Evaluation Report

Rationale: Children and youth who are able to pursue science education in an informal setting, who are able to ignite the spark of curiosity, are more motivated and able to improve their performance in the traditional classroom setting. This is extremely important as the children at Safe Haven represent Orr Shalom’s “weakest links”: Over 60 of Orr Shalom’s children have no biological family support or connection whatsoever, have extremely traumatic histories, the majority come from a low socio-economic backgrounds, and many have some form of learning disorder only diagnosed once they have come to Orr Shalom. The overwhelming majority of the children attending Safe Haven face a gaping educational gap between themselves and their “normative” peers.

We must give them further opportunities not readily available to them.
We must provide them with the tools and skill sets necessary to build a solid foundation.
We must help them to reach for the STARS!

Proposed Goal: To advance all four yearly sessions of Safe Haven to the next level by transforming Safe Haven to Safe Haven STARS: Science, Technology and Academic Readiness.

Current Goal Benchmarks: With the receipt of a generous donation from the Nitzan Matanel Foundation in May of 2018, we used the funds to transform three of the four 2018 sessions into Safe Haven STARS (Passover’s session having occurred before receipt of the donation).

Proposed Objectives: 1. To engage 60 of Orr Shalom’s most vulnerable children in fun, exciting science, English, and arts programming. 2. To kindle the spark of curiosity and wonder latent in every child, affording them the inner motivation to learn and succeed. 3. To give our most vulnerable children practical tools/skills to succeed in the future.

Current Objective Benchmarks: We can excitedly and unequivocally state that we have met our proposed objectives. 2018 STARS was hugely successful in developing our campers’ interest in, and affinity to, science technology, and an overall more positive approach to learning. Please refer to the following page for our evaluation metrics.
According to our campers surveyed:

**Interest in Science & Technology**

<table>
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<th>Pre-camp: % campers indicated they had a &quot;High Interest&quot; in Science</th>
<th>Post-camp: % campers indicated that they had a &quot;High Interest&quot; in Science</th>
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<td>20.60%</td>
<td>48.30%</td>
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Most popular activity: 3D Printing; closely followed by “Elephant Toothpaste” experiments (rapid decomposition of hydrogen peroxide by using potassium iodide as a catalyst. How rapidly the reaction proceeds will depend on the concentration of hydrogen peroxide); followed by dry ice experiments.

Safe Haven’s Camp Director, Safe Haven Staff, Staff at Park Carasso, as well as our English facilitators, all had positive reports, saying that their groups showed a high level of engagement and enjoyment.

**Satisfaction with STARS**

- Percentage of campers who “Loved Everything” about STARS: 60.00%
- Percentage of campers who would “Definitely” like to return to STARS: 71.40%

Several campers report having changed their attitude towards learning over the course of Safe Haven STARS. As one 13 year old boy said “I never thought learning could be fun…and I changed my mind. It was really interesting to do the science experiments.”

**Relationship to Learning**

- Post-camp % of campers who believe learning Science and English are "Very Important": 78.50%
- Post-camp % of campers who believe learning Science and English are "Fun": 53.60%
Looking to the Future and Implementing Lessons Learned:

There is no question that this program is of utmost importance to our children, especially because they are the most challenging children, and need the most assistance in both closing already existing educational gaps, preventing future educational gaps, and – perhaps most importantly – igniting the spark of curiosity and creativity latent in every single child. They have so much potential and need a boost in order to begin to dream of reaching for the STARS!

We will use this momentum in 2019 to delve deeper into the world of technology and science and English, specifically with computers. We are currently in discussions with Big Idea to develop a comprehensive program that will combine English studies together with science and technology at their campus. We are investigating a program which will allow us 3-4 full days of English at Big Idea, and 6-8 days of Science and Technology at Big Idea. In order to maximize our campers’ interests without pushing them away by being too “school-like” in 2019 we plan to spend maximum of 15 days dedicated to Science, Technology, and English, out of the 42 days of Safe Haven (over 4 sessions throughout the year).