

Friends of Anatolia Volunteer Center Opened its Doors



Friends of Anatolia celebrated the completion of **the new Volunteer Center** with an Open House Party on Friday, October 7th and opened its doors to all volunteers who would like to contribute to a worthwhile cause.

The Volunteer Center will promote volunteerism and increase the efficiency and quality of the volunteer's work. It is being made possible by the hard work of devoted volunteers and the support of generous donors, especially Omer Uyuklu, who has donated most of the furniture, helping make this dream come true.

Friends of Anatolia invited everyone to The Center which is located on 236 Castro Street, Unit 1, Mountain View, CA 94041 and served Turkish mezes and soft drinks. Donors and volunteers of this new organization came together to show their support and be a part of this new adventure.



If you have missed this event and you would like to visit the Volunteer Center, please call ahead to make an appointment since the Center is solely staffed by dedicated volunteers. The phone number of the center is 650 964 2646.



Friends of Anatolia was recently founded by a group of young and enthusiastic volunteers who share the vision of creating a model of peace and sustainable democracy in the Middle East by encouraging the growth of Turkish civil society. In line with this vision, Friends of Anatolia's mission is to support education in Turkey, to strengthen Turkish nonprofit organizations, and to promote cultural exchange both in the U.S. and Turkey.

In less than a year, under the leadership of the Founding President Demet Yezgi, they have recruited a team of over 65 volunteers and built a donor base of 400 individual donors. During this short time period, Friends of Anatolia has raised over \$50,000 from individual donations to support two school repair projects in Turkey and established the Volunteer Center in Mountain View to promote volunteerism. In addition, they have built alliances with over 10 Turkish-American nonprofits, designed and developed a periodical promoting Turkish philanthropy in the U.S., and have participated in several cultural events.

Following the opening of Volunteer Center, Demet is going to Turkey to evaluate the school repairs in Siverek, Sanliurfa and Midyat, Mardin. She will complete these projects by buying and distributing school supplies to the students and participate to the opening ceremonies. The generosity of Mary and Kaya Tuncer, who donated their mileages for a free flight ticket, made this trip possible. **Demet will be in Turkey between October 13 and October 24.**

If you would like to support the programs and activities of Friends of Anatolia, you can volunteer, donate and/or spread the word. For more information, please check out their website www.friendsofanatolia.org or give them a call at (650) 799 3133.