

# BAYCC Community Newsletter



## MESSAGE FROM FETHULLAH GÜLEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY AND NORTHERN SYRIA

I LEARNED WITH DEEP SORROW THAT AN EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 7.7 CENTERED IN KAHRAMANMARAŞ SHOOK THE PROVINCES OF HATAY, ADANA, GAZIANTEP, MALATYA, KILIS, ADIYAMAN, DIYARBAKIR, ŞANLIURFA AND OSMANIYE, AS WELL AS SOME PARTS OF OUR NEIGHBOR SYRIA. MANY OF OUR PEOPLE DIED AND THERE ARE ALSO MANY WAITING TO BE RESCUED UNDER THE RUBBLE.

MY CONDOLENCES TO OUR NATION, ESPECIALLY TO THE RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES.

DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES REMIND US TO TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CAUSES, TO HELP IN THE SPIRIT OF UNITY, TO EXTEND A HAND TO THE NEEDY, AND TO PRAY TO ALMIGHTY GOD TO OPEN HIS HAND AND PROTECT OUR COUNTRY AND ALL HUMANITY FROM ALL KINDS OF DISASTERS

I BELIEVE THAT OUR NATION WILL PROTECT OUR CITIZENS WHO ARE HOMELESS, DESTITUTE, IN NEED OF ALL KINDS OF HELP, WITH A SPIRIT OF MOBILIZATION. I WISH PATIENCE, STRENGTH AND FORTITUDE TO THE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS THAT RESPONDED TO THE DISASTER.

I WISH MERCY AND FORGIVENESS FROM THE ALMIGHTY TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THIS TRAGIC EVENT, PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LOVED ONES, A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO OUR INJURED CITIZENS, AND A SAFE RESCUE TO OUR CITIZENS WAITING TO BE RESCUED UNDER THE RUBBLE.

M.FETHULLAH GÜLEN

## Newsletter Highlights

Message from  
Fethullah Gülen

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Relief Activities

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Fundraising and  
Prayers

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Past Events

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Upcoming Events



[Click here to donate](#)



# HELP VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY AND SYRIA!

Scan this QR Code for  
Donation!





## Updating Embrace Relief's Earthquake Relief Efforts in Turkey and Syria

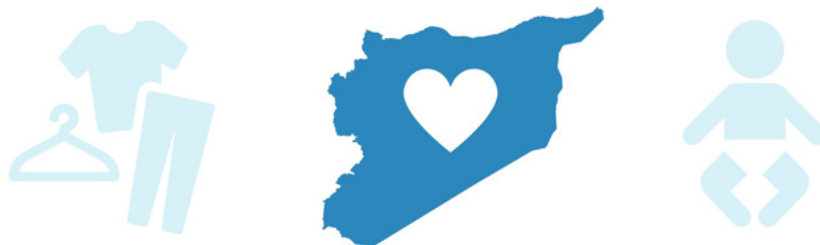
Date Release:  
February 17, 2023

Ten days after the Feb. 6 earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, survivors of the disaster are still in urgent need of the support of the international community, including organizations like the **Embrace Relief Foundation**, as they rebuild their lives. The following are the latest updates on Embrace Relief's activities in the earthquake zone:

- Since our previous update on Feb. 13, Embrace Relief's sixth truck of emergency aid has reached the affected area and distributed ready-to-eat meals for people in need. Five of these six trucks have provided food, while the other provided basic essentials including toiletries, paper towels and diapers. Emergency aid shipments will continue for as long as they are needed. In addition to these trucks, Embrace Relief has also distributed food packages and electric heaters to families.



- Over the next several days, Embrace Relief will begin to provide essential supplies including clothes, shoes, milk, diapers, and feminine hygiene products to the people of Syria. Embrace Relief is working diligently with our partner organizations in Syria to reduce the immense suffering of the people there.



- To date, Embrace Relief's earthquake relief has directly benefited thousands of people thus far in the stricken cities of Hatay, Malatya, Gaziantep and Adiyaman. In the medium- and long-term, this number will increase greatly as Embrace Relief begins to fund emergency housing assistance, including covering costs of rent and furniture, for people displaced from their homes.



Once again, Embrace Relief would like to thank the many individuals and organizations who have given their time and money to the people of Turkey and Syria in their time of need. Embrace Relief has raised more than \$1 million of our \$1.5 million fundraising goal, with many other individuals and community groups holding group fundraisers that will add to this total. Our relief efforts are only possible because of the generosity of people like you. Together, we will help people recover and rebuild after this tragedy.

