



# ANNUAL REPORT

**2016-2017 Academic Year**

**SEC 101 - Introduction to University Life Course**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS**



**ACADEMIC TERM:** 2016-2017 Academic Year (2016 September - 2017 September)

Özyeğin University (OzU) students take part in social responsibility projects, contribute to social initiatives, and work on sustainability as an integral part of their education. These activities are run under the umbrella of OzU Cares which is a student-led initiative that dates back to 2011. The initiative aims to promote sustainability, community engagement, and social responsibility, which are deeply rooted in OzU's founding philosophy. The majority of the OzU Cares projects falls within the scope of the **United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 10, Reduced Inequalities**.

OzU Cares was very active for the 2016-2017 academic year as well. For that period OzU Cares worked with an NGO called Make a Wish Turkey - <http://www.birdilektut.org> (Bir Dilek Tut Türkiye).

With the help of 6 OzU Cares project volunteers, 216 new admitted students became volunteer students for the project. Our volunteer students organized different activities to generate income for the wish.

In addition to NGO projects, our students became volunteers for the Community Engagement Projects in 5 different schools or organizations. The details are as follows:

## Project with Children

The aim of the children project is to encourage our students to serve and give back to community. Also, it is aimed to support student's imagination development and provide opportunities for the disadvantaged primary and secondary school children.

### Projects:

**Related Institution:** Nişantepe Primary School and Kindergarten

- Nişantepe Primary School (Çekmeköy / İSTANBUL)
  - 456 volunteer students worked for the project

**New Year Party / April 23 Party:** Every primary and kindergarten student, that was part of the project was invited to the campus. At the end of fall semester, the new year together was celebrated together. In the spring semester, they were invited on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, National Sovereignty and Children's Day to celebrate.

**Support for Classes:** The focus in this project was on primary school students. There are two parts of this project. One is to support their classes in different subjects and another one is to be a role model as a university student.

**We're doing Sports Together:** This project is aimed to bring sports culture to primary school students' life. We played and trained students in different sports branches like basketball, volleyball and football. Some students were addressed to our school of sports activities in the university with free of charge.

**Street Games:** In this project, we aimed to teach street games in 90's to new generation primary school students. We introduced games that our volunteer students played in their childhood period. Aim was not only to have fun during games but also trying to communicate with primary school students and being a role model as a university student.



**Handicrafts:** We know how important it is to develop manual skills in elementary school. That's why, we planned to support children in this field.

**Discussion:** Debating, discussing and expressing thoughts is indispensable for child development, but is often suppressed. As we believe that this repression is not correct, we organize a debate tournament with 7<sup>th</sup> grade students each year.

**Related Institution:** Nişantepe Kindergarten (Çekmeköy / İSTANBUL)

- 40 volunteer students worked for the project

**Reading Book:** In this project, we aimed to share the habit of reading book with kindergarten age students.

## Project with Elderly

Our projects with seniors have two main objectives. First, to ensure the development of our students' empathy skills. Secondly, to support their lives as well as spending quality time with the elderly people we usually neglect.

Within the scope of the projects with elderly people, we worked with 4 different institutions in this academic year. The details of these institutions are shared below.

### Related Institution:

- Buket Nursing House (Göztepe / İSTANBUL)
  - 76 volunteer students worked for the project
- Buket Nursing House (Kozyatağı / İSTANBUL)
  - 78 volunteer students worked for the project
- Asude Nursing House (Şişli / İSTANBUL)
  - 48 volunteer students worked for the project
- Ulus Life Center (Ulus / İSTANBUL)
  - 50 volunteer students worked for the project

## Project with Disabilities

The aim of the project was providing opportunities to develop our student's empathy skills and spend some quality time with people with disabilities who are often neglected in community. We developed two different projects in this year. Below you can find the details.

- Turkey Blind Library (Konak / İZMİR) - <https://www.turgok.org/en>
  - 156 volunteer students worked for the project

**Audio Library:** For the use of blind citizens, we read books (novels etc.). We also aimed providing access to textbooks and course books for blind children and students. Our main objective with this project is to establish our own Audio Library.

**Disability Awareness Week:** We celebrate the Disability Awareness Week between 10-16 May in all countries of the UN every year. We invited NGO's, Guest Speakers and other institutions that we have worked with.



Some NGO's we hosted in our campus are KAÇUV (The Hope Foundation for Children with Cancer), TOÇEV (TÜVANA Children's Education Foundation) and also other events with students from Nişantepe Primary School.

- Disability Awareness Week (10-16 May)
  - 70 volunteer students worked for the project.

## **Project with Animals**

Our aim in this project is to make our students aware of animals' living conditions, needs and creating a budget for their daily care. We worked with 2 different shelter facilities the details of which are shared below:

### **Related Institution:**

- Kadıköy Temporary Animal Shelter
  - 65 volunteer students worked for the project
- Campus Dogs
  - 75 volunteer students worked for the project
- Fundraising for OzU Shelter
  - 30 volunteer students worked for the project