



THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION, USA

2024 Winter
Newsletter

Breaking Barriers, Building Futures

In this issue

- From the Desk of **Masooma Bhaiwala**
- **Tabarak's** Journey for Education
- Uplifting Women Through **Aagahi**
- **Sujaag**: Bridging Gaps to Education
- **Ayesha Omar** Visits TCF school
- **TCF Alumna** Earns Gold Medal
- Volunteer Spotlight: **Najma Shamsi**
- **USA Today** Lauds TCF's Efforts
- **Events** Roundup

From the Desk of Masooma Bhaiwala



Dear TCF Family and Friends,

I grew up in a low-income household where my parents prioritized education above all else. Their unwavering support, along with encouragement from my teachers, inspired me to pursue my dreams. To honor their dedication, I strive to empower others to achieve their aspirations.

For over 12 years, I have supported TCF for its clear vision, culture of excellence, and sustainable infrastructure. Pakistan suffers from a critical education crisis—**ranking 142nd out of 146 in gender parity, allocating just 1.7% of GDP to education, and**

leaving 26.2 million children, mostly girls, out of school. The student-teacher ratio is an overwhelming 39:1, and many schools lack basic amenities like electricity, clean water, and

toilets.

TCF addresses these challenges by employing an all-female teaching staff, maintaining gender balance in classrooms, ensuring smaller class sizes, and providing rigorous teacher training. With state-of-the-art schools featuring open classrooms, libraries, and labs, TCF creates safe, inspiring spaces where children, especially girls, can thrive.

This vital work is possible because of your generous support. **As you celebrate the holidays, please consider including the vulnerable children of Pakistan in your giving by donating to TCF—no contribution is too small.**

Warm wishes and *happy holidays!*

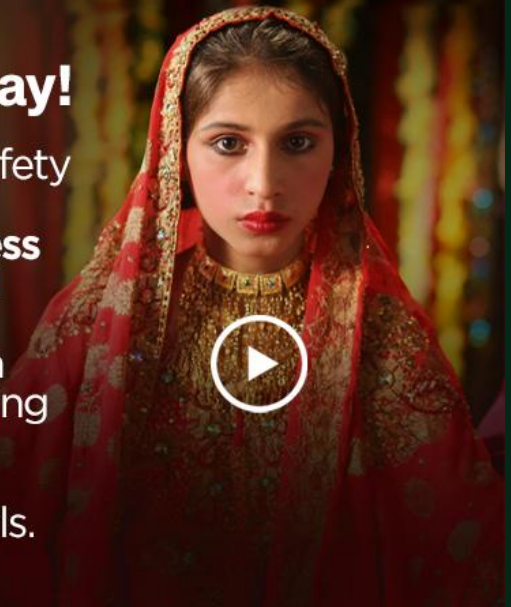
Masooma Bhaiwala
Director, TCF-USA Board

Masooma Bhaiwala, a TCF Director and member of the TCF-USA board since 2021, co-founded the Boston Chapter in 2007 and has been a passionate advocate for education. She served as Vice President at Intel and AMD and also volunteers with organizations like Saheli, which supports survivors of domestic violence.

Don't Let Their Futures Slip Away!

In Pakistan, poverty, cultural norms, and safety concerns keep many girls out of school.

Girls from low-income families are 52% less likely to attend school (World Bank), and over 19 million become child brides (UNICEF), limiting their opportunities for a better future. With your help, TCF is breaking these barriers by offering affordable, community-based schools to create safe and inclusive learning environments for girls.



2x Your Impact for Girls' Education

[Donate Now](#)

All donations to TCF-USA made by December 31st will be matched dollar for dollar and are tax-deductible for this year. Tax ID: 41-2046295



Tabarak's Incredible Journey for Education



communities with no access to schools. With a low-cost, community-based model, Sujaag targets children aged 8-16 and offers deserving children the classroom experience they've missed.

Although currently in its pilot phase, Sujaag operates 550+ centers across 20 districts in Sindh and Balochistan – with the aim to expand this model nationwide, bringing hope and opportunity to Pakistan's most underserved regions.

