



**Füsun Sayek**  
**Association for the Development of Health and Education**

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(instagram @fusunsayekdernegi twitter @fusunsayekorg facebook @fusunsayek).

**Our Recent Activities**

**Disaster Scholarship / Füsun Sayek Scholarship Fund**

• As Füsun Sayek Association for the Development of Health and Education, we provide scholarships until graduation to higher education students whose families or themselves reside in the disaster area and who have been affected by the earthquake. Established to support students with limited financial means, especially those studying in Health Sciences and Medical Faculties (50%), the program supported a total of 125 students in the 2024-2025 academic year.

**Weaving Lives – Heritage Textiles Workshops and Craft Workshops for Women**

- We established a weaving workshop in Arsuz to provide women with training in Hatay's traditional textiles. Trainings supported by the Support Foundation for Civil Society and Turkey Mozaik Foundation started in March 2024. Within the Arsuz Weaving Workshop founded under the Weaving Lives project, women began learning plain weave technique on a total of 8 traditional wooden looms. The first training phase was carried out in cooperation with Arsuz Public Education Center. In the second phase, silk weaving and other techniques were added. A total of 26 women received training within the project.
- In addition to the Weaving Workshop, sewing and embroidery training was provided to women in the Women's Workshop located in the Arsuz Community Center.
- Women trained at the Arsuz Weaving Workshop have begun preparations to establish a cooperative under the name Arsuz Weaving Cooperative and started weaving production for several national brands and designers.
- The exhibition "Köklerim Var Benim / I Have Roots", prepared with the works of artist Ezgi Aysever Korkmaz and the efforts of the Arsuz Weaving Workshop, was presented to the audience in Arsuz within the scope of the 19th Füsun Sayek Health and Culture Events. Drawing from the roots of the past, women's production, and the memory of this land, the exhibition made visible the hopes of today and the values we carry into the future. Reminding us of the unifying power of art and handcraft, it strongly expressed the idea of reaching into the future with inspiration from our roots.

**Arsuz Culture & Community Center**

• We are working on projects that will provide long-term support to our earthquake-affected community, especially women and children. In the Uluçınar neighborhood of Arsuz, we established a community center with a program of cultural and educational activities such as workshops, classes, events, counseling, and expert seminars. The Arsuz Culture & Community Center consists of a 50-person hall, a Women's Workshop, a Toy Library, a container for youth art activities, a library with an extensive collection of books, and an outdoor space for cultural events. The center was initially realized with the support of Turkish Philanthropy Funds and our donors, and was designed in consultation with Bilkent University Department of Architecture.

**Water Treatment Plants**

• We built two Water Treatment Plants in the gardens of Uluçınar Primary School and Çetillik Primary & Secondary School in Arsuz, Hatay. Each plant supplies the daily water needs of at least 200 families. The project was realized with the support of Turkish Philanthropy Funds.

**Art Ambassadors Project**

Implemented in partnership with Talebeyiz Biz Association and our Association, with the support of the Support Foundation for Civil Society and Turkey Mozaik Foundation, the Art Ambassadors Project brought the transformative power of art together with youth in Arsuz. In summer 2024, a 17-day program was held with 20 young people aged 15-25. During the workshops, participants strengthened their skills in visual arts, expressive arts, illustration, performance, and produced collectively.

The project reflects our common vision of using art as a tool for empowerment, connection, and personal development. As part of the project, the exhibition "We Are Still Here" was organized. The exhibition, featuring works created by youth in different artistic fields such as literature, visual arts, music, and theater, opened on October 27, 2024 at Nazım Hikmet Cultural Center in Arsuz, and on February 6, 2025 at DEPO in Istanbul.



Füsun Sayek  
Association for the Development of Health and Education

*(Talebeyiz Biz Association was founded in Istanbul in 2023 with the aim of increasing young people's equal access to and active participation in culture and the arts, thereby contributing to youth wellbeing and supporting the construction of an inclusive and participatory society.)*

**Starting Again - Group Therapy Program**

Organized in cooperation with Hatay Psychologists Association, the group therapy program Starting Again was designed to help overcome trauma and was held in June & July 2024 at Arsuz Community Center. The program aimed to provide emotional support under professional guidance and to help participants build psychological resilience.

**Arsuz School Donations**

- In coordination with Uluçınar Primary School Directorate, bags, education sets and one-year stationery lists of Kindergarten students, one-year stationery lists of 1st grade students and English Story Book Sets of 2nd grade students were provided.
- We provided 4 desktop computers and 4 air conditioner units to Uluçınar Primary School.
- A photocopier machine was donated to Arpaçiftlik Primary School in line with their needs.
- School uniforms were provided to students in need at Çetillik Primary School. We have also constructed the garden shading system of the school.
- To celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Republic and October 29th Republic Day, we distributed books on Nutuk, Atatürk and the Republic to the students of Uluçınar Primary School, Arpaçiftlik İsmet Okan Primary School and Çetillik Primary School in Arsuz.

