

**Second Year Evaluation Report to the Matanel Foundation**  
**Kfar Zeitim Residential School for At-Risk Haredi Youth - 2015/16**

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

The Kfar Zeitim Residential School for At-Risk Haredi Youth has finished yet another full and challenging year. This year, the school served 135 boys from Haredi families throughout the country. Most were formally diagnosed with learning disabilities, often compounded by complex emotional difficulties. In response to the needs of these youth, we improved and expanded our therapeutic treatment program. We improved the quality of our teaching staff and have brought in a series of professional development programs for the therapeutic staff. This year, we heavily invested in preparing the students for future employment. With the help of Keren Matanel, we acquired a band edging machine that enables commercial furniture construction for a range of customers.

**The main achievements during the last year of activity:**

1. Sustained a high percentage (above 90%) of students that completed their final exams and successfully earned professional certification.
2. Brought in experienced, professional teachers into the school, a process that improved the level of instruction and learning, resulting in a substantial improvement in the general academic standing and budgeting of the school.
3. All training workshops underwent renovations, design and painting **by the students themselves**. The furniture was built by the students in the carpentry track, electricity work was completed by the students in the electricity track, and the computer centers were set up by the students in the computer track.
4. Established collaboration with the carpentry workshop in Kibbutz Lavi (one of the world leaders in producing synagogue furniture), completed portions of projects for them, and some students began employment there.
5. Instituted a system of professional development for the teaching faculties:
  - a. Homeroom teachers- program of 10 sessions on the topic of individual and group discussion and communication.
  - b. Homeroom teachers & social workers- program on the topic of sexual abuse in minors, identifying warning signs, and understanding abuse and prevention.

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

The Learning Center continued this year to support and enrich the student's academic studies. Through the Learning Center, the students were able to close knowledge gaps from previous years and to achieve academic success in class and in testing.

During the year we introduced a system for organized tracking of the effectiveness of the Learning Center and its specific impact- as much as possible- on the academic achievements of the students that take part in the Learning Center. The system will be fully operational this coming academic year.

The Carpentry track produced a booklet that collects all the theoretical and practical knowledge they need.

Improved the teaching staff by bringing in new, high-quality teachers with more practical experience which brought positive results relative to previous years.

In order to provide a genuine and holistic response to the challenges of each student, we appointed a social worker responsible for maintaining communication between the classroom staff (homeroom teacher/counselor/social worker), the Learning Center, and the Farm Manager. We built an individualized program for each student, which is used both by the Learning Center and by the variety of therapeutic means that exist in the framework of the farm, including field crops, caring for goats, and for horses. This system of work has proven itself and effected good results in the students' general well-being and specifically in their academics.

**Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year (please give the number of students, the number of classes and the main guidelines of the project in case where such project is implemented in your school):**

1. Grow to 140 students
2. Introducing study in the field of cybersecurity, networking, and 3D printing
3. Broadening therapeutic treatment to include animal therapy
4. Founding a post-high school year program "Preparatory for Life" including a matriculation completion program, and developing leadership and initiative.

**Main Achievements of Matanel Beneficiaries**

**Matanel Social Aid**

Many of the Kfar Zeitim students come from poverty-stricken backgrounds. At the Kfar Zeitim Residential Facility, they are placed on a rich nutrition plan, the costs of which exceed government allocations. Through the Matanel Social Aid grant, we were able to provide a significant discount on tuition, clothing, as well as a full exemption from medical expenses for 10 students in need. This critical assistance enabled the parents of these students to send their sons – boys at risk of falling through the cracks of Israeli society – to Kfar Zeitim, without the extra weight of financial considerations.

### **Matanel Scholarships for Excellence**

We took the concept of the scholarship fund one step further through “The Dance Toward Success,” an incentive program introduced at the beginning of the year. Every two weeks, small prizes for excellence were awarded to students who made significant efforts and progress in prayer, academic study, and behavior in the dormitory. The incentive program greatly improved the atmosphere at the school and inspired students to change their behavior and delve more seriously into their learning in order to receive their certificates. At the end of the year (August 03), the Matanel prizes for excellence (from 1,000 to 300 nis) will be awarded to the 6 students who achieved the highest number of weekly excellence prizes during the year.

### **Matanel Grant for “the Principal’s Dream”**

Considering the special background of our students, who come from homes where there is no “family tradition of work”, it is not enough for us to merely teach the students an occupation. Thus, we invest many resources in providing the students with valuable work experience in their field.

With the help of the Matanel Foundation, we acquired a band edging machine, and we have already produced a number of kitchens, bookshelves and closets for various institutions and private customers that ordered from us.