Ayesha Omar Visits TCF's Shirin Sultan Dossa Campus

TCF's Goodwill Ambassador and renowned actress, Ayesha Omar, visited one of our campuses earlier this winter. During her visit, Ayesha learned about TCF's innovative practices in building soft skills in students – such as 'Khair Maqdam' to enhance emotional intelligence: a dedicated time for students to express their feelings. Ayesha also engaged in discussions about teaching strategies with our educators and read TCF's vibrant storybooks to our enthusiastic students. [Watch her visit here.](#)



Shining Bright: TCF Alumna Earns Prestigious Gold Medal

Maryam Mehmood, a TCF alumna from Orangi Town, has earned a gold medal from NED University for securing first position in her program! The daughter of



a shopkeeper, Maryam's incredible achievement showcases the life-changing impact of education and underscores the importance of supporting vulnerable students to help them achieve their dreams. [Watch Maryam's TV interview.](#)

Your Gift Matched

Empower 2x the Girls

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Volunteer Spotlight: Najma Shamsi's Lifelong Commitment to Education



'I firmly believe that enlightened education is the surest path to a nation's redemption. In Karachi, I co-directed the Centre for Advanced Studies, a private school, for ten years and served as Director of The City School's Northern Region for eight years, establishing and managing schools across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Kashmir.

After migrating to Toronto in 1996, I established the Oxford Learning Centre, a supplemental education franchise. During a visit to Karachi in 1999, I discovered TCF and returned to Toronto

determined to start a chapter. Alongside two dear friends, Saadia Awan and Shahzad Alam, we launched TCF Canada's first chapter in 2004. Today, TCF Canada has 11 chapters, has established numerous schools, and supports many more.

In 2016, I moved to Columbus, Ohio, but my commitment to TCF remained strong. In 2022, I introduced TCF to friends, formed an enthusiastic team, and successfully launched a new chapter. Once you embrace TCF's mission, it becomes a lifelong calling. TCF's work and the education of its children are key to Pakistan's salvation. It is the most noble form of sadqa-e-jaria, with infinite and everlasting rewards.'

Najma Shamsi, is an educator, journalist & author of 'Jasmine and Journeys', a literary non-fiction about the political, social and cultural history of the Indian sub-continent & a community.



USA Today Lauds TCF as 'A Force Steadily Driving Change'

We're proud to share that **USA Today** has spotlighted TCF for its remarkable efforts in transforming girls' education in Pakistan. Highlighting how TCF's initiatives enhance accessibility, challenge socio-cultural norms, and make education affordable for vulnerable girls, this feature is a testament to TCF's impactful work in bridging critical gaps in access to education. [Read the full article here.](#)

TCF-USA Events Roundup



This fall, TCF-USA chapters hosted an impressive **29 events** across the country, drawing over 4,500 attendees united in their commitment to educating underserved children. From art auctions to annual galas, these gatherings showcased the passion and dedication of our community.

The Nashville Chapter made an exciting debut with its first ever fundraiser in September, sparking a warm response from the local community. The Indiana Chapter reignited its efforts with an event after a five-year hiatus. Chapters like NE Ohio, Chicago, and Columbus delighted audiences with comedic performances by Ahmad Ali Butt, while Georgia's annual gala featured an inspiring speech from TCF alumna Kainat Ansari and a performance by singer Asif Sinan. Seattle's event captivated attendees with a soulful

musical performance by Ali Sethi, and the DC Chapter's gala combined stirring speeches with performances by Shazia Mansoor and Sanwal Esakhelvi.

In October, the Wichita Chapter stood out with its entirely youth-led fundraiser and the NYYP Chapter held a fall social hour that brought out 100% of chapter donors to participate. Notably, SF Bay Area and DC Chapters had an exceptional fundraising year, which, along with contributions from other chapters, will help TCF significantly expand its impact to better serve disadvantaged communities.

Visit our event page for more information: <https://www.tcfusa.org/tcf-events-usa/>

Explore Impactful Ways to Give this Year-End

Make a Year-Long Impact
with a **Monthly Gift**



This year-end, consider becoming a monthly supporter and helping vulnerable children receive quality education throughout the year.

For just \$24/month, you can keep two children in school, learning, and on a path to a brighter future.

Give Monthly

Secure a tax benefit
by **donating** your
used car



Donate your old or unwanted vehicle to support underprivileged children's education and earn a tax break if you donate by Dec 31st. Through our partnership with Charitable Adult Rides (CARS), the process is quick and hassle-free. Call 888-729-3022 for more details.

Donate your Car

Transform Futures
with a **Gift of Stocks**



This Season of Giving, consider donating stocks or bonds to transform the lives of underprivileged children in Pakistan. A gift of securities may be tax-deductible at market value and may help you avoid capital gains tax. Have questions? Contact Farhat Husain at Farhat.husain@tcfusa.org

Give a Gift of Stocks



1,921
Schools

286,000
Students

14,000
Female Faculty

57,000
Graduates

Double your Impact

[Visit Website](#)