**Arsuz Gözcüler and Expo Container City Sports Fields**

- We sponsored two volleyball courts to be built in the Container Cities in the Gözcüler Neighborhood of Arsuz and in the Expo Area Container City.

**Winter Coat Donations**

- With the donation campaign we organized for New Year, 40 winter coats were presented to children in need, supplied by local vendors in Arsuz.

**Children & Youth**

Our Association organizes all workshops and activities for children and youth **free of charge**, with volunteer educators and child development specialists. Our aim is to support earthquake-affected children in developing their creativity, building self-confidence, and coming together in safe social spaces. **Since 2007, we have been addressing this need in Arsuz by offering children access to culture, art, and education; and in the post-earthquake period, we continue these efforts with even greater strength.**

- **April 23, 2023 - Arsuz Children's Festival** Organized in cooperation with Arsuz Municipality and Şişli Municipality, the festival included a film screening, a concert by the music group Aylaklar, and various workshops such as painting, kite making, and stone painting.
- **November 11, 2023 - Children's Theater Performance** Şeker Theater staged *Snow White and the Adventures of Little Red Riding Hood* at Arsuz Community Center. Children experienced the joy of theater.
- **January 23 - February 3, 2024 - Semester Festival** The festival included art workshops, *Birds of Hatay Workshop*, nostalgic play day, storytelling with songs, creative drama workshops on emotions and nature awareness, and the first meeting of the Arsuz Children's Choir.
- **May 16, 2024 - Mother-Child Music and Art Therapy Workshop** Pianist and art therapist Renan Koen led a workshop where mothers and children experienced the healing power of music and art. The workshop included art therapy and a section on "Making Your Own Instrument."
- **December 21, 2024 - Children's Art Workshop: A Winter Tale in My Dreams** Children expressed their imagination through art at Arsuz Community Center.
- **July-August 2024 - Robotics Coding Course** Courses were organized for middle and high school students to learn basic robotics and coding skills.
- **August 12 & 13, 2025 - (within the 19th Füsun Sayek Health and Culture Events) Logic and Intelligence Games Workshop** Led by Büşranur Artan and Nuh Aydın, children developed strategic thinking, memory, and problem-solving skills through games.
- **August 11, 2025 - (within the 19th Füsun Sayek Health and Culture Events) Science Workshop: In the Depths of Arsuz** Biology teacher Yeliz Erarslan guided children in exploring the marine biodiversity of Arsuz. At the end, they created their own "mini marine museums."
- **August 18, 2025 - (within the 19th Füsun Sayek Health and Culture Events) Colorful Tote Bag Workshop** Led by Kıymet Kayhan, children designed and personalized their own tote bags.



Füsun Sayek  
Association for the Development of Health and Education

#### Women's Workshops

- Our women's workshops and activities are **free of charge**. Our goal is to support women's active participation in social life, to create an environment of solidarity, and to contribute to their empowerment through production. **Since 2007, we have been creating opportunities for women in Arsuz to strengthen themselves through production and sharing; today we continue to expand this support through Arsuz Community Center and our workshops.**
- **February 7, 2024 - Creative Drama Workshop: Mothers and Daughters** A creative drama session for women, conducted by Psychological Counselor Melek Öztürk Turan and Drama Leader Güllüzar Oktay.
- **April 17, 2024 - Practical Sewing Workshop with Singer** About 30 women attended the free workshop at Arsuz Community Center, learning basic sewing techniques on household machines.
- **April 28, 2024 - Body Awareness Workshop** Led by Serap Kart Tümkaya, women participated in exercises that enhanced body awareness and group solidarity.
- **August 2025 - Arsuz Women's Choir & Young Bağlama Players Concert** The Arsuz Women's Choir, meeting weekly under the direction of choir conductor Nermin Yolcu Aslan, performed within the 19th Füsun Sayek Health and Culture Events. The concert also featured young bağlama students from Arsuz Community Center.
- Arsuz Community Center also hosted the **"Generous Listening Emotional Support Program"** organized by V Foundation, which continued for 5 weeks.

