved to the modern day.



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