

PATHFINDERS



OUR AIM

Through this project we aimed to contribute to Bayramlı, a mountain village in Kemalpaşa İzmir, by renovating their out-of-use library.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Our main Sustainable Development Goals are Quality Education (4), Reduced Inequalities (10) and Partnership for the Goals (17). We addressed these SDGs by renovating the Bayramlı Library, enriching its book collection and learning environment and involving in a partnership with Efeler Way organizers and local governors of the village.

TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We are a team of 8 students who all had different roles during the entirety of this project. Our Juniors: İpek Atlı and Ela Nil were activity organizers who organized all the fun activities we did with the kids in Bayramlı while Ada Kocatürk was our social media director in charge of designing all the stories and posts and keeping our social media active. Then there is our sophomore Lotus Mina Yıldız who was in charge of technical coordination meaning she created a needs list for the others to fulfill. Lastly our seniors: Selim Önal, Yağmur Yıldırım, Bade Soybakış and Melis İtir Kaplan. Selim is our graphic designer, he is the person who designed all of our GSL newsletters, posters and the mural in the library. Yağmur is our technology director; she made our online presentations and the one who kept the measurements of the library. Bade is our financial director; she was in charge of analyzing pricing and taking out of the budget. Last but not least Melis. She is our team leader, she was the one who communicated with all of our partners, planned our approach and organized our visits.



Selim painting the mural



FUNDS AND DONATIONS

Throughout the project we have been sponsored by 2 different sources. Our first sponsor is our school: they helped us by providing the bus rides to the village (5 in total). Our second sponsor was LEMON Company, a stationary shop which provided us with wall and ceiling paint. As for donations our school community donated all the books for the library which came up to around 500 books and our school also donated the unused bookshelves from the art room. Furthermore, we collaborated with our school's Junior Achievement club to buy stationary kits as presents for the children who attended the opening of The Bayramlı Library.

IMPACT



Our main impact was to the community of Bayramlı. The Bayramlı village is a Pomak community which has a population of 200 people. This community already had a library but it was unused due to the book borrowing system not working properly and the book selection being quite narrow (around 150 books) with little to no books for children. In a mountain village which sustains itself purely on agriculture, education is hard to get. For students to go to school they need to make a 2 hour journey daily to a nearby city which is not accessible for all. So most students end up dropping out of school. Our solution for this problem was to bring some level of education to them. In our library collection we have children's books on science, archaeology, art and learning English alongside books for teens on literary analysis and classical books.

HIGHLIGHTS

Through-out our journey, we had various highlights we would like to mention. Encountering the Bayramlı Village during our hikings, organizing a meeting with one of the coordinators of Efeler Way, Hakan Bey and having the the local governor of Bayramlı Village at the winter charity sale to contribute to the local economy are the highlights of the beginning our project. We visited the Bayramlı Village for the first time to evaluate the school in which we had originally planned to build the library but we found out that they actually have a separate room as a library. On the second visit we cleaned the room and painted the walls, by using the paint donated to us by one of our sponsors. In the meantime, we started a book campaign within our school to collect the books for the library and we collected around 500 books! On the third visit, we furnished the library using the bookshelves we were given by our school and the donated books. Last but not least, was the opening of the library on April 26. The children of the village and their parents joined us for the opening. We had them play treasure hunt and distributed the stationary kits. It was a funfilled sunfilled day for everyone!



Our meeting with Ms.Selmiye



Our booth in the winter charity sale



Us after finishing up the library

CHALLENGES

The biggest challenges have been pecuniary. Our first goal was to sustain ourselves by raising funds on our school's annual winter bazaar yet we were unsuccessful. We couldn't make enough profit and our plan ultimately failed. So we had to change our route entirely. Our primary plan was to fix up the run-down school of the village and later on turn it into a functioning library. Then this plan turned into "hey, there already is a library so we should fix that up." So we did. Afterwards our success started to leak out of the cracks our challenges created. We painted the library, placed the bookshelves, organized the books and our friend Selim painted a mural to on the exterior wall. We had a chance to see a library come to life and also the surprised faces of the villagers when they heard a couple of teenagers wanted to help their community.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Our project process encouraged us to learn many different skill sets. We learned how to communicate clearly and effectively with different types of people through different forms of media like social media, school newsletters and emails. Through these means we were able to get sponsorships, information about the village and what we can do. We strengthened our self management skills by creating deadlines and following through with them to efficiently complete our tasks. We improved our creative thinking skills by making social media posts, e-posters and art to spread awareness on what we were doing and how others could help.

