



MATANEL FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REPORT

Program:	The Hadar-Haifa Branch of the Yitzchak Rabin Pre-Army Leadership Program (Mechinat Rabin Haifa)
Year:	2016-2017
Name of the Program:	The Yitzchak Rabin Pre-Army Leadership Program - Hadar-Haifa Branch (Mechinat Rabin Haifa)
Year of activity:	2016-2017
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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):

Over the past 10 months, 20 highly motivated high school graduates participated in Mechinat Rabin Haifa's year-long program of communal life in an urban setting, studying and experiencing their Jewish heritage and Zionism, developing leadership potential and performing *tikkun olam* community service activities in the socio-economically challenged Hadar neighborhood of Haifa. Through their volunteer involvement and *tikkun olam* programs and activities, they touched the lives of hundreds of city residents of all ages and backgrounds.

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

The program recorded several *tikkun olam* important achievements during the 2016-17 academic year:

1. As part of their *tikkun olam* community service work, the participants prepared a neighborhood Tu'b'Shvat event for the residents of the building they live in, which included fixing up the building's communal garden. Since the event, the residents are enjoying the garden and increasingly interacting with one another, something that hasn't happened in many years.
2. As the garden project opened up the doors for community interaction, the *tikkun olam* community work also offered the participants an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, and experience what it is like to take responsibility for the environment in which they live. The participants worked on new initiatives outside of the regular program schedule, in response to the situations they encountered in the neighborhood. They ran several other programs for the neighborhood and community that connected their neighbors from different backgrounds, including celebrations and ceremonies for Memorial Day and Independence Day. They also ran a community program delivering Purim baskets to families in the area.
3. The participants volunteered twice a week and sometimes more, providing support to teachers in the local schools and offering ongoing after-school activities through tutorial and mentoring programs in weaker neighborhoods. In the mornings, Mechina participants worked in formal education frameworks, assisting teachers and leading their own activities which they developed at the Mechina. Afternoons were devoted to informal educational work, including leading enrichment classes, running a youth leadership program, helping children with their homework, serving as a "big brother" or "big sister", and volunteering with teenagers at risk and the elderly. **Altogether, each participant spent 18 hours a week volunteering for 32 weeks.** During this time, the Mechina participants became integral to the community and to the people whose lives they touched through their volunteer involvement, and they also experienced their capacity to make a difference in socio-economically challenged areas.
4. The Beit Midrash studies, which are an essential part of the Mechina curriculum, took the participants through a meaningful and significant learning process. For all the participants, the Beit Midrash was the first time they had studying and discussed Judaism and Jewish values, and integrated them into the communal and private aspects of their lives. After an initial objection to the frequency and some of the content of these study sessions, the participants came to understand their relevance and importance, as they strengthened the connection to their own Jewish identities.

5. ****During the catastrophic fires that demolished entire Haifa neighborhoods last fall, the participants decided to pause their Mechina studies and help support the efforts to help the families stricken by the fires. For two weeks after the fires, the Mechina participants coordinated all volunteer services in the city, and helped the displaced families return to their homes and lives. **In recognition of their initiative, volunteerism and leadership, the Mayor of Haifa awarded Mechinat Rabin Haifa a Certificate of Appreciation.**

Oren W., one of the program participants reflects:

“My year at Mechinat Rabin Haifa changed many things in my perspective on life. At first, I underwent a transformative process, from individualistic to collective thinking. The combination of collective living, in-depth studies, and community work gave me tremendous insights – each and every one of us is able to take responsibility for Israeli society in different ways, and make an impact on the world we live in. I am grateful for the opportunity given me this year to examine the significance of my life in the environment where I live – knowing that I don’t have to stand passively on the sidelines, but can take an active part in making a better world.”