**To donate in support of Embrace Relief's earthquake relief efforts in Turkey, visit <https://www.embracerelief.org/donation/help-victims-of-earthquake-in-southern-turkey>.**

*Embrace Relief Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to delivering research-based, sustainable solutions to achieve immediate and lasting improvements in situations of humanitarian emergency and improving the quality of life of individuals and communities enduring chronic hardships. Learn more about Embrace Relief at our website, [www.embracerelief.org](http://www.embracerelief.org).*



**EMBRACE RELIEF**

*"Embrace The World"*



201-528-3181  
info@embracerelief.org  
www.embracerelief.org

## International Conference

### The Hizmet Movement: Responses to Contemporary Challenges

February  
16 - 17 | 2023

*The Department of Religious Studies*



A.B.D.'nin California eyalet üniversitesi Long Beach kampüsünde (California State University Long Beach) gerçekleşen uluslararası konferansta sosyal bilimciler Hizmet Hareketiyle ilgili araştırma sonuçları ve gözlemlerini paylaştılar.

Üniversitenin Dini Araştırmalar Bölümü'nün ev sahipliği yaptığı konferansa 22 farklı ülkeden, 106 Akademisyen ve 250'den fazla dini lider, kanaat önderi, sivil toplum temsilcisi ve öğrenci katıldı.

California Eyalet Üniversitesi Long Beach kampüsündeki konferansta Hizmet hareketinin son 10 yılda karşı karşıya kaldığı zulümler ve katılımcılarının süreç boyunca yaşadıkları zorluklar karşısındaki tavır ve tutumları ve hareketin dünyanın farklı coğrafyalarında faaliyetlerine devam etmesinin arkasındaki dinamikler ele alındı.



# Past Events



## Fundraising Lunch and Prayer in Bay Area

On the 13th of February BAYCC and Pacifica Institute organized Fundraising Lunch and Prayer in Bay Area for the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria, participants prayed and expressed solidarity.

## Fundraising Brunch and Prayer in Sacramento

On Sunday, February 18, the community in Sacramento, CA came together for a fundraising brunch to support earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria. Participants brought food and same time donated. Media took interviews with persons who come from earthquake regions of Turkey.

# Past Events



## Kahoot Competition

In the Caglayan competition, three of our students from our region entered the top five, placing second, third and fifth. The fifth won twenty-five dollars, the third won seventy-five dollars, and the second won an AirPod pro.



## Art Workshop

On 11th Feb, Pacifica hosted an art workshop by Relli Siegel, the process helped participants to take a journey through their inner selves and bring feelings to the surface. Participants expressed their feelings of sorrow from the deadly earthquake in Turkey and Syria, but writing and making art together made participants reflect on the things in their minds and hearts.



## Visiting Congresspersons

BAYCC Volunteers visited Congresspersons from North California in Washington DC during 24-26 January. Delegation shared information about community services and interfaith activities conducted by BAYCC and Pacifica Institute.

# Past Events



## BAYCC Chess Championship

BAYCC Chess Championship took place on Feb 12, 2023 Sunday, with 30 participants, originally from Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan. The winners of scholastic section (kid section) were Sedat (1st place), Sadyk (2nd place), and Jomart (3rd place), and the winners of the open section (adult section) were Kemal (1st place), Shaislam (2nd place), and Zamir (3rd place). Scholastic winners were awarded with medals, and adults were awarded with cash prizes of \$150, \$100, and \$50. We may be able to hold bigger and more professional chess tournaments in the future to bring people from different ages and backgrounds together and have engaging and fun activities.



## EARTHQUAKE RELIEF DONATION DRIVE

Your generosity can bring hope to those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey.

**February 9, 2023 until 4pm**

**4701 Patrick Henry Dr.  
Building 18, Santa Clara, CA 95054**

Only new clothing please.

### ITEMS YOU CAN DONATE

BLANKET	WET WIPES:
TOWEL	FOR BABY AND SANITATION
PILLOW	BABY FOOD
HEATER	PACIFIER
SLEEPING BAG	BABY BOTTLE
BIG BACKPACK	DRY FOODS:
POWER BANK	NUTS, COOKIES, ETC.
FLASHLIGHT	PADS/TAMPONS
COAT	SOAP
BOOT	ADULT DIAPERS
MATTRESS	GAS CATALYTIC STOVE
BED	GENERATOR
THERMOS BOTTLE	GAS CYLINDER
HYGIENE PRODUCTS	CANNED FOOD

## Donation Drive

BAYCC volunteers headed by Nilufer, Ayse and Kuaybe organized Donation Drive by collecting necessary items to be delivered to people in earthquake effected regions of Turkey. The relief effort focused to help with urgent necessary items like blankets, towels, heaters, hygiene products, etc. The prepared boxes were delivered to the Turkish Government collection center in the Bay Area on the 9th of February.



