



MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT

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Academic Year:	2016
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Summary

The Society for the Advancement of Education thanks the Matanel Foundation for continued support of students at Midrashiat Amalia. The following activity report describes how funds were used to support scholarships for excellence and material support for needy students at Midrashiat Amalia, located in the Givat Mordechai neighborhood in Jerusalem. Matanel scholarships for excellence were awarded to 20 girls from 7th through 12th grades. The Matanel Foundation also supported material assistance, in the form of pocket money and transportation stipends, for 80 girls from 7th through 12th grades living in the Amalia residence.

These scholarships have had an impact on the students as can be seen through the personal stories below, student evaluations, and as reported by the principal of the school, Hasi Gell.

Achievements

This year, Midrashiat Amalia was one of 277 secondary schools throughout Israel recognized by the Ministry of Education for achievements in values, social concern and academics. This selection reflects the efforts of the school to achieve excellence in all these areas.

The Ministry of Education evaluated several parameters for each school, including national service. 95% of the graduates of Midrashiat Amalia perform national service, about 75% of these in the framework of Sherut Leumi, national volunteer service, and 25% in the military. A similarly high percentage of graduates receive matriculation certificates, and both the scope in number of academic units and the marks the girls receive continue to rise.

This year, with the renovation assistance provided last year by the Matanel Foundation, the newly renovated auditorium was put to good use. The auditorium enables us to gather the entire student body, to host study evenings with parents attending, and to put on plays. This year we held a Purim play, and at the end of the year, the students performed "The Wizard of Oz."



The accelerated Talya Program is for girls who have been recognized for giftedness or excellence. These students learn at an accelerated pace with special classes in technology. Many of these students take 5 matriculation units in mathematics, computer science and natural sciences. They study through “13th grade” and at the end of their studies achieve a bachelor of science degree from Machon Tal. In the 2015-2016 year, 16 girls completed this program.

Students volunteered in a number of programs throughout the city. Many participated in the local “Kindness Patrol” (Sayeret Hesed) collecting and distributing food for the needy and visiting elderly residents in the local neighborhood. Older girls participated in Magen David Adom and other programs. We are especially proud that Amalia students continue to be involved in maintaining a B’nei Akiva youth group in the Hadassah Hospital Children’s Ward – the coordinator is a 12th grade student and the counselors are 11th grade students. These tasks are passed from student to student from year to year.

Scholarship Assistance

Support from the Matanel Foundation enabled us to provide scholarship for excellence and social aid to 100 girls, more than one quarter of the student body.

Scholarships for Excellence: Matanel Scholarships worth 500NIS each were distributed to 20 talented but economically disadvantaged girls at Midrashiya Amalia. Three girls are in 7th grade, four are in 8th grade, four are in 9th grade, and five are in 10th grade, three in 11th grade, and one in 12th grade. The students were chosen as being both from low income families, and being motivated, active and positive in class, and showing encouraging progress in their studies. The girls were identified by the Amalia principal. Matanel scholarships were administered directly to the girls in the form of a reduction in their tuition fees. Scholarship winners were informed personally that the Matanel Foundation has provided them with a 500NIS award.

Social Aid: There are currently 103 girls in the Amalia residence, over 70% of whom are from families surviving on a monthly income of \$1,250 or less. Many of the girls require residential facilities because they live at a great distance from Jerusalem, while others, despite living in the city, are from homes which struggle economically. During the reporting period, SAE distributed 131,278NIS in material assistance (including pocket money, hygiene products, clothing, and travel stipends) to 80 girls in need. Of this total material assistance, Matanel support comprised 20,000NIS, the Ministry of Education comprised 75,808NIS, and SAE provided the remainder (35,471NIS). Material Assistance was distributed according to specific needs of 80 girls living in the Amalia residence. The assistance was provided in the form of a travel stipend and a stipend for pocket money totaling 250NIS. The travel assistance enabled the girls to visit their homes and families more frequently (over Shabbat approximately once every two weeks) than what is possible when using Ministry of Education funding. With the help of Matanel, each girl received a weekly allowance of 50NIS for pocket money. This is generally used for personal hygiene supplies, snacks during the school day, and personal needs.



The following stories highlight the challenges faced by the students and the importance of the awards:

Scholarships for Excellence:

H. is a student who became ill with a brain tumor just a few months after she entered the school. Despite this she continued her studies and despite her illness managed to complete four matriculation exams in 11th grade. She is continuing to maintain an optimistic attitude. She is entering the 12th grade and is continuing her studies.

