

The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze*

The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze was established in 1941 under the name "Darülacezeye Yardım Cemiyeti," at a time when Darülaceze faced severe food shortages due to the impact of World War II.

At that time, Dr. Lütfi Kırdar, who simultaneously held the positions of governor, mayor, and provincial head of the Republican People's Party (CHP), assigned the responsibility for social institutions to Hasene Ilgaz, a member of the party's executive board. After preparatory work, Istanbul's philanthropists gathered at Darülaceze and decided to establish a charitable society to increase the institution's income, expand its service scope, and assist the needy, the sick, the disabled, and the destitute.

The founding members of the society, officially launched on May 5, 1941, were Hüseyin Sabri Tüten, Mithat Nemli, Nuri Dağdelen, Naki Erenyol, Tevfik Ali Çınar, Murat Futtun, Refik Ahmet Sevensil, Hayri Arapoğlu, Hayri İpar, Mekki Hikmet Gelenbeğ, Hilmi Naili Barlo, Mehmet Sipahioğlu, Haluk Belson, Cevat Nizami Düzenli, and Selim Birol.

On June 18, 1941, the first Board of Directors was elected under the chairmanship of Hayri İpar at a meeting held at the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.

Initially meeting at the Physical Education Building in Taksim Sıraselviler, the association later moved to the IVth Vakıf Han, and in 1942 began operating directly within Darülaceze.

At the board meeting on May 28, 1942, Dr. Lütfi Kırdar was elected as Chairman, Hayri İpar as Vice Chairman, and Hayri Arapoğlu as General Secretary. Dr. Kırdar invited wealthy and prominent businessmen of Istanbul to Darülaceze, asking for donations for the construction of a modern pavilion. In response, donors such as Hayri İpar, Sabri Tüten, Mithat Nemli, Armenak Eskiciyan, Vitalis Polikar, the Siyon Brothers, Burla Brothers, Suraski Sons, Mihran Gaseroğlu, and Mihael Çikvaşvili each donated 1,000 lira, while Mithat and İzzet Kavran, and Nesim Mizrahi each donated 500 lira.

At the meeting on July 27, 1942, due to his extensive duties, Dr. Kırdar was made Honorary President, and Hayri İpar was reinstated as Chairman. The association's activities slowed until 1958 when the Board of Directors was renewed on November 2.

On August 11, 1960, a temporary Board was formed consisting of İffet Halim Oruz, Ruhi Erman, Ali Topuz, Zekeriya Salıcı, and Kemal Özbek. During this period, in an effort to generate income, the "Huzur Madalyonu (Peace Medallion)" was produced. The medals were auctioned during the "Dosteller (Helping Hands)" Ball held at the Beylerbeyi Palace on August 30, 1961, and made available for sale at all branches of Ziraat Bank.

During the 1963–1964 term, the association donated goods and materials worth 95,816.94 lira to Darülaceze. Medal sales during the same period generated income of 53,100 lira. Significant donations included 50,000 lira from Nâzım Ali Bezmen and 30,000 lira from Cemil K. Muhayyeş, totaling 86,818.75 lira in contributions.

In 1968, the association renewed its charter and later produced a film titled "İçimizdeki Işık (The Light Within Us)" to promote Darülaceze across Türkiye, significantly increasing public interest and support.

The association also contributed to the construction of the Şefkat Business Center in Karaköy, an important source of income for Darülaceze. Other initiatives included furnishing the Darülaceze Honor Hall, the nurses' pavilion, doctors' rooms, the association's own building, and the women's workers' pavilion, as well as producing a Darülaceze badge.

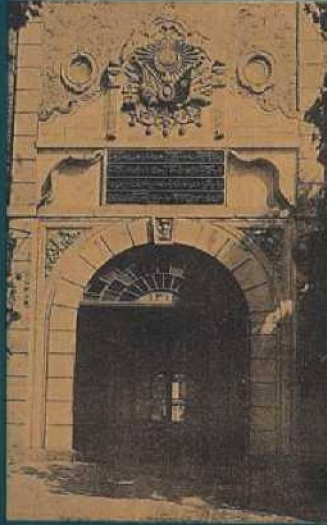
Since 1986, under the presidency of Muzaffer Atakan, the association repaired the 3rd Wing during 1993–1994 and subsequently installed mosquito screens on all windows. Every two weeks, the association organizes musical events for each wing in rotation. Between April 1995 and April 1996, it provided nearly one billion lira in financial aid to Darülaceze.

* Excerpted and summarized from pages 200–202 of the book titled "İstanbul Darülaceze Müessesesi Tarihi (The History of the Istanbul Darülaceze Institution)" by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuran Yıldırım, published by the Darülaceze Foundation in Istanbul, June 1996.

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İSTANBUL DARÜLACEZE MÜESSESESİ TARİHİ

Doç. Dr. Nuran Yıldırım



DARÜLACEZE VAKFI YAYINIDIR

The History of the Istanbul Darülaceze Institution
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuran YILDIRIM
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