MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT – Scholarships at the Dror High School

Name of School: Dror High School
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Academic Year: 2017 - 2018
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Summary

The Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, and Dror High School, are most grateful to the Matanel Foundation for its generous donation, which provided scholarships for 25 needy, promising students during the 2017-2018 school year.

Dror High School

Dror High School was established almost 20 years ago, and is still the only national religious junior-high and high-school of its kind in Jerusalem, offering 260 observant Jewish boys and girls the opportunity to study together in an egalitarian learning environment. While part of the national-religious educational stream, its emphasis on pluralism and egalitarianism makes Dror unique, an educational alternative for parents who are interested in giving their children a pluralistic religious education with respect for and commitment to the traditions of Jewish life. The school emphasizes social consciousness and involvement, with the goal of engaging students with the world in which they live, and particularly with Jerusalem, in all its complexity. To this end, all the students in the school discuss key issues in Israeli society and then hear lectures by guest speakers in relevant fields, with the hope that students will become activists regarding societal issues. The school also emphasizes choice, enabling students to choose wherever possible, whether it be regarding a variety of elective subjects or which speakers they’d like to hear – with the goal of providing students with the tools to make constructive personal choices and those that affect society. Dror school has been part of the Society for Advancement of Education since 2006.
Scholarship Assistance

Thanks to the generosity of the Matanel Foundation, 25 students from Dror received a scholarship of 500 NIS each. These are students who have proven academic progress but whose families have financial difficulties. The students were chosen by a committee comprising members of the management of the Dror, as well as SAE officials. Students are selected considering a combination of need and academic potential. Below are stories of two students who received the scholarship:

**Azaria Itzikovich** was an 11th-grade student during the 2017-2018 school year, his first year at Dror. He is one of nine children in his family. Azaria studied previously at the yeshiva high school in Beit El, but was looking for a less rigid, more liberal and accepting study environment. Azaria is an extremely intelligent youth. He demonstrates great interest in his studies, and contributes significantly in his classes. He is studying for five-point matriculation in biology, mathematics, English, and bible, and he is an excelling student in all these subjects. He also was accepted to the Hebrew University’s exclusive “Alpha” program for gifted students, in which outstanding high school students participate in high-level scientific research under the guidance of Hebrew University’s top researchers. Azaria received a grade of 100% on his research in the program.

In addition to being an outstanding student, Azaria is very active socially, both in his class and in the school in general. He is a sensitive young man, and contributes a great deal to the school. He also volunteers at Magen David Adom. He helps other students with their studies, or with whatever type of assistance they require. Azaria’s dream is to be accepted to the medical atuda program (where students’ IDF draft is deferred until they complete their university studies, and they then serve in the army with a position suitable to their academic education), and in preparation, he has already taken the appropriate psychometric exam and scored very highly.

Azaria’s parents are very supportive of the educational choices he has made. He has blossomed since arriving at Dror, and the Matanel Foundation scholarship contributed to this success.

**Miriam Tzruya** was a 12th-grade student during the 2017-2018 school year. She comes from a large family, living on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem. Miriam excels both academically and socially. A great deal of hard work and determination on her part resulted in a very high level matriculation certificate. Miriam was also considered outstanding in her relationships with both teachers and students, helping wherever she could, and relating to everyone with respect. She assisted other students in preparing for exams and in their studies in general, and maintained a mature and respectful attitude even in instances of differences of opinions.

Miriam was very active for several years in Bnei Akiva, in Tekoa, far from her home. While in grades 10 and 11, she was a counselor there, and when she was in grade 12, and an
appropriate coordinator could not be found, she volunteered for the job. This demonstrates both Miriam’s willingness to give and assist whenever possible, and her mature and pleasant personality – being coordinator involves listening to and being involved with the youth and counselors, and taking care of the branch’s needs.

Miriam also studies ballet. As she does not want to be a financial burden to her parents, who are raising many children, she works and partially pays for her ballet classes, and did so to help fund her school trip to Poland as well. Towards the end of her school year, Miriam was awarded the President of Israel and Ministry of Education 2018 Excellence Award for the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel, given to her for her academic and social achievements.

It goes without saying that the scholarship from the Matanel Foundation greatly assisted Miriam in the expenses involved with her studies, both formal and informal.

Evaluation

Students are evaluated through examinations, scholastic achievement, participation in classes, and discussions with teachers. At Dror, success includes making positive personal and societal choices, and becoming involved citizens.

Advancement of the Program

The Dror High School will continue to offer a pluralistic, egalitarian framework within the national-religious school system, an important option for parents who are looking for a religious yet flexible educational framework. The scholarships will continue to assist needy but promising students in reaching their academic and social potential, and in becoming involved citizens who facilitate change in society.

The Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, and the staff and students of Dror High School, are extremely grateful to the Matanel Foundation for providing this opportunity to its scholarship recipients.
## Financial Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Expense</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Cost in NIS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matanel Scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Scholarships</td>
<td>39 students assisted in total</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>77,922</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Income</th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matanel Foundation</td>
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<td>12,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marmanet (Ministry of Education)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAE</td>
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<td>45,422</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Income</strong></td>
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