



THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION, USA

Newsletter
Spring
2024

Empowering Pakistan's Underprivileged Children

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From the Desk of President, TCF-USA



Ramadan Kareem!

Surah Al-Alaq, Verse 3-5: "Read, and your Lord is the most Generous—Who taught by the pen—Taught man that which he knew not."

These *verses* underscoring the significance of education in our faith, make me reflect on the reasons why thousands of us support the work of The Citizens Foundation in educating the children of Pakistan. The reasons came to focus on my recent visit to the TCF college, and TCF

schools on the outskirts of Karachi.

From the teachers and principals of these schools, I hear about the challenges students face – of little girls in Machar Colony having to wear *mehndi* (henna) to cover their fingertips bruised by peeling shrimp, or the young college girl traveling 2 hours each way on a bus to reach the TCF college campus. As I converse with these children, I am drawn in by their confidence and touched by their aspirations and commitment to Pakistan. For them, education is the pathway to addressing the many challenges facing Pakistan. *These children truly believe in their ability to make a change for Pakistan.* Listening to them, I come away, more optimistic about the future of the country, and convinced ever more that TCF's work must continue.

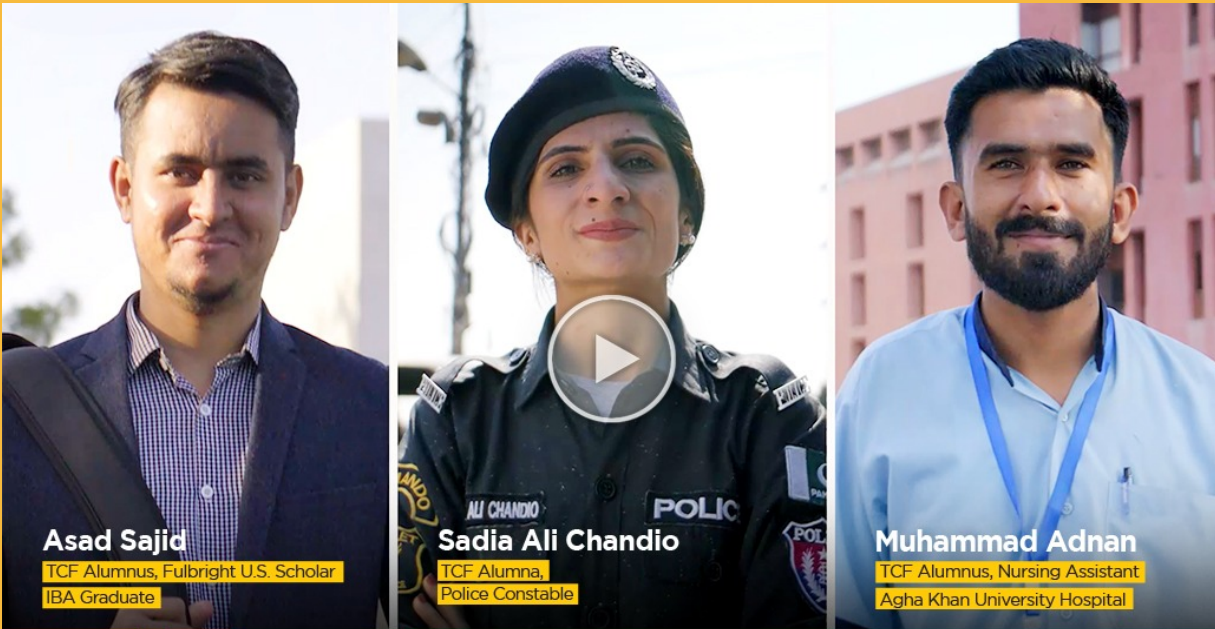
Today, **286,000 children** across Pakistan begin their day at one of our **1,921 TCF school units**. This is made possible by your commitment to our mission and your TRUST in our organization. Thank you!

