

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE İSTANBUL NURSING HOME (İSTANBUL HUZUR EVİ) AND INFORMATION AND EXPLANATIONS ABOUT ITS ACTIVITIES*

Dear members,

As you know, the 4th paragraph of the second article and the 19th article of the association's bylaws, as well as the decisions made during the General Assemblies held on 10/12/1960 and 13/4/1963, assigned the task and authority to our Board of Directors to establish a "Huzur Evi" (Nursing Home).

After the research and studies carried out to achieve this goal:

1. To purchase a plot and build the Nursing Home based on the planned dimensions and specifications designed for it.
2. To purchase an existing building suitable for use as a Nursing Home.

These options were examined.

While it was highly desired to establish a facility on purchased land, it was found to be impractical due to the long time required for such a project and the potential risk of the matter losing its seriousness over time. Given the tendencies of our pragmatic society, it was decided that purchasing a ready-made building with the necessary features would be the most realistic solution.

The information gathered from the research and the financial resources available at the time showed that the building and its surroundings should meet at least the following criteria:

1. The location of the building should be peaceful, away from all noise, and open and bright.
2. The environment of the Nursing Home should not isolate its residents or cause feelings of depression by distancing them from society. For this reason, the area should be connected to the city center by a constant and smooth transportation system.
3. The surrounding area of the building should allow for future expansion and development.

4. The building's structure and room divisions should be suitable for accommodating one or two residents per room, meeting at least the minimum health and civil needs.
5. The initial facilities and furnishings should be purchased along with the building, as the planned scale of the Nursing Home would require significant investments.
6. Given the available funds, it was not possible to buy a building that could accommodate 50 residents and their caretakers outright. Therefore, the building could be purchased in installments.

During the search for a suitable building, Mr. Sami Akay, the owner of the Akay Clinic in Bakırköy, offered to sell a building that met the Nursing Home's requirements, with all the necessary installations and furnishings, excluding hospital equipment, on an installment basis.

The building was evaluated by authorized personnel for its technical specifications, durability, suitability for the purpose, and price. A request was then made to the Istanbul Governorate to verify if the final price of 600.000 liras proposed by the seller was appropriate.

The response from the Istanbul Governorate, dated 1/4/1964, indicated that the value of the building without furnishings was considered 600.000 liras, and after adding the value of the furniture, the total cost would match the proposed amount.

Given that the building also met the six conditions mentioned above, the purchase agreement with Sami Akay was approved by our Board of Directors on 8 February 1964 and finalized with the transfer of ownership at the Bakırköy Land Registry Office on 3 June 1964.

Following the acquisition, necessary cleaning, painting, and arrangement work was carried out, and preparations for the opening were completed.

The Nursing Home officially began operations on 1 July 1964, and its grand opening ceremony was held on 15 July 1964 with the participation of prominent officials, including Mayor Haşim İşcan, Melek Akı, Deputy Governors, and the Rector of Istanbul University. The İstanbul Nursing Home quickly gained an important place in society.

We consider the realization of the Nursing Home, intended for elderly, bedridden, and lonely citizens, particularly those falling under Article 2/4 of the association's bylaws, to be one of the strongest steps towards making the The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze a larger organization.

Dear members,

We ask for your understanding as to why Board Members who had a modest role in this success have devoted a significant portion of this report to the Nursing Home. The need to leave a historical document for future years, the importance of the subject in Turkish society, and our belief in the importance of the establishment of this institution prompted us to share this detailed information about İstanbul Nursing Home.

Upon opening the facility, we prepared and submitted the Statutes for the Establishment, Service, and Administration of İstanbul Nursing Home to the Ministry of Finance. As a result, the Nursing Home was granted exemption from corporate taxes.”

In addition, we initiated the process to acquire two adjacent plots of land (approximately 1400 square meters) owned by the Istanbul Municipality, which are intended for the expansion of the Nursing Home. The Istanbul Municipality, led by Mayor Haşim İşcan and Deputy Mayor Saffet Görtav, provided significant support. The acquisition was finalized in 1965, with minimal financial burden on the association.

İstanbul Nursing Home, opened for purely social purposes, has 50 beds and features single or double rooms with private bathrooms, radio, telephone, and ample lighting. The facility provides a home-like atmosphere where residents’ needs are met. Health and safety measures are ensured through staff such as doctors, nurses, and caregivers. This institution, created entirely through public support, serves as a beautiful example of social solidarity.

While nursing homes have been established across Europe, the United States, and the Balkans for years, their absence in our country was a major gap. We consider the establishment of this facility, though small-scale, a significant gain for our nation. As our resources grow, we aim to expand the number of homes, extend the existing facilities, and open wings for bedridden patients, ultimately establishing a Retirement Village.

İstanbul Nursing Home must address all issues related to aging. To resolve the challenges posed by housing both bedridden or paralyzed residents alongside others in the same building, the Society has decided to add additional pavilions for bedridden residents to the Nursing Home. The transfer of municipal land will make this process easier.

Seeing the tremendous public interest in the facility, which exceeded our expectations, has made us extremely happy. The positive feedback we've received from intellectuals, the press, and the public strengthens our belief that this issue will continue to develop rapidly in the years ahead.

Finally, we note that the Nursing Home and the future Huzur Village also contribute to the expansion of Darülaceze's services. This further supports the activities outlined in Article 2/1 of our bylaws.

Dear friends,

As with any new venture, the establishment phase of İstanbul Nursing Home faced significant challenges. However, we are pleased to see the facility progressing toward perfection. Despite the difficulties in the early stages, the debt of 600,000 liras was reduced by 185,631 liras between 5 June 1964 and 31 December 1964, and necessary measures have been taken to pay off the remaining debt in the future.

When we decided to open İstanbul Nursing Home, we faced the challenge of finding a skilled, knowledgeable, and honest administrator. We were fortunate to find our friend, Sayın Hasene Ilgaz, who was well-known in the community and had made significant contributions to social services. He accepted the position and, with great dedication, quickly introduced the new institution, organized its operations, and ensured that donations were secured. We are grateful to her for her contributions.

To assist Mr. Ilgaz, we appointed Zekeriya Salıcı, whom you all know. With the addition of other staff, the operations of the facility were carried out smoothly.

The opening staff consisted of the following members:

Director, Assistant Director, Internal Medicine Specialist, Chief Nurse, Accountant, Warehouse Officer, Heating Operator, Cook, Dishwasher, 2 Female Caregivers, Night Shift Female Caregiver, Laundry Worker, Clerk, and Tailor.

Dear members,

At the time of establishment, the association did not have sufficient funds to provide free accommodation for the residents. Therefore, it was decided that residents would contribute to the costs based on their ability to pay. However, as our social welfare fund increases, we may reduce the financial contributions required from certain residents.

We are committed to ensuring that the facility provides maximum financial support based on the residents' ability to pay, with the aim of caring for those who have no income or insufficient resources. Even during our most difficult times, the Board of Directors applied this principle by accepting some individuals at discounted rates. We offer our heartfelt thanks and respect to all of you who have helped make this sacred project a reality.

* "This summary has been taken from the document presented by Board of Directors of The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze during the General Assembly Meeting held on Sunday, May 2, 1965, at 14:30, in the Conference Hall of the Darülaceze Institution, which includes the Work, Account, and Auditor's Reports for the period from April 1, 1963, to December 31, 1964."