

The Establishment of The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze*

The foundation of the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze (Darülaceze'ye Yardım Derneği) dates back to 1941, during the hardships of World War II, when the Darülaceze institution was struggling with severe supply shortages.

At that time, the positions of Governor, Mayor, and the Head of the political party were held by the same person. The late Dr. Lütü Kırdar, who was performing these duties, assigned the responsibility of overseeing social institutions under the Republican People's Party (C.H.P.) to Hasene İlğaz, a member of the party's executive board. After the necessary preparatory work, a meeting was held at Darülaceze with the participation of prominent figures of Istanbul, notably the late Hayri İpar. During this meeting, it was decided to meet the institution's needs through charitable donations and to establish an aid association. On the same day, philanthropists collected a total of 12.625 Turkish Liras and opened a current account at Istanbul İş Bankası. The formalities for establishing the association took about two months. During this period, through the efforts of the party's social services branch, essential supplies such as cement, iron, timber, coal, food, and clothing were provided to Darülaceze.

On June 18, 1941, a meeting was held in the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce conference hall under the chairmanship of Hayri İpar, and the "Society for Assistance to Darülaceze" was officially founded. The first board of directors assumed office, with Hayri İpar elected as President, Hayri Arapoğlu as Vice President, Cevat Nizami as General Secretary, and Mithat Nemli and Sabri Tüten as Members. Initially, the association conducted its meetings in a room at the Physical Education building in Sıraselviler, Taksim. Later, it moved to Room 18 on the third floor of the Fourth Vakıf Han. However, it was eventually deemed more appropriate to continue operations directly within Darülaceze itself. Thus, with the decision of the Board of Directors dated April 2, 1942 (Decision No. 3), the association relocated to Darülaceze.

At the Board of Directors meeting held on May 28, 1942, changes were made to the leadership structure with Decision No. 1: Dr. Lütü Kırdar was elected as President, Hayri İpar as Vice President, and Hayri Arapoğlu as General Secretary.

On May 16, 1942, President L tfi K rdar invited Istanbul's merchants and affluent citizens to Dar laceze, seeking donations for the construction of a modern pavilion. Those who responded to the call included members of the board and other benefactors such as Hayri İpar, Sabri T ten, Mithat Nemli, Armenak Eskiciyan, Vitalis Polikar, the Siyon Brothers, Burla Brothers, Suraski Sons, Mihran Gaserođlu, and Mihael  ıkvařvili, each contributing 1,000 Turkish Liras. Mithat and İzzet Kavran, along with Nesim Mizraki, contributed 500 Turkish Liras each.

However, due to the heavy burden of his duties, Dr. L tfi K rdar resigned from active presidency on July 27, 1942, and was appointed as Honorary President. Hayri İpar once again assumed the presidency. At the General Assembly meeting held on April 21, 1948, Prof. Dr. Murta Cankat was elected President, Dr. Bekir Zafir as Vice President, Yařar Tumbek as General Secretary, Hilmi Naili Barlo as Treasurer, and Safiye Erol as Member.

Between 1941 and 1951, the Association focused its efforts on projects such as the allocation and restoration of the Feridun Pařa Mansion in Kořuyolu as a Rest Home, providing educational and recreational materials to the primary school within Dar laceze, and collecting donations to meet various needs. During this period, the highest single donation was made by the late Habib Edip, who donated 10,000 Turkish Liras at once and pledged an annual donation of 1,200 Turkish Liras. Although the Rest Home project could not be fully operationalized, the property was later transferred to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to be converted into a children's hospital. The Association was included among the organizations operating for the public benefit by the decision of the Council of State (Decision Nos. 43 - 214 - 232) dated September 11, 1943, and the Council of Ministers' decision dated January 8, 1944 (Decision No. 3 - 262).

