

# MATANEL FOUNDATION

## ACTIVITY REPORT

**Program:** *SHEKEL's Daycare Center for Elderly with Special Needs*  
**Year:** 2018

In the year 2018 SHEKEL has updated the official name of the organization to:  
**SHEKEL – Inclusion of People with Disabilities**

Name of the Program: SHEKEL's Daycare Center for Elderly with Special Needs

Year of activity: 2018

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Function of the report's writer: Development Officer

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Number of active participants in the program: 46

Estimated number of impacted participants: 140

**Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):** The program opened in April 2018 and is currently serving 46 people, divided into 4 groups - 2 groups for elderly and 2 groups for people with severe disabilities regardless of their age (the latter two groups were added in order to replicate the success of the Elderly program among people with similar needs). Each group has two counselors and three National Service volunteers. One group has an Arabic-speaking counselor in order to communicate with nearly a dozen Arab participants. The program runs from 8:00am-3:00pm, five days a week, and includes a hot lunch. The main activities during the day are employment-oriented rehabilitation activities, such as assembly of various products. Also, participants regularly receive music, art and movement therapies, and classes such as cooking, a "Know Your Rights" informative class, and a Home Finance class.

**The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):** Since the program's beginnings a mere eight months ago, it has achieved the following: participants' familiarization and adaptation to a daily employment routine and work schedule, and their attainment of working habits. Also, their social interaction, communication, functioning, satisfaction, and self-esteem have risen as evident from their moods and smiles. Very positive communication has been achieved with family members and guardians. Events were held prior or during every holiday. Since the program's beginnings, events were held in honor of Yom Hashoah, Independence Day, Lag Ba'Omer, Shavuot, Rosh Hashana, Sukkot, and Chanuka.

Forty-six participants attend the program. Most importantly, the program finally provides a therapeutic rehabilitation framework for those who have "fallen between the bureaucratic cracks" due to their advancing age or low-level of functioning.

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

Four groups were delineated in order to provide individualized routines encompassing activities and employment beneficial for the participant according to his or her specific needs. The methodology implemented to evaluate progress is the daily level of attendance, productivity, and satisfaction on the part of the participants (and their family members) with the goal of gradually providing tasks with a growing level of complexity. Results from these first few months of activity are very satisfying in that employment skills are being learned and routine working habits have clearly been inculcated successfully. Participants' interaction and communication skills are developing nicely within the groups, while their former capabilities have been preserved. Guardians and family members are very pleased with the progress and are cooperating very nicely with staff.

As 2018 is the precedent year of the program, annual progress will be compared and contrasted starting next year.

Conclusions for the future include the need to provide a wider variety of therapies conducted by additional paramedical staff, particularly occupational and speech therapy, and to use more technology to increase communicative improvement, such as iPads and computers, and memory skills preservation and development via memory games and activities.

**Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:**

The goal is to expand the up to 52 participants.

In addition to the supplementary staff mentioned in the previous paragraph, we seek to advance next year's program by developing new sellable product unique to the Daycare Center and training the participants for its production. This product's assembly will require motoric capabilities beyond the participants' current level and will be marketed via SHEKEL's gift shop.