



2012 Evaluation Report to The Matanel Foundation on Orr Shalom's Constructive Vacations Program

The main points of our 2012 internal evaluation are as follows:

The biggest change and challenge in 2012 was the move to Kibbutz Amir/Camp Kimama:

- It has been a positive move. The campus and facilities offer a huge amount to our children. The site is excellent as it has a lot of high quality, fun and constructive activities on-site or in walking distance including an active therapeutic horse riding facility and stables. It is a large, green enclosed space, so the children can have more freedom. They use bikes, and cycle around as their means of transportation and during free time they can explore the area with the counselors.
- After the turbulence of changing sites since Yemin Orde fire in December 2010, the children and staff are very happy to have a 'permanent' camp home – the kids are even able to sleep in the same rooms and same bed each Kaytana; which makes it like a second home. This gives them a very positive sense of stability.
- The children are very happy at Kimama. This summer the staff already noticed that as the last day approached, instead of acting out with bad behavior, which is standard, the children were able to verbally express their concerns about leaving the camp hub.
- A main challenge of transitioning to partnering with Kimama was bringing both partners together in terms of staff and ideology. Orr Shalom focuses more on the therapeutic content and support for children while Kimama is focused on providing a wide-range of activities and a very active camp experience. We feel we reached an excellent balance for our children.
- Orr Shalom integrates two or three Kimama counselors on staff as activity expert counselors. This was a challenge as Orr Shalom asks their counselors for a one year commitment, as it is important for the children to have continuity, whereas Kimama only asks for commitment for that camp session. We have managed to gain a commitment from Kimama that they will emphasize that a one-year commitment is necessary for the counselors that are assigned to Orr Shalom.



Achievements according to goals set for 2012 (to continue to develop in 2013)

- **Improving our educational and enrichment activities** – the move to Kimama has really strengthened this. The children enjoy many more activities and now have ‘permanent’ art and dance lessons during each Kaytana, taught by ‘professional’ Kimama counselors.
- **Professionalizing the staff** – as the profile of the children attending the camps continues to become more extreme, we have worked a great deal with the Kaytana staff this year on strengthening their ability to deal with sexual abuse victims and extreme cases.
- **Integrating the National Service girls into the staff** – each week, the four national service girls who work in Orr Shalom's family group homes volunteer at the camp. In the past, they were in a support role to the counselors. However, this needed to change as they are used to having a lot of responsibility in the homes and they felt they could do more at the kaytana. This year we started to give them more responsibility and specific tasks, as well as more training.

Guidelines for the advancement of the program in 2013:

- Keep transitioning into Kimama, and developing the partnership
- Integrating the Kimama counselors and the Orr Shalom staff into one Kaytana
- Continue to improve the educational and enrichment activities
- Develop the feeling of "family" at the camp
- Continue to professionalize the staff by training them about specific issues related to abused children as the profile of the children continues to become more extreme and they suffer from so many emotional, behavioral, learning and psychiatric problems.
- Provide additional support to the staff
- Continue to implement clear boundaries with regard to the camp rules
- Continue to develop the relationship with the therapeutic staff of the family group homes so that camp is integrated into the continuum of the children's overall care