TAFEL – MEETING PLACES

VOLUNTEERS BRIDGING FOOD RESCUE AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT
HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE TAFEL?

Without donations there would be no Tafel. According to the Tafel’s motto “everyone gives what they can”, there are many ways to support our work. Whether you donate groceries, money or time, you can help us to help others!

→ Further information is available at: www.tafel.de
Dear readers,

I am pleased to present you with this brochure about the Tafel in Germany – a social movement that has been growing for more than 20 years. It introduces our work, illustrates what the Tafel stand for, and outlines why our volunteer-based socio-ecological approach is unique.

The Tafel are a contact point and meeting place for many people on the margins of society or in an emergency situation. They are spaces that foster communication, cooperation, support and hospitality. Guests, volunteers and employees, the young and the old, as well as people of different religions and various cultural backgrounds come together at the Tafel. The Tafel thus become spaces where individuals encounter one another and expand their horizons, in short: meeting places.

It is indeed something special that so many people are involved in bridging excess and lack; they simultaneously advocate saving food and supporting people who need it. I am happy to be part of this excellent movement and invite you to get to know the Tafel, get involved, to donate, and to spread the word about our work.

Yours,

Jochen Brühl
Chairman of the National Association of German Tafel
Despite still being perfectly edible, tons of food are destroyed in Germany every day. At the same time, there are millions of people in this country who do not have enough to eat. The Tafel are working on bridging this gap between excess on the one hand and lack on the other. They collect qualitatively good food that would otherwise land in the garbage and distribute it for free or a symbolic amount to socially and economically disadvantaged people. There are currently more than 900 Tafel in Germany. All of them are nonprofit organizations. The Tafel support more than 1.5 million people in need of food throughout the country – nearly one third of them are children and youth.

All the involved parties benefit from the Tafel idea: Grocers and producers take on social responsibility, and people in need receive much needed high quality groceries. Furthermore food waste is reduced, which protects the environment and valuable resources.

The Tafel are one of the largest volunteer based organizations in Germany. They are financed by donations and receive no public financing. Only food that is donated to the Tafel can be distributed to those in need; no food is purchased. Rent, transport and administrative costs of the Tafel are covered by private donations and the business community.
Without donations there can be no Tafel. Help us to help others.
WHAT WE STAND FOR

The work of the Tafel is outlined by the guidelines of the National Association. Our tasks and goals, challenges and perspectives are bundled in four basic ideas.

SUSTAINABILITY

Groceries require significant resources to produce. Food is valuable. We advocate the avoidance of its destruction, putting “food where it belongs”.

HUMANITY

All people in need are to be treated with respect regardless of where they are from, their possibilities or limitations. Their dignity is to be held in high regard.

JUSTICE AND PARTICIPATION

All people should have the chance to unfold their personal, cultural, social, educational and professional potential.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Tafel take on responsibility through their actions and remind society of its responsibility to people in need and to those who have been disenfranchised.

(excerpt from the Tafel guidelines, 2012)
OUR ASSOCIATION’S STRUCTURE

Scientific Advisory Council
This is an expert committee that advises the board of directors and makes recommendations about the strategic direction and operational implementation of the association’s work.

Board of Directors
Comprised of 17 volunteers, of which 5 are members of the executive board, the directors are responsible for ongoing activities.

Headquarters
The administrative headquarters handles the key activities of the National Association and implements the board of directors’ resolutions in the areas of fundraising & sponsoring, public relations, member services, finances & accounting as well as logistics.

Tafel Academy
The Tafel Academy conducts seminars for the Tafel’s leadership and volunteers. It is responsible for the Federal Volunteer Service program at the Tafel.

Board of Trustees
This is made up of sponsors and public figures who act as Tafel ambassadors and represent the Tafel idea in the public sphere.

12 Regional Organizations
These represent their regional Tafel in the National Association.

Members: more than 900 Tafel
Our strong base is made up of more than 60,000 mostly volunteer helpers. Every two years the general assembly of the Tafel constitutes the highest decision making body.
The local Tafel work according to different models. Some Tafel only pass out groceries while others also provide warm meals. Some Tafel have a thrift store, and some even offer counseling. The services provided by the Tafel are as diverse as their customers. They are all united under the roof of the National Association of German Tafel.
**AT A GLANCE**

- **> 900**
  The Tafel’s distribution network of food savers spans all of Germany. Since the founding of the first Tafel in 1993, more than 900 have been started.

- **60,000**
  Without the dedication of 60,000 volunteers, the Tafel in Germany would not be possible. They donate their free time and their motivation in support of the Tafel idea. Thanks!

- **200,000**
  The Tafel save nearly 200,000 tons of food each year and pass it on to those in need. That makes the Tafel not only the most effective food savers, but they are also the only ones that exclusively help those who are most in need.

- **15 %**
  is the rate of poverty in Germany. The Tafel give poverty a face and bring those affected out of anonymity.