#### Cultural Events

- Our cultural and artistic activities are **free and open to the public**. Our aim is to bring society together through art, to heal collectively, to keep memory alive, and to strengthen social bonds around shared values. **Since 2007, we have been ensuring access to art in Arsuz through concerts, exhibitions, and talks; and in the post-earthquake period, we continue contributing to collective healing.**
- **February 10, 2024 - Memorial Concert** On the first anniversary of the earthquake, baritone Faik Mansuroğlu and pianist Kenan Tatlıcı performed at Nazım Hikmet Cultural Center in Arsuz. The concert was organized to commemorate those we lost, to share our grief, and to heal together.
- **August 14, 2025 - Writing Workshop: Once Upon a Time Here** Led by Talin Azar, participants wrote stories about Arsuz, producing personal texts through memory, place, and storytelling.
- **August 2025 - "I Have Roots" Exhibition** Artist Ezgi Aysever Korkmaz and Arsuz Weaving Workshop presented a joint exhibition in Arsuz, inspired by memory, heritage, and women's production, carrying today's hopes and values into the future.

#### Arsuz Book Club

- Meeting monthly at Arsuz Community Center since its establishment, **our book club has become a platform where book lovers explore different perspectives and share ideas.**

#### Healthcare Sessions

- On March 2, 2024, a seminar on Earthquake and Child Psychology was held at Arsuz Culture and Community Center with Psychological Counselor Melek Öztürk Turan.
- Aiming to raise awareness about breastfeeding, the screening of Canadian director Noemi Weis' documentary "Milk" about birth and breastfeeding was held on February 2, 2024 at Nazım Hikmet Cultural Center in Arsuz in cooperation with Arsuz Municipality and Temas Breastfeeding and Breast Milk Volunteers Association. Along with the film screening, there was a presentation and conversation on "Infant Nutrition in Disaster Situations" with the participation of International Breastfeeding Consultant and La Leche League Leader Charlotte Codron and Dr. Yasemen Canöz Karaca from TEMAS Association.

#### Earthquake Student Support Fund

- There were over 1650 applications for the Student Earthquake Support, which was granted to higher education students in the disaster zone and who are affected by the earthquake. With the contributions of many of our donors, we increased the Earthquake Support from 250 students to 616 students.



Fusun Sayek  
Association for the Development of Health and Education

**Arsuz Without Barriers**

- 120 adult wheelchairs, 10 children's wheelchairs, 30 pairs of canadian crutches, 30 walkers were delivered to the World Federation without Barriers (Engelsiz Dünya Federasyonu, Arsuz). We continue to work in line with the needs of people with disabilities.
- Arsuz Culture and Community Center hosted "Our Angels" exhibition during the Disability Week. The painting exhibition, where each of the students of the Private Gökmeşan Special Education and Rehabilitation Center painted angels, took place on May 15, 2024.

**Trauma Education & Emergency Pedagogy**

- We organized a Teacher Empowerment Training Program for teachers working in schools in 38 neighborhoods of Arsuz, Hatay. The program took place online in 4 modules including Trauma Education, Communication with Students after the Earthquake, Self-Care on March 9-10-11, 2023.
- We collaborated to organize an Emergency Pedagogy activity week for the children in the Arsuz Gözcüler Container City between 3 - 7 July 2023, with Friends of Education Art Association - Waldorf Initiative Istanbul; the umbrella organization in Turkey carrying out Waldorf Pedagogy studies with its international education partners since 2009.

**Shelter & Food & Hygiene & Supplies**

- We continue to work in cooperation with Arsuz Municipality and Şişli Municipality Social Support Services Directorate to deliver various products purchased through donations made to our association and sent as in-kind aid to those in need.
- We **distributed 2250 food parcels, 190 tents, 360 heaters, 200 wood stoves**; purchased through donations made to our association. We have coordinated, sorted and distributed different needs such as tents, sleeping bags, hygiene materials, clothes, food, water, heaters, portable toilets, generators donated by individuals and institutions.
- Women's Market Project: We distributed 3000 hygiene kits to women in Arsuz rural areas and tent cities, Serinyol, Defne and Samandağ.
- Village Laundry Project: We are building 6 laundries at tent cities and rural areas of Arsuz, with the support of Arçelik and in collaboration with Arsuz Municipality.
- We distributed 500 food parcels that we purchased with the grant support of Kahramanmaraş Earthquake Small Support Fund, which was implemented by the Support Foundation for Civil Society (Sivil Toplum için Destek Vakfı) and Mozaik Foundation as part of the 3rd and final cohort of the Small Grants Program, given to 11 NGO's active in the field.

**Field Kitchens**

- We have provided a total of 2000 hot meals a day at the Arsuz Field Kitchen from February 2023 to June 2023, which we established in cooperation with Şişli Municipality.
- With the support of Iskenderun Chamber of Shipping and Antalya Chamber of Shipping, 1000 hot meals were sent to the Madenli region every day from the kitchen ship established in Hado Madenli Port during the week following the earthquake.
- We have provided Field Kitchens in Samandağ and Defne with dry goods and food staples.

**FÜSUN SAYEK SAĞLIK VE EĞİTİM GELİŞTİRME DERNEĞİ**

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