

It wasn't ok to call **Nazlı** "team worker" before competing in the Vex Robotics Competition. She wasn't even able to handle a group work with her friends. She had problems with her friends too. She always tried it but her anger always surpassed her happiness and motivation. So she separated from her friends and started to move alone, trying to do things just by herself. And as you can guess it did not work out. She collapsed piece by piece and at the end of it she had just a piece of herself. So when the Flare Robotics Team came out everything changed.

When **Ada** was 13, in 8th grade's first half of the school year, day by day her motivation for life was draining by endless tests and stress. For the past 7 years of her school life she hasn't felt like this. She was always the class topper and everyone had great expectations for her. But the 8th grade was different. She was not able to focus on her studies or get along with her friends. Moreover in 8th grade's last half, she had a fight with someone precious for her and she broke down even more. At the end of the year prom she had a fight with her best friend and she didn't talk with her for 6 months. Between the 8th grade and High School she hasn't felt fine. And then the High School started and she entered Flare Robotics.

Before joining Flare Robotics, when you see **Elif** walking down the stairs in school she wouldn't seem so self confident. She was always looking down, never speaking to teachers or students. She always found it hard to take the charge at group works. She stood back for her entire life. Maybe the cause of this was her parents' behaviours for Elif. We can't say that they had supported her enough. Moreover she was overwhelmed because of the exams and stress of 8th grade. Also she was very slothful. She always finished her homework or projects at the last night. So when the 9th grade started she needed to take charge and at that point VRC came to the view.

In September, Flare Robotics 34736A started to recruit. Both Ada and Nazlı first met with each other and Flare at this date. They had a lot in common and they really liked to spend time together. They became really close friends and they always tried to help each other. And it was because of the environment that our mentors and leads created, it was really easier to blend in and be happy. For Nazlı, she was able to make friends easier. She fixed her quick angering and touchy features and blended with the other members of the team. And tried to understand others and always thought like "team comes first". For example, after the first Vex Nazlı and Ada had an argument. If it was the old Nazlı she wouldn't be able to be friend Ada again. Because probably she would lose her control and their friendship would end. But thanks to the things that the VRC and Flare taught us they were able to move on. Actually we can say that the Vex competition was the main reason. Because they knew that they would need to stay together for 9-10 straight so they thought like "if i do not make it up with her, we would both have a hard time at the competition". Also Nazlı was the driver and the driver coach at the 2th Vex competition and we could see that it changed her a lot. Thanks to our mentors' and our leaders' vision of life they saw Nazlı's hard work and ability and that is why they chose her as a driver coach. Not because she was a girl or because they love her more. Because she deserved it. After this, she regained her self-love, self confidence and collected her pieces back. Yes, some of them were epcent but she was sure that they would come back if she continued to work with her friends and team at VRC. .

For Ada it wasn't like this. As we said she didn't have any problems with her friends. But she had difficulties living. When she first started Flare Robotics, she felt like she finally found a motivation for life. She started to take more responsibilities day by day and it felt really nice. Especially when she was helping little kids at the orphanage and in the elementary school. They were really funny and cute and she really loved helping them. In Flare Robotics, she found herself a place where she can help everyone in the world. And she loved this feeling. She was like our big sister who helps everyone and tries to make everyone happy. She carried out both of the elementary school and orphanage plans' successfully. Also when she was at VRC she never lost hope at the team or our robot. She became one of the most precious pieces of our team with her spirit and her motivation for life: "Helping everyone and it will make you happy!". So we can say that Flare Robotics' and VRC's purpose was the main reason that she continued to live life happily.

When we look at Elif, she shined at VRC. When first came to Flare Robotics she stood back like old times. But when the VRC started to come closer, she shined among us. She was the only girl in our mechanic team and she didn't care about it. She just got better than everyone and worked twice of others. When everyone gave up she said "Even if i am alone i will make this robot!". And continued building the robot. And Flare Robotics and VEX gave her this motivation and feelings. At the second VRC, our robot was collapsing. It wasn't completely finished before VRC and we needed to build our robot in the competition. Thanks to her determination we succeeded in building 4 in 2 days.! She didn't sweat, she was cold-blooded and always kept it together. She didn't eat anything for 8 hours for 2 days and at the end of the day she was still able to stand still while the others collapsed. After this competition she continued taking responsibilities and because of that her character changed a lot. She became more self confident by the work she has done. She slowly left her old personality and became a person who can do anything if she wants. And we can say that it was because of VEX's and Flare's opportunities for girls.

In conclusion, Flare Robotics' and VEX's friendly and equal environment helped our teams 3 most precious members. If it wasn't for VEX Zeynep would never have lived that experience or gained that self confidence or Ada would never be able to help others or Nazlı would still be alone. But as i said, because of our mentors being understanding and equal they shined like a star while driving, building and teaching.