



מכינת אחד משלנו

מכינה קדם צבאית למנהיגות חברתית

MATANEL FOUNDATION - Activity Report 2012

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

In September 2012 we opened the second year of the pre-army preparatory course with 31 students (a 200% increase over last year). Today we have 28 students who are undergoing significant social and physical changes and, most importantly, of personal empowerment. The Mechina team has increased accordingly and includes two managers and four instructors, three of whom are new and being trained by the 'veteran' instructor. In addition to the regular program, this year the students have one day a week of community outreach in organizations such as *AKIM*, *Beit Hagalgalim* (disabled children), *Beit Hayeladim* in Hadera (for Ethiopian children), *Kfar Hayeladim* in Netanya (children at-risk), and the local kennels. To date the students have participated in four week-long field activities: an "opening" trip, a team-building trip to the Judean Desert, a navigation trip that focused on developing and empowering a sense of capability, and a trip to Judea and Samaria that focused on social and national issues. Five students passed the one-day "yom-sayarot" that allows to participate in tryout for two elite army units.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

1. Low dropout rate: thirteen of the fifteen students accepted last year completed the Mechina.
2. Trip to Poland: thanks to an earmarked donation, the students flew to Poland as part of a delegation, which strengthened their sense of Jewish identity and national responsibility, and empowered their feelings of capability.
3. Army recruitment success: Ten students who completed the course's first year enlisted into the army. All were accepted to combat units, some to elite volunteer units, where they are all doing well. One student completed a pre-army driving course and will serve as the driver of the IDF's Kfir Division (he was originally not regarded as not suitable for enlistment), and



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two students are due to enlist in March into combat units. This represents a 100% success rate in students enlisting for significant army service.

4. Mentoring program (for course graduates): the Mechina has established a mentoring program to provide its graduates (one mentor per two graduates) with continuing support for the duration of their army service, under the supervision of the school's management.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

Students: No doubt there is a significant improvement in the process the students are undergoing compared to those in our first course, mainly due to the higher number of students which broadens the scope of group activities and processes. The connection between first year graduates with second year students contributes greatly to the progress of the latter.

Educational program: The educational program is based on that of the previous year, with greater emphasis on community outreach and on decision making processes in the group (by delegation of more responsibility to committees run by the students themselves).

Therapy and guidance:

- This year includes two additional therapy sources: A psychologist to provide support for the Mechina team once every two weeks, and a psychologist who holds informal discussions with the students under the guidance of the school's educational director.
- Pedagogic Committee: An advisory pedagogic committee was recently formed to assist with educational dilemmas and to follow up on educational programs and, if necessary, to assist in the preparation of the educational program.

Management and finances: A finance committee has been formed in the organization for the purpose of managing the organization's budget at all times.

Recognition: The Mechina is awaiting official recognized as a pre-army preparatory course. (To date the organization has received recognition from the defense and education ministries as a Mechina in the process of being established).



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Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

Non-profit organization for the advancement of education in Israel – One-of-Us plans to continue to work towards realizing its vision – to narrow social gaps in Israel – by means of a pre-army preparatory course.

The organization will focus on expanding the school, in accordance with the provisions of the law, to 35 graduating students at the end of the preparatory course's third year. The organization is currently striving to open another school (probably a Mechina for girls).

The organization is also working on expanding the mentoring program for graduates. We are successfully recruiting mentors for every two graduates, and the program is in the advanced stages of development.

The Mechina will continue to meet the goals stated by the organization with regard to dropout rates and rates of enlistment to the IDF for significant military service.

A summary table – as **PDF document** – specifying the progress in the program since the beginning of the encouragement by the Matanel Foundation according to the main parameters and objectives such as:

Year of Matanel Foundation Contribution	Number of Events	Number of participants	Number of beneficiaries	Comments
2012	Mechina Program	13 + 3 (team)	13 + 3 (team)	Establishment of mentoring program, flight to delegation to Poland
2013	As above	28 + 6 (team)	28 + 6 (team)	Program development

Sincerely,

Shachar Ufaz

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