- **1.5 M.**
  Every year nearly 1.5 million people are supported by the Tafel. Especially the considerable increase in the number of children and seniors coming to the Tafel is alarming.

- **2,000**
  Together the Tafel own more than 2,000 vehicles which they use to transport food from supermarkets or bakeries to the Tafel. The fleet is supplemented by private vehicles.
A TYPICAL DAY AT THE TAFEL

How do groceries make their way from the donor to the customers at the Tafel? Large donations are distributed throughout Germany by the National Association. The local Tafel are responsible for smaller donations from grocery stores, discount supermarkets and bakeries. It is a small logistical feat, as shown by this illustration.

01
The Tafel vehicle drives to a supermarket or bakery to pick up the donated goods. For the most part, the store employees and the colleagues at the Tafel have worked together for a long time.

02
Extra food that can no longer be sold is donated and loaded for transport. Donated products could include produce with small blemishes or goods where the packaging contains a mistake. The main consideration is that all the foods can be enjoyed without worry.
03
From time to time the amount of donated food varies. Sometimes Tafel customers have more variety to choose from, and sometimes there is less available – it depends on the volume of donations. The Tafel do not purchase any additional food.

04
The goods are then checked. Some food has to be separated out and thrown away, like bananas with too many bruises.

05
The food is then distributed to the Tafel customers at the distribution sites. The systems of the Tafel are quite diverse; some pre-pack bags of groceries and others offer loose goods.
The way the Tafel combine social and ecological activism is unique in Germany. Food is saved from being thrown away, and this goes to help people facing hard times. Only the Tafel does that. The idea has convinced over 60,000 people who actively volunteer as drivers, logistics coordinators, Tafel managers or as participants in the Federal Volunteer Service. We would like to introduce you to a few of them here:

Ciwan Aram, 32, National Association of German Tafel

“I help mainly with translations from German to Arabic. The Tafel system is foreign to many refugees. As an interpreter I can help promote positive bonds.”

Tamara Morhart, 21, Tafel Youth/Schwabmünchner Tafel

“It is important for young people to be empathetic and actively involved in working to change areas of our society that need improvement.”
“It is good to do something so basic and meaningful like bringing food to people in need.”

Ghazzal Novid, 25, Tafel Youth/Kieler Tafel
“We are well off here in Germany. If it is possible to give something back by working at the Tafel, I am happy to do so. Not to mention that ‘helping’ alongside my dear colleagues is also gratifying.”

“When you see how thankful most of our customers are who enjoy our soup or receive groceries, then you go home feeling very content.”
“I did not imagine it would be this intense or beautiful. I have found the personal impact on my own life to be very, very enriching.”

Karl-Dietrich Lasch, 77, Driver for the Düsseldorfer Tafel

“I work through the Federal Volunteer Service at the Tafel because I like to be in contact with German people. I would like to learn German and help people at the same time.”

Nariman Arab, 24, Federal Volunteer Service at the Schwedter Tafel
PROJECTS

The National Association of German Tafel supports local Tafel not only with their daily Tafel work; it also provides funding for their local projects. Whether for children, seniors or integration, supporters can earmark donations to go toward their favorite projects. We would like to introduce you to some of them here.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

Eating meals together as a family, knowledge about food and a diverse diet all contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately information about food and how to turn it into a healthy meal has been lost in many families. Our knowledge-disseminating projects promote Tafel customers’ nutritional and food competence and increase their appreciation of food.

SENIORS

The poverty rate has been steadily increasing in Germany. The number of retirees who require support from the Tafel has doubled in the past few years. The Tafel are trying to respond appropriately to meet the needs of older people. Many Tafel offer special projects aimed at seniors. They host senior meeting points and cafes or organize delivery services so that older people with restricted mobility can also benefit from the services provided by the Tafel.
Around three million children live in poverty in Germany. For many of them, it means going to kindergarten or school without breakfast, no money for a warm lunch, malnutrition or a bad diet. They cannot afford visits to the movie theater or an afternoon at the outdoor pool and thus are quickly marginalized. Our projects for children, like cooking classes or tutoring, promote health, social participation, and educational opportunities.

The Tafel in Germany do not abandon refugees. They provide support with quick material aid and sustainable integration projects. The projects range from second hand stores and bicycle workshops to language classes. The Tafel are increasingly including refugees in their volunteer work as well. This is enriching and helpful for the Tafel, as well as a good chance for new residents to gain a foothold in a society new to them.

Every eighth food item that is purchased is then thrown away. Many of them are still in their original packaging, completely unused. Each year nearly seven million tons of food in Germany are thoughtlessly thrown away. The Tafel draw attention to the scale of food waste and aim to motivate consumers to change their mindset by hosting open, public events in various cities.
TAFEL YOUTH

Youth and young adults between 16 and 29 years of age can become members of the Tafel Youth organization. In the Tafel Youth, they meet other like-minded individuals who are also socially and ecologically involved. In addition to the exchange of experiences about their involvement at the local Tafel, the Tafel Youth are given the chance to carry out their own projects. Seminars about public relations, management in non-profits and project management provide them with the tools required for implementation.