Regarding the activities between 1951 and 1960, after a period of stagnation until early 1954, a new Executive Board was elected by Decision No. 1 dated January 25, 1954: Prof. Dr. Murat Cankat was elected as President, Safiye Erol as Vice President, Tevfik Ali  ınar as General Secretary, Samim Tunalı as Treasurer, and Dr. Adnan H n as Member.

Later, Faruk Gogo replaced Dr. Adnan Hün. An amount of 150,000 Turkish Liras, allocated by the Ministry of Health for the rehabilitation of Darülaceze, was initially deposited into a bank. By a decision dated April 30, 1955, an apartment located at No. 32, Korkut At Street, Hoca Üveys District, Fatih, was purchased for 120,000 Turkish Liras and rented out.

Following a period of stagnation between 1955 and 1958, the Association resumed its activities with the election of a new Executive Board at an extraordinary General Assembly held on November 2, 1958. At that time, Dr. Turgut Babaoğlu was elected as President, Safiye Erol as Vice President, Dr. Mehmet Akün as General Secretary, Samim Tunalı as Treasurer, and Nuri Bayat as Member. Following the First Social Conference held in Ankara on November 27, 1959, during which cooperation among charitable institutions in Istanbul was discussed, Dr. Turgut Babaoğlu and Hasene Ilgaz (on behalf of the Darülaceze Social Services and Organization Bureau) were assigned by Decision No. 36 dated April 11, 1960, to attend the meetings organized by the Provincial Health Directorate. As a result, the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze was integrated into the Union of Aid Organizations.

By Decision No. 37 dated June 25, 1960, Timlo Company Controller Kemal Özbek and Association Secretary Ali Başaranoğlu were assigned to audit the Association's accounts. Until a new Executive Board was elected, it was decided to freeze the funds in the bank and to secure the old and new accounts, records, receipts, and documents. At the meeting held on August 11, 1960, by Decision No. 1, a Provisional Executive Board was established, consisting of İffet Halim Oruz, Ruhi Erman, Ali Topuz, Zekeriya Salıcı, and Kemal Özbek. This Provisional Executive Board, bringing a new spirit and working discipline, initiated important activities for Darülaceze. On the one hand, they reorganized the necessary books and records neglected due to the long hiatus in the activities of previous Executive Boards, as required by the Associations Law and the Association's Charter. On the other hand, they launched intensive efforts to secure strong income sources to provide more effective aid to Darülaceze.

During the 14-year period from 1960 to 1973, the Association's Ordinary General Assembly meetings were held successively on the following dates: December 10, 1960; April 13, 1963; May 2, 1965; April 9, 1967; April 6, 1969; April 6, 1971; and March 27, 1973. At the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting held on June 17, 1968, one article of the charter was amended.

From the Association's founding until the Ordinary General Assembly meeting held on March 27, 1973, the Executive Board consisted of five members in accordance with the charter. At the March 27, 1973 meeting, extensive revisions and adjustments were made to the charter to comply with the new Associations Law No. 1630. Additionally, it was decided to increase the number of Executive Board members from five to seven, as stipulated by an amendment to the charter.

During this 14-year period, the Association members whose names and surnames are listed below served on the Executive Boards:

- 1) İffet Halim Oruz
- 2) Ruhi Erman
- 3) Ali Topuz
- 4) Zekeriya Salıcı
- 5) Ulviye Çelikoğlu
- 6) Nazlı Gaspralı
- 7) Baizer Atasun
- 8) Berrin Özbekin
- 9) Leman Kıvılcım
- 10) Şefika Çakmur
- 11) Kemal Özbek
- 12) Şakir Palancıoğlu
- 13) Ayten İlkin
- 14) Şevkiye Harunoğlu

Among these members, İffet Halim Oruz and Ruhi Erman served continuously and without interruption on all Executive Boards, and İffet Halim Oruz held the position of President of the Association for a period of 14 years.



The members of the Board of Directors and the Social Branch of the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze in the garden of Darülaceze.