In this holy month of Ramadan, I appeal to you to **consider TCF for your Zakat and donate generously**. On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Citizens Foundation, USA, I wish you and your family a blessed Ramadan!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Arif Gafur
President, TCF-USA

Witness the impact of education on lives of our alumni



Asad Sajid

TCF Alumnus, Fulbright U.S. Scholar
IBA Graduate

Sadia Ali Chandio

TCF Alumna,
Police Constable

Muhammad Adnan

TCF Alumnus, Nursing Assistant
Agha Khan University Hospital

All online donations including Zakat and Sadqah are being matched dollar for dollar until the end of Ramadan! Maximize rewards in the last blessed nights of Ramadan while sending twice as many children to school.

Donate to 2X your Impact!

Schedule your
donations over the last

10

Nights of Ramadan and gain
the rewards of **Laylat-ul-Qadr!**

Automate your donations

Pakistan's Education Emergency: Addressing the Out-of-School Children Crisis



Pakistan faces one of most significant challenges of out-of-school children (OOSC) in the world.

"Despite recent progress in reducing the percentage of OOSC from 44% in 2016-17 to 39% in 2021-22, the absolute number has risen from 22.02 million to 26.21 million, largely attributed to population growth." *Pakistan Institute of Education Statistics Report 2021-22.*

The surge in this number underscores the pressing issue of education access in the country, with alarming OOSC rates from primary to higher secondary levels. Amongst the provinces, Punjab and Sindh bear the highest burdens, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

A notable gender disparity persists, with a higher percentage of female students being out of school compared to their male counterparts at all education levels. Moreover, economic factors play a role in this issue with a staggering 51% of children from the poorest quintile being out of school. The future of these children is at stake and it is our collective responsibility to safeguard these children's futures.

TCF is Helping Women Break Barriers

Without uplifting the women of a community, true change is not possible. In light of the recent Women's Day celebrations, we wanted to highlight some of TCF's efforts to empower the women of Pakistan.



Aagahi

With almost 20 years having passed since its initial launch, Aagahi – TCF's community-based adult literacy program – aims to teach reading, writing, and basic math to girls and women from underserved areas.

The program is held twice a year and caters to almost 20,000 learners annually. Along with basic literacy skills, Aagahi also includes modules on financial responsibility, health, and sanitation to equip these women with the skills to be in control of their lives.

Dastak

Dastak is an online teacher training program that focuses on improving teaching skills, leadership, and classroom management, drawing on decades of TCF's teacher development experience. As Pakistan's largest employer of women, TCF is committed to enhancing the skills of its all-female teaching staff as well as other teachers who may wish to grow. In 2023, TCF expanded the reach of Dastak to 1,405 teachers outside its network in 100 cities across Pakistan.

TCF School Visit: Witness the Cause in Action!



Ayesha Imami, the leader of TCF's Orlando Chapter, recently visited the Farhat and Hamida Burki TCF campus located in Lahore. Her visit involved interacting with students from different grades, meeting with teachers, and observing the educational environment. These visits serve as a great source of motivation for our passionate volunteers, as they are reminded of the positive impact their efforts are making and the lives that are being transformed due to education.

To request a school visit, please click [here](#) and complete the request form.



TCF Principals Score High on PQI

The Principal Quality Index (PQI) is a metric for measuring the quality of principals within TCF schools across Pakistan. This year, TCF has attained an unprecedentedly high PQI score of 80% for its purpose-built schools – a rise of over 8% in comparison to last year. This surge in performance reflects the dedicated efforts and targeted investments into the growth and refinement of TCF principals.

TCF Textbooks Used Across Pakistan

Four of TCF's Science Series and Digital Literacy textbooks have been recognized by the National Curriculum Council Secretariat, Ministry of Federal Education for their excellence and will now be used as model textbooks for all public and private schools across Pakistan. These textbooks were recommended for use in schools to ensure quality and consistency in education. This achievement highlights TCF's innovative strides in terms of

curriculum design and textbook development.



TCF Schools Are Going Green!

A considerable number of schools run by the TCF currently face electricity challenges. This includes schools in remote and rural areas that either did not have electricity to start with or suffered from extended power outages. To address this problem, TCF has initiated a pilot project to install solar energy in 100 of their most energy-affected schools. Given the severe electricity shortages in Pakistan, the organization aims to move all TCF schools to solar energy to ensure uninterrupted education for the children.