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

If you would like to step up your socio-ecological involvement, you can search for a Tafel looking especially for young volunteers close to where you live with the “Tafel Youth Finder”. There are numerous possibilities to support the Tafel – with administrative tasks, IT, food distribution, as a driver, intern, trainee, or through the National Volunteer Service. You decide whether you want to help out on a daily, weekly or monthly basis – whatever works for you and your schedule at school or university.

ALWAYS WELL NETWORKED

The active Tafel Youth are very well networked and are frequently in contact with one another and the National Association. It is important for us that the members of the youth organization get to know each other and communicate amongst themselves. That is why the National Association regularly invites the youth to meetings. At one such event in Berlin, the Tafel Youth discussed with the Minister for Family Affairs and Tafel patron Manuela Schwesig about why young people are involved in social causes. At the Summer Festival at Bellevue Palace, members of the Tafel Youth even encountered the Federal President Joachim Gauk – a memorable experience.

More information about the Tafel Youth is available at:
www.junge-tafel.de
DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The Tafel would welcome your cooperation!

www.junge-tafel.de/nc/dein-engagement

At the public Summer Festival in 2015, active Tafel Youth met the Federal President Joachim Gauck.
Women and men of all ages can get to know the Tafel through the Federal Volunteer Service program (Bundesfreiwilligendienst, BFD). Our BFD volunteers work for six to twelve months hands-on with poverty and food waste. The work at the Tafel makes the most of each individual’s experiences, competences and abilities. The BFD participants regularly visit educational seminars that aim to increase their knowledge. Each year 600 people participate in BFD voluntary service at the Tafel.

**Tip:** As of January 1, 2016, refugees can also take part in the Federal Volunteer Service program at the Tafel. The BFD is a good opportunity for refugees to gain a foothold in society, to integrate and get involved in their new home. Women and men from Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan are already actively supporting the Tafel. The Tafel benefit from their skills, and the international volunteers enrich our teams, often helping interpret for other volunteers and customers.

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**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT BFD?**

We can help. Please contact us directly or get in touch with your local Tafel.

Telephone: +49 30 200 59 76-20  
E-Mail: bfd@tafel-akademie.de
TAFEL ACADEMY

The National Association’s training academy (a.k.a. The Tafel Academy) is a new educational center for the Tafel. It began its work in 2016. The motto of the Tafel Academy is “sharing knowledge, strengthening people”. Its task and goal is to regularly train the leadership and volunteers at the Tafel.

Being effective, pragmatic and people-oriented are the guiding principles of the Tafel Academy. A small, motivated team is charged with the realization of these goals. The Tafel Academy supports volunteers in their work with people in need and in the fight against food waste. The challenges and work facing the 60,000 Tafel volunteers have become more diverse and complicated.

A further focus is on combining the founding generation’s enormous base of knowledge with the new ideas from the Tafel Youth. Existing knowledge should be passed on to the next generation so that the Tafel, which are the oldest food savers in Germany, also set the standards in the future when it comes to preventing food waste and alleviating poverty.

Other tasks of the Tafel Academy include organizing seminars for the Federal Volunteer Service participants at the Tafel as well as supporting research projects.

More information about the Tafel Academy and upcoming events is available at: www.tafel-akademie.de
Would you like to get help from one of the more than 900 Tafel in Germany? Would you like to make a donation to a particular Tafel in your region or inform yourself about possibilities to become a volunteer? Then please use our Tafel Search Engine: www.tafel.de.
We would be happy to answer any questions about groceries, donations, contributions in kind or about becoming a supporting member. Here is the most important contact information of the National Association of German Tafel.

**Bundesverband Deutsche Tafel e. V. – Geschäftsstelle**

Dudenstraße 10  
10965 Berlin  
Telephone +49 30 200 5976-0  
Fax +49 30 200 5976-16  
E-Mail info@tafel.de  
Internet www.tafel.de

**Donations Account**

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft  
BLZ: 100 205 00  
Konto-Nr.: 111 85 00  
BIC: BFSWDE33BER  
IBAN: DE63 1002 0500 0001 1185 00

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**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS …**

… ABOUT DONATIONS OR BECOMING A SUPPORTING MEMBER?

E-Mail spenden@tafel.de

… ABOUT IN KIND DONATIONS OR DONATING FOOD?

E-Mail lebensmittel@tafel.de

… ABOUT FOUNDING A TAFEL OR SUPPORTING ONE AS A VOLUNTEER?

E-Mail info@tafel.de

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Das Deutsche Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen (DZI) bescheinigt:  
Ihre Spende kommt an!