During this period, the Association organized its activities based on the following principles:

- a) To meet the needs of the Darülaceze institution,
- b) To provide various social aids to the women, men, and children residing at Darülaceze,
- c) To offer in-kind or monetary assistance to impoverished individuals,
- d) To establish a Nursing Home for elderly individuals with financial means,
- e) To contribute to the construction of the Darülaceze Compassionate Business Center (Şefkat İş Hanı).

The total amount of in-kind and monetary assistance provided by the Association to Darülaceze and its residents during this period has reached 3 million Turkish Lira. The Association continued its support by organizing concerts, charity fairs, item raffles, dinners, and various entertainment events, and by supplementing these resources with donations of goods and materials from the Ministry of Customs and Monopolies and various other individuals and organizations. In the meantime, to promote Darülaceze nationwide, the Association commissioned a film titled "The Light Within Us" (İçimizdeki Işık), ensuring its screening in all major cities and towns across the country. This effort significantly expanded public awareness and support for Darülaceze. Currently, the Association continues its earnest efforts in close and harmonious cooperation with the Darülaceze Directorate to address the challenges faced by this major institution.

On the other hand, based on the authority granted by the General Assembly and in accordance with the bylaws in effect at the time, the Association purchased a building located at No. 38, Eski Londra Asfaltı, Bahçelievler, Bakırköy, and on July 1, 1964, inaugurated the institution named Istanbul Nursing Home (İstanbul Huzur Evi) to provide all kinds of care and treatment services for elderly citizens with financial means. The purpose of establishing this facility was to create a home for low-income citizens aligned with contemporary global standards, and thereby expand Darülaceze's capacity to accommodate the homeless, in accordance with its institutional status, offering greater opportunities to those on the waiting list.

The sale of "Huzur" medals, printed and distributed by the Association, significantly contributed to achieving this goal. At the time, the Governor of Istanbul, Niyazi Akı, also provided important encouragement and support for the establishment of this facility. Substantial assistance in the promotion and sale of the medals came from Ziraat Bank, Istanbul's local administrators (muhtars), and members of women's associations. Currently continuing its operations, the Istanbul Nursing Home was officially transferred to the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes (Huzur Evleri Kurma ve Yaşatma Derneği) as of January 1, 1968, by a decision made at the General Assembly held on April 9, 1967. The Association has thus set the first nationwide example of such an institution specializing in the care of the elderly in Turkey.

On the other hand, the Association for Assisting Darülaceze (Dârülaceze'ye Yardım Derneği) provided significant material and moral support for the establishment of the Şefkat Business Center (Şefkat İşhanı) in Karaköy, which became an important source of income for Darülaceze. The Association also contributed by printing a colorful brochure to promote Darülaceze, furnishing the Darülaceze Honor Hall, furnishing the Nurses' Pavilion, the Doctors' Room, the Association for Assisting Darülaceze Building, and the Women's Staff Pavilion, as well as producing Darülaceze badges. Furthermore, the Association aided efforts to increase the number of beds at Darülaceze and to equip its pavilions. Through these various initiatives, the Association extended a helping hand to this great institution of compassion and mercy and continues to work towards expanding Darülaceze and improving and perfecting its services.

The Association is currently governed by the following Board of Directors elected at the Ordinary General Assembly Meeting held on March 27, 1973:

**CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ASSOCIATION FOR ASSISTING DARÜLACEZE**

İffet Halim Oruz	: President
Baizer Atasun	: Vice President
Ruhi Erman	: Secretary General
Şefika Çakmur	: Treasurer
Berrin Özbekin	: Cashier
Ayten İlkin	: Member
Şevkiye Harunoğlu	: Member

*The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze chapter (pages 90-99) written by İffet Halim Oruz in the "Darülaceze (1895 - 1974)" book by Reşat Ekrem Koçu.



Darülaceze (1895 - 1974)
Reşat Ekrem KOÇU
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