TCF-USA Events Overview





This winter was an exciting and productive one for TCF as our chapters organized various events to spread awareness for our cause. While the initial months of the year were spent in preparation for Ramadan, once the blessed month arrived – our chapters came together for heartwarming gatherings to magnify the sense of community during this deeply spiritual time.

The Bakersfield Chapter held its third annual iftar this year – a vibrant evening that combined fundraising with the opportunity to break the fast with fellow community members. The event was a rousing success and an overwhelming response from the community resulted in the chapter surpassing its Ramadan fundraising goal!

The San Antonio Chapter held an iftar dinner with over a hundred attendees, exceeding the expected attendance goal. Along with Iftar, attendees also got the chance to learn about TCF's mission and opportunities to get involved in our cause.

Later in the month, the Los Angeles Chapter also organized an iftar gala which was underwritten by a generous chapter donor! The chapter exceeded its fundraising goal while providing the community with a memorable evening.

Last weekend Dallas Chapter and Oklahoma Chapter organized their iftar dinner with Shaykh Abdul Nasir Jangda and TCF Alumnus Hassan Siddiqui. Pittsburgh Chapter sponsored a community iftar at MAP, sharing the transformative power of education.

Events to Look Out For in 2024

Eid and Qawwali Night with Kansas Chapter.

**Date: Saturday,
April 20, 2024**

Time: 06:00 PM CST

Austin Badminton Tournament

**Date: Sunday,
April 28, 2024**

Time: 01:30 PM CST

South Florida Annual Gala Dinner

**Date: Friday, May 17,
2024**

Time: 07:00 PM EST

Houston 14th Annual Gala

**Date: Saturday,
May 11, 2024**

Time: 05:30 PM CST

For more updates, visit:
<https://www.tcfusa.org/upcoming-events/>

Ways to amplify your impact, this Ramadan!

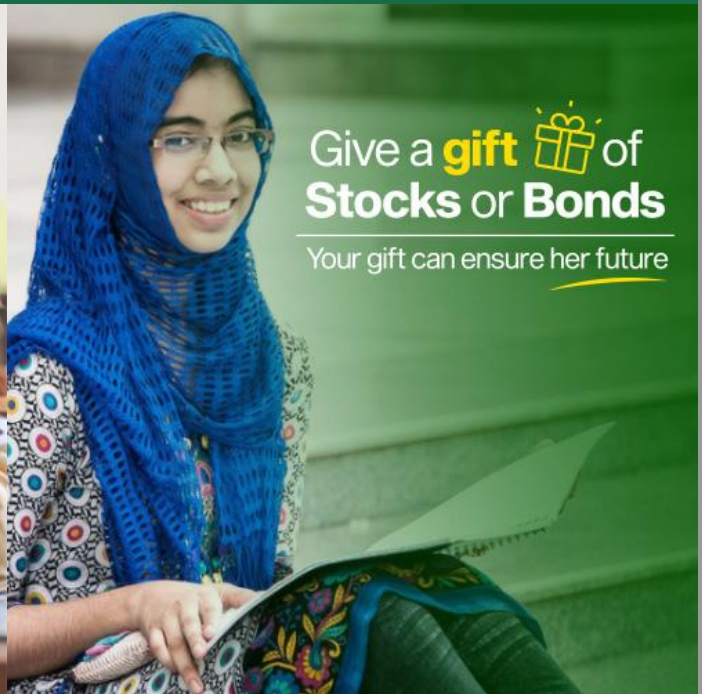
JOIN TCF-USA's MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM



This Ramadan, consider helping a vulnerable child receive quality education all year long.

The easiest way to accomplish this is to set up a monthly recurring gift. For **\$24/month**, you can keep two children in school, learning, and on a path to a better future.

[Become a Monthly Donor](#)



Give a **gift** of **Stocks or Bonds**

Your gift can ensure her future

This Ramadan, give a gift of **Stocks or Bonds** to make an impact in the lives of underprivileged children in Pakistan! Note that the market value of a gift of securities may be tax-deductible. Giving securities may also allow you to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation of the asset.

Have questions? Reach out to us at 888.729.3022 or contact@tcfusa.org

[Give the Gift of stocks](#)



1,921
Schools

286,000
Students

14,000
Female Faculty

57,000
Graduates

Double your Impact

[Visit Website](#)