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

- In light of insights gained from our experience during 2015-16, we set a goal this year to improve the communication between Mechinat Rabin Haifa and the surrounding community. To that end, over the past year we made a concerted effort to increase the programming and impromptu interactions with our neighbors and community members, to help them understand why we are here and that we also consider ourselves residents who are here to stay. By the end of the year, we felt that we gained more of trust and appreciation as neighbors and fellow residents who share the same goals for the Hadar neighborhood.
- As a result of feedback from the staff last year, this year we worked in a more focused way to ease the participants’ transition into the army, with specific guidance on the importance of pursuing significant roles in their army service.
- One of the things we would like to improve in the coming year is the awareness of social issues affecting Israeli society, with increased involvement in social activism. Next year we will focus on topics that are high on the national agenda, such as the status of women, the status of individuals with disabilities, among others, through study and volunteer activism.

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the coming year:

As Mechinat Rabin Haifa enters its third year, our curriculum, teaching and guidance staff, and volunteer frameworks are all becoming better established and operating more smoothly.

In the upcoming 2017-2018 academic year, 25 participants will be enrolled in the Hadar branch of Mechinat Rabin. Lora Talinovsky, <http://www.hamidrasha-israel.org/laura-talinovsky/> will be replacing Omri Shifroni as head of the program. After a very successful term establishing and leading Mechinat Rabin Haifa, Omri is leaving to take a position in the Mayor’s office of the Haifa Municipality. Nitzan Attoun, will continue as the logistics manager. <http://www.hamidrasha-israel.org/nitzan-attoun/>

This year, the Mechina decided to place greater focus on the core study topics that strengthen the participants' Jewish-Zionist-pioneering identities, by offering a more in-depth series of classes, workshops and seminars. The leaders of the Batei Midrash study programs will work as a team to advance this process, with ongoing guidance from the program leaders and management.

Special thanks and appreciation to the Matanel Foundation for your partnership in *tikkun olam*, and for helping make the participants of Mechinat Rabin-Haifa engaged and committed leaders who will draw from their Jewish identities to become agents of change in Israeli society.



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Budget Details for Mechinat Rabin Hadar, Haifa 2016-2018 (July 2017)

	2016-2017 Approved Budget	Budget to Date Sep. 2016 - April 2017	Projected April-Aug. 2017	Sep. 2016 - Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017 - Aug. 2018
Expenses US\$					
Personnel					
Project Coordinator	48,000	24,824	13,412	38,236	40,000
Educational Counselors	50,000	36,196	19,098	55,293	55,000
Facilitators and Teachers	20,000	16,316	9,358.19	25,675	25,000
Total Personnel	118,000	77,336	41,868	119,204	\$120,000
Non Personnel Expenses					
Expenses for Travel-Teaching Staff and Logistics	17,000	10,575	6,487.55	17,063	17,000
Board and Utilities	50,400	37,126	18,563	55,688	55,000
Special Activities	3,200	1,381	2,100	3,481	3,500
Office Rental and Administration	7,000	4,474	3,037.25	7,512	7,000
Equipment (purchases and rental)	5,000	838	4,000	4,838	3,000
Participant Food	34,960	27,811	6,953	34,764	35,700
Field Trips and Workshops	20,000	9,142	10,000	19,142	20,000
Conferences	4,000	2,532	2,000	4,532	5,000
Printing of Educational Materials	2,500	1,776	1,000	2,776	2,800
Management Expenses and Overhead	27,800	17,898	11,000	28,898	28,000
Total Costs	289,860	190,888	107,009	297,897	297,000
Income					
Ministry of Education	149,500	100,375	50,188	150,563	151,000
Participant Fees	64,400	69,143	-	69,143	69,000
Haifa City	40,000	-	42,857	42,857	42,000
Organizational Resources	15,960	5,000	10,000	15,000	15,000
Padnos Family	5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000
Matanel Foundation	15,000	15,000		15,000	15,000
Total Income US\$	289,860	194,518	103,045	297,563	297,000
Difference between Income and Expenses	-	3,630	-3,964	-334	-