Young Women Serving the Community- 2015-2016

Name of program
Young Women Serving the Community

Year of activity
2015-2016

Name of the report's writer
Sharon Tzobel

Function of the report's writer
Partnership Development Coordinator

Phones & Emails
Email: shutafim@bat-ami.org.il
Phones: 052-6070039

Status of program

- At this very period 200 young volunteers (male and female) are completing their sherut leumi year. We are in the midst of preparing to accept an identical number of new volunteers.
- During this past year over 32 young women lived in a Bat-Ami apartment (some lived in apartments not under our aegis because of lack of space, but received support services from Bat-Ami).
- Time was also allocated during this final quarter to prepare creative projects for the Final Event, and to attend meetings with Continuation Program coordinators who encouraged sherut leumi graduates to enroll in the program to continue receiving support and guidance for two more years.
- During the last quarter (May-July), the coordinator provided individual and group guidance to help volunteers sort out their fears and concerns about being alone, finding a place to live, being able to support themselves, attend studies and find a job, all without having any family
We conducted a full day "Employment Fair" in the South, North and Jerusalem, which included representatives of the Unit for Demobilized Soldiers and a presentation on the Continuation Program.

- The coordinator of the Continuation Program in Jerusalem has already met with the young women. We are working to assist young women with no family support by providing rent subsidies, and with the help of the Continuation Program coordinator we are exploring to whom to turn.

**Main achievements during the last year of activity**

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**Evaluation**

- Dr. Michal Komem and Dr. Tehila Refaeli assist in evaluating the program using summary questionnaires at the end of the year to assess the processes that transpired throughout the year.
- With each year the need to provide accommodations is growing, and this is a source of great pressure, because if Bat-Ami can't provide for any young woman whose participation in the program is contingent upon housing, she simply doesn't do sherut leumi at all.
- With a larger budget we would operate apartments with five to six residents in each, rather than eight to ten, as it is now, because this large number leads to tension and impedes upon creating an intimate, homey, atmosphere, and the formation of group cohesion among the residents.
- As a result of the governmental decision to support ancillary services, Bat-Ami invested a great deal in developing new connections. This was not a simple task, but new processes were initiated and we will continue to work in collaboration with the Women's Courtyard in the coming year to further this relationship.
Others

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:
• For the first time, we will have a special cooperation with the ministry of social welfare about the apartments. And with the donation of the matanel foundation we will be able to open another apartment for the Sherut leumi volunteers in this program and continue with the 3 apartments we have this year, even after the Jerusalem municipality, is going out from the field of the sherut Leumi.
• We are organizing the opening of a group of Bedouin young women in the South.
• We would like to establish an Advisory Committee that would convene several times a year to analyze and develop the program model.
• Further professionalism in work with contact people. We hope to hold a day seminar for all contact people.
• Refresh the sherut leumi placements frameworks, identify new frameworks.
• Increase investment in skills development of staff supporting volunteers.
• Increase community partners in the program: municipal agencies and services, key public figures.
• Expand activities and processes in the apartments so the apartment coordinator will become a more significant factor in the volunteers’ lives and have more impact on the atmosphere and functioning of the dwelling.

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