



THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION, USA

Keeping Dreams Alive

Fall 2020 Newsletter

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From the desk of Farri Khan



Dear TCF Supporters,

There is a lottery of birth and if you are reading this you have won it.

That feeling struck me when I met a TCF student who gave me a tour of the TCF college. She traveled by bus two and a half hours each way every day, to attend college. When I expressed surprise, she told me with her eyes shining and a big smile on her face that she was so grateful to have that opportunity. She had an arduous plan to become a psychologist one day. I wondered what the girls and boys of TCF college and schools could do if they had the opportunities my children had.

Dr. Adil Najam joins TCF-USA Board of Directors



We are exceptionally proud to have Dr. Adil Najam join TCF-USA Board. He has been long associated with the field of education. As a public policy scholar, his research, teaching and public engagement has been focused on environment, diplomacy, politics of South Asia and Muslim societies and education in developing countries. An acknowledged international expert on global governance and various aspects of human development, Dr. Najam brings a wealth of knowledge and relevant expertise to TCF. He humbly shares:

"It is a true honor, and a joy, to be formally inducted into the TCF family as a member of the TCF-USA Board. Although, in honesty, I have always considered myself to be a part of that family. Indeed, I think anyone who cares for, works towards, and supports the cause of 'quality education for all' in Pakistan is a member of

the TCF family. I, certainly, am proudly so."

COVID-19 crisis has worsened the odds of getting quality education and changed the trajectory of life for children from vulnerable communities. Many of them, specially girls, may not return to schools as their families are left dealing with economic aftermath of the pandemic. TCF with the help of its dedicated principals and teachers is working tirelessly to ensure that its students are back in school safely and have all the resources they need to succeed as schools reopen.

The lottery of birth doesn't have to be the lottery of life. You can change that!

It takes \$120 to give life transforming education to a child for one year. \$10 can support a child's education for a month – an amount of money we wouldn't even think about spending can have such an exponential impact on someone's life.

Thank you for making a difference!

Farri Khan
Treasurer
The Citizens Foundation, USA

Ms. Faraz 'Farri' Khan has been serving as the Treasurer of TCF-USA (Volunteer) since 2014. One of the founders of our Austin Chapter and a strong advocate of the cause, Ms. Khan is currently the Chief Accounting Officer of University of California San Francisco Health.

For a detailed profile, click here



Support TCF's Back to School Campaign

Together, we have sent 800+ TCF students back to school for another year so far. **Three more days left in the campaign!** Help us achieve our goal of sending 1000 students back to school this year.

Send a child Back to school

Check out our exciting line up of upcoming Virtual Events:

October 4
Young Professionals Comedy Hour

October 18
New Jersey Chapter 12th Annual Gala

October 24
Seattle Chapter Annual Fundraiser

October 25
South Florida Chapter Virtual Meetup

November 7
Washington DC Annual Gala

Novemembr 15
New York Fundraiser 2020

In conversation with TCF Principal - Sundus Batool



There are no great schools without great principals. TCF faculty has always been at the center of TCF endeavours and our principals play an integral role in this team. They not only oversee staff performance and administrative procedures, but are equally involved in reaching out to parents and community stakeholders to advance the cause of education. As we celebrate National Principals Month, we had a conversation with **Sundus Batool**, Principal - Syed Nizamuddin Hussain Shah Primary School Campus, Taxila to know more about her work on ground.

Here is what she had to say about her inspiration to work

at TCF: "There are two core reasons - Firstly, TCF's culture of providing training and guidance to its staff. The structured annual planning makes it really easy to carry things forward. Secondly, but more importantly, the work itself. To reach out to children who have no other source of education available, and to work day and night to offer them hope for a brighter future adds a strong sense of meaning to my own life."

Talking about the impact of COVID-19, Ms.Batool mentioned that this year all students are not returning. We carried out home visits and gave parents refreshers about the importance of education. About 70 percent of our students have come back to school. However, the rest are still bound by economic constraints.