M. is a student who comes from a family with very few resources. The father is physically abusive to the mother. She attended a Haredi school that was not of high quality. She has very strong skills and very high aspirations. She decided that she wanted to get out of the situation she was in, and the Youth at Risk department referred her to the school. She came with the decision that she is taking responsibility for changing her own life. M. arrived at Amalia at the age to enter 11th grade. She agreed to go down a grade in school in order to make up for deficiencies in her education. She has not stopped achieving in all areas. Within the framework of the school, she was able to receive counseling and we were able to send her for outside assistance. She has taken advantage of every opportunity to succeed that is given to her. Because her home situation is so difficult, for the Passover holiday, she went to her teacher's home. She is now completing her studies and planning to enter the army.

Social Aid:

Two sisters, B. and L. were accepted to the school after an interview process. They had lived for four years in the USA after their mother who was a battered woman divorced and took her four children to the USA. When they arrived in the US, they lived with their grandparents. In the US, they were in a Haredi school in which they did not succeed academically. When they came back to Israel, the mother remarried and was living in Acco.

Despite the distance, the mother agreed that they would study in Jerusalem after visiting the school for an interview. They entered the school in 9th and 10th grades. They arrived with big educational disparities because of their lack of quality education and lack of Hebrew language skills. They were able to close the gaps in their education and to do very well in their studies including mathematics, Hebrew, and English. And the residential facility was able to offer them a home, a stable place to live, a sense of family. Now that they are in their third year at the school we are seeing their academic success. Their mother is pleased and relieved that they have found a good, stable place for themselves.

T. is a student in the accelerated Talya Program. When she was 8 years old, her mother was killed in a car accident. There were eight children in the family. The father remarried and moved to the north, and had three more children in his new marriage. They are a family in a very difficult economic situation with very high intelligence. This girl has absolutely no financial resources. The school provides her with clothing, funds for any transportation, food to take home, and seeks to provide for her every need. If she were living at home, she would have to work to support her family. She lives in the residential facility where she doesn't ask for anything. The school assesses her needs and suggests assistance. She is extremely gracious and grateful for all the support. Her father is very happy about her learning but he



is not able to visit or to provide for her in any way. He has only visited the school twice – once for her entrance interview and once for her graduation. She was a star in the end of the year play in which she played the dog, Toto, in the Wizard of Oz. She is completing her post-high school year in the program to receive a bachelor's degree with honors.

Evaluation

The program is evaluated by the Department of Education as noted in the achievements section above. In addition, we evaluate students through grades and through personal interviews. At the end of the school year, each student has a personal interview with her homeroom teacher to assess her academic, social and personal progress. At the interview, goals for the coming year and areas to address are discussed. It is a major undertaking to conduct 380 personal interviews, but we feel that these interviews are essential to helping form the students and to tracking their progress from 7th through 12th grades.

Between 9th and 10th grades, the meeting includes the student's parents. This ensures that the school is meeting objectives and assists the girls in making decisions about future learning. We feel that this meeting during the transition from middle school to high school is very important. The interviews are conducted over the summer to ensure that the parents of residential students can also attend.

We are proud of the high quality matriculation certificates received by the graduates, reflected in the number of units they study and the grades they achieve. Students from Midrashiat Amalia excel in mathematics, computer sciences, natural sciences, Tanach (Bible), Jewish Philosophy, and Literature.

Future Implementation

The students of Midrashiat Amalia greatly appreciate the support of the Matanel Foundation. In the 2016-17 school year, Matanel Scholarships for Excellence (of 500 NIS each) will be distributed to 20 top students in the Amalia High School, who will be chosen both for their academic achievements and for family need. Social Assistance in the amount of 20,000 NIS will be distributed to students in the Amalia residence. There is currently no allocation from Matanel for the purchase of equipment in the coming years at Amalia. As illustrated by the stories above, Midrashiat Amalia serves students with high levels of need, and the support of the Matanel Foundation makes a great difference to their learning and to their families.

In the coming year, the school will expand the Talya Program and open a track for regular students alongside the one for gifted students. The continued focus on technology will begin in 7th grade and enable more girls to study for promising careers and further their potential. The assistance of the Matanel Foundation will enable us to assist more girls from needy backgrounds in realizing their full potential and preparing to contribute to Israeli society.



Financial Report

Project Expense	Details	Cost in NIS
Matanel Scholarships	500NIS x 20 students	10,000
Social Aid	80 students assisted in total	131,279
Total Project Expenses		141,279
Project Income		
Matanel Foundation	Scholarships: 500NIS x 20 students = 10,000 NIS Social Aid: 250 NIS x 80 student = 20,000 NIS	30,000
Ministry of Education	Social Aid for 80 students	75,808
SAE	Social Aid for 45 students	35,471
Total Project Income		141,279



**Midrashiat Amalia Photographs
Matanel Report 2015-16**

