

## TURKISH COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### QUICK OBSERVATIONS

Country/region of origin	Turkey
Population (community leadership)	3,000
Population (census 2000)	788
Main reasons for migration	Came to study and stayed
Years in this region	10-20 years
Primary areas of residence	Scattered through the region
General level of education	Bachelor's and graduate degrees
Employment	Muslim
Languages	Turkish, English
Media (newspaper or radio)	
Community newsletter	
Cultural organizations	3

The cultural-humanitarian impact of the metroplex Turkish community surpasses its small numbers. For the past few years, the Turkish Festival has presented metroplex residents with turkey's best folk dance troupe, the best Turkish pop band in the country and extraordinary traditional dishes. They have also raised large sums for relief for the victims of the August 1999 earthquake that devastated thousands of households in Turkey, and have supported local refugee projects. Many DFW Turkish Americans are active volunteers in civic, humanitarian and educational projects

Many of the local Turkish-Americans came for higher education and decided to remain here as immigrants. They are highly educated professionals, Muslims, most of who work in engineering, communications and high tech positions. The community includes several university deans as well as many physicians.

The Turkish American community in North Texas represents the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture. They reflect a hospitable culture that has assimilated with ease, although some remain concerned at the hesitation of Anglo-Texans to accept them, particularly in view of recent attacks against immigrants of Middle East origin.

### OTHER SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Age distribution	Evenly distributed
Percentage of men and women	55% men and 45% women
Ties to native country	Very close
Frequency of travel to native country	Every summer / once a year
Estimate of undocumented	

Material Source: DFW International  
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### OUTREACH STRATEGIES

- Attend Turkish Festivals
- Understand the Turkish culture and history
- Get involved with humanitarian efforts among the Turkish people
- Build friendships
- Workplace ministries

### HOW DO YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FAITH?

Share your everyday relationship with God...answered prayers, Scriptures that comfort  
Ask about how needs are met through their faith...loneliness, courage, direction  
Offer to pray for their needs  
Give books/videos that tell a faith story  
Discover their interests and find Christians in that field to share their story  
Look for Bible stories or principles that teach a value they respect.