Ms.Batool talked in detail about her special efforts to spread awareness about the importance of **education for girls**. "When our female students do well at school, they become a source of inspiration for other community members and we see other parents coming forward to enroll their daughters. I, as a female, wish that every girl child gets to study and work according to her capabilities." [Click here to read more](#)

Welcoming Children Back in Schools Safely!



Ensuring Teachers' well-being amid COVID-19


 THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION
 IDRAAK TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM
 Presents
سیکھو اور سکھاؤ
 online sessions for teachers
 Every Wednesday and Friday
 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 Stay tuned for exciting discussions and talks on
 essential skills for teachers to learn in current times
 LIVE   
 Starting from 22nd July, 2020

In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic with disruption of school routine, remote learning, social isolation and all types of uncertainties - there is a lot teachers have had to manage lately. These challenges and stressors could potentially influence the ability of teachers to adjust to new norms of providing education as schools reopen. TCF recognized that these overwhelming challenges called for additional support for teachers. Therefore, TCF put a robust teachers training program in place to build social-emotional competencies of the faculty. In July, TCF's IDRAAK Teachers Training Program launched its 'Seekho aur Sikhao' online sessions to

support its teachers.

A series of 5 sessions, it covered information on resources available for online teaching, maintaining their own emotional well-being and supporting students during the pandemic. Recordings are available on TCF's Facebook and Youtube

page for teachers to access.

In addition to this, as schools re-open, TCF campuses are planning to hold regular staff circles to provide collaborative space where teachers can garner peer support and invest time in self-care.



Educational Crisis and TCF's Response

For the first time in history, an entire generation had its education disrupted. COVID-19 affected 1.6 billion learners across the globe, widening pre-existing education disparities and further reducing opportunities for the poor and marginalized children. They lost out on learning as their families fell deeper in the abyss of poverty, with children being forced into employment and or an early marriage in case of girls.

Pakistan is one of the 12 countries at extreme risk of school dropouts and learning inequalities due to COVID-19.

2020 Save the Children Report "Save our Education"

In the backdrop of this deepening crisis, TCF moved forward with a four-pronged approach to lead their mission to educate during these tough times:



Sustain TCF Communities

Under its COVID-19 Response Appeal, TCF provided cash relief to 45,500 struggling families in most vulnerable communities and supported frontline healthcare professionals with protective gear. TCF retained and supported its principals and teachers during the crisis to ensure that our students have the resources they need when they return to their classrooms.

Engage at Home

In April 2020, TCF made its first foray in TV-based edutainment through "Ilm ka Aangan" episodes which engaged children through theme-based videos, activities, storytelling sessions and more. To keep students learning at home, 1,790+ active volunteers/tutors ran community based study groups for 9th and 10th grade TCF students.

Reopen Schools Safely

As schools are reopening in line with government directives, TCF is strictly enforcing guidelines for hygiene, social distancing, health monitoring and educating the communities.

Support TCF Communities

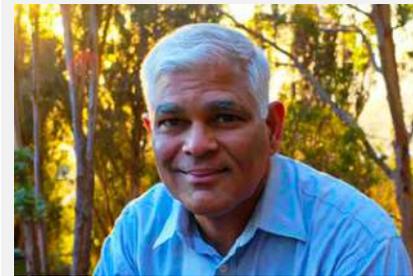
TCF students, staff and their families who have been impacted by COVID-19 in multiple ways. TCF plans to ensure staff and students' well-being by implementing strategies to foster resilience such as creating opportunities for students to voice their concerns, regular staff circles, a robust school-community relationship and an enabling policy environment to reduce routine administrative burdens of its staff.

For more details on TCF's plan,
visit: <https://www.tcfusa.org/back-to-school-campaign-2020/>

Dr. Shashi Buluswar talks about Education in times of Pandemic

CEO of Institute of Transformative Technologies, advisor to government agencies and non-profit organizations, professor at University of California, Berkeley and a longstanding supporter of TCF – **Dr. Shashi Buluswar** talked about Education in Crisis during COVID-19 in a live chat.