# Past Events



## Retreat in Westwood

Our members from San Francisco, East Bay and Marin County organized a winter retreat in Westwood California. Our group spent three wonderful days engaging in spiritual discussions, reading books, and having fun with their families.

One of our members shared that "The retreat was a perfect opportunity to unwind and connect with our inner selves. We discussed various spiritual topics, including mindfulness, self-care, and gratitude. Our conversations helped us gain a better understanding of our values and how we can live our lives with intention and purpose."

During the retreat, they also had the chance to read books that inspired and motivated them. In addition to the spiritual discussions, they also had plenty of fun with their families. They enjoyed outdoor activities such as hiking and skiing.

We heard that, overall, the winter retreat was a truly unforgettable experience. It brought them closer as a group and helped them connect with their families in a meaningful way. They returned home feeling refreshed, inspired, and ready to tackle the challenges that lay ahead



## Bodega Bay ve Russian Gulch

19-20 Şubat tarihlerinde BAYCC gönüllülerinden bir grup kuzey Kaliforniya'nın hiking rotalarını keşfe çıktı. Bodega Bay ve Russian Gulch rotalar arasındaydı. Mendocino'nun sadece iki mil kuzeyinde yer alan Russian Gulch State Park, kayalık kıyı şeridi boyunca rüzgarlı burunlar ve el değmemiş kumsallarla üç millik yeşil kaplı bir kanyonu birleştiriyor.

# Past Events



## A Plate Lunch Fundraiser

On Saturday, 18th of February, Pacifica volunteers in Sacramento organized a sale of lunch boxes at ISRC (Islamic Society of Rancho Cordova). Each lunch plate was priced at 25\$ and 170 tickets were sold, the total collected amount including donations reached 5,100\$. The raised amount from sales will be sent to people affected by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. People coming out from prayers inquired about the situation in Turkey and warm relations developed between communities.



## Short-term planning

BAYCC board members and volunteers gathered on 5th February for brainstorming and to develop short-term organizational plans. Participants were divided into small groups in developing projects with SMART criteria.



## Panel on "Serving humanity in difficult times"

Silicon Valley House of Hope hosted a panel presentation by distinguished speaker Sacit Arvas on topic "Serving humanity in difficult times" on 20th February. Speaker shared his experiences and guided participants on community service and volunteering areas which needs attention.

[Click here for registration!](#)

**BAYCC**  
Education

# RAMADAN FOR ME

3<sup>rd</sup> happening on EARTH DAY

Sunday, April 23

**REGISTER NOW!**

BAYCC is proud to present its 3rd edition of "Ramadan For Me". This unique occasion brings together young artists to showcase their passion and creativity through environmentally conscious artifacts, in celebration of Earth Day.

This year, the event will focus on raising awareness about crucial environmental issues such as global warming, climate change, and drought. Join us in fostering a brighter future for our planet and encouraging the next generation of environmental stewards. Register now and be a part of this meaningful and enjoyable event.

### This Year's Awards

		
\$100	\$200	\$50

- "Ramadan For Me" event is open to weekend, middle and high school students who will be competing in this exciting contest in separate categories.
- Our experienced mentors will be closely monitoring their progress and providing them updates to ensure a smooth and streamlined experience.
- To simplify the tracking process, each student will be required to submit updates in the form of related charts and prototypes of their projects

"Ramadan For Me" Exhibition

- We invite all participants to join the "Ramadan For Me" exhibition with their unique handcrafted creations that symbolize the essence of the Ramadan Month.
- Each student will have the opportunity to showcase their artwork to a wider audience.
- Mentors will be available to offer guidance and support in understanding the requirements and purpose of the exhibition.

[Click here for RSVP](#)



# HOW WOMEN BEAUTIFY THE WORLD

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY WITH A PANEL DISCUSSION

**DATE: MARCH 11, 2023**  
**TIME: 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM**  
**PLACE: LOS ALTOS LIBRARY,  
ORCHARD ROOM**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**CLICK HERE**  
**TO RSVP**



## Bay Area Sports Clubs

Sports enthusiasts have initiated several sports clubs: Soccer, volleyball, hiking, basketball, diving, pickleball, stargazing, tennis, table tennis, diving, surfing, camping, fishing, fitness & bodybuilding, museum, and winter sports. Everyone is welcome to join any sports club they are interested to be part of. Kindly click the links below to join the WhatsApp Community and you can choose the Sports Clubs to join.



Join our **WhatsApp**  
community