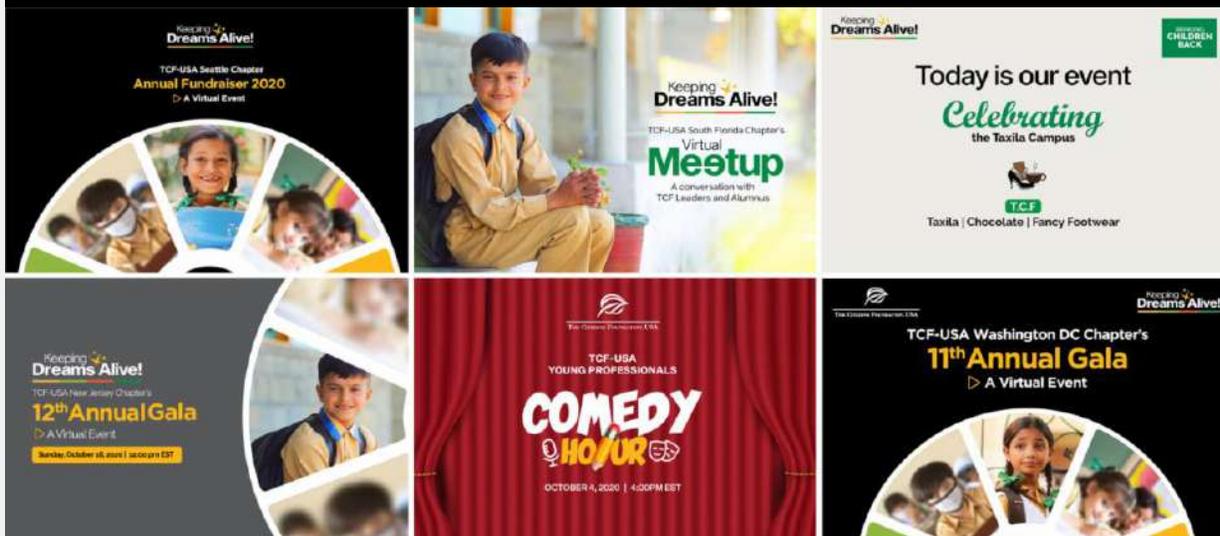
"TCF has very methodically outlined its strategy and has consulted the WHO guidelines and as schools reopen, it is implementing best practices. School systems in wealthy countries can learn from this."



[Click here to listen to a clip from this live chat:](#)

[Live chat recording](#)

TCF-USA Upcoming virtual events



Cancellation of in-person fundraising events as a consequence of COVID-19 didn't dampen the spirits of our Chapter volunteers and TCF-USA team. They have responded by organizing an exciting line up virtual events ranging from light hearted entertainment-based sessions, celebratory meet ups, comedy hour to full fledged annual galas - all with a single-minded aim to propagate education for the underprivileged. Check out our

upcoming events in October and November this year at the link below.

Sign up for our Virtual Events

How can you help?

Fundraise for us!

Turn any occasion into Fundraiser



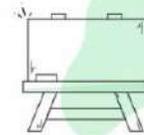
Support Back to School Campaign



Dedicate a Birthday



Memorial Fund



Support a Classroom



Empower Women



Virtual Marathon



Pledge Your Wedding



Donate Your Talent

Be a TCF advocate and fundraise for us! Create your own fundraising page, write your story, personalize it with pictures and videos and invite your friends, family and co-workers to support the cause that is so close to your heart. It couldn't be any easier and more rewarding! Run a marathon, honor a loved one or celebrate a birthday – fundraising possibilities are endless! Check out our fundraising platform at the link below.



Fundraise for TCF

A Smart & Secure Option to Donate

With our gift-giving feature, Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), donating is faster and easier. All you need is your account & routing number. You save on a stamp and get a receipt via email instantly in your inbox. You do have the option to mail a check to us always.

For details on various donation methods such as checks, wires, stocks to donate, [please click here](#)

Did You Know You Can Double Your Donation? (add image)





TCF-USA has partnered with over 220 organizations to make your gifts go twice as far. [Please click here to check](#) if your employer is featured in the list of organizations that match for TCF-USA.

For questions, please call 888-729-3022



[Donate today](#)



1,652+
schools



266,000+
students



50%
female
enrollment



12,554
female
faculty



41,521
graduates

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