

# ***MATANEL FOUNDATION***

## ***ACTIVITY REPORT***

**Program:** *Mechinat Ha'Emek*

**Year:** *2018-2019*

**Name of the Program:** *Mechinat Ha'Emek*

**Year of activity:** 2019

**Name of the report's writer:** Udi Tamir

**Function of the report's writer:** Head of the Mechina

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**Website / Facebook address of the organization:** Wwbsite of the organization- <http://chivruta.org/> , Website of the Mechina- <http://mechinathaemek.chivruta.org/>

**Number of active participants in the program:** 60

**Estimated number of impacted participants:**

The program impacts about 5000 people.

60 program participants

500 program alumni

About 500 places for volunteers among weak or disadvantaged populations

Several thousand members of the communities in which the program exists and is active

**Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):**

The Mechina year has ended and the alumni are awaiting recruitment to the army. The Mechina staff is preparing for next year's activity beginning with preparing the new team beginning August 1, 2019 and the arrival of a new group of participants on September 1, 2019.

The establishment of a second year – 15 participants from last year's group will continue another half a year until they are drafted into the army. These participants, together with the accompanying staff are the first to do a second year with us, they will be establishing the program from the ground up – planning the schedule, content, budget, living quarters, procedures, standards etc. – pioneers in 2019! In addition, the alumni activities are continuing all around the country:

- The accompaniment of alumni through their army service.
- Meetings with groups who are planning to return to live in the Emek
- A Beit Midrash (study group) for alumni in Jerusalem
- The organization of events with content for alumni during Tishrei

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

1. Carrying out the full Mechina program on the highest level while developing new content areas such as work on virtues – the ways of God. (The commandment to follow the ways of God are central to Judaism, it deals with the purification of the qualities of the soul and the improvement of human feelings, in order to make one a whole and better person).
2. Deepening the connections with the community of Kfar Rupin on several levels:
  - A significant increase in the number of members who have a meaningful connection with the Mechina (partners, lecturers, facilitators, host families etc.)
  - Doubling the number of joint events in the realms of culture/ community/ education/welfare. For example – the joint establishment of the Kfar Rupin Trail which is a trail between central points in the kibbutz which tell the story of the kibbutz and its narrative.
  - Integrating the Mechina in the developing narrative of the kibbutz and in its long-term plans in terms of absorbing new people and demographic growth.
3. Establishing social activism: In light of the fact that we are talking about a course about activism and entrepreneurialism which takes place under realistic conditions in which any new initiative which does not catch on is canceled, the central achievement is an increase of initiatives which did actually take place during the process. We grew from one initiative last year to six this year! Following is the list of projects which were realized this year:
  - A joint Shabbat with people with special needs.
  - A decrease in the waste of food (collecting what remains in the fields after the harvest and transferring it to those who need it)
  - Joint activity with disadvantaged children from Beit She'an and the Regional Council (There are usually no joint activities between the city and the settlements of the Regional Council)
  - Establishing an observation point in memory of Ela Or, may her memory be a blessing, one of the victims of the disaster at Nahal Tzafit
  - Making necessary basic products and other consumer goods accessible to battered women's shelters.
  - Cleaning the shores

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

- Middle and end of the year feedback
- Summation circles according to subjects with selected participants
- A summary evening with significant people from the community
- Written summaries from each team/committee/series team/job which are kept in the organizations' memory
- The summary of the Mechina staff by research centers

Key insights and conclusions:

1. It is necessary and important to spend more time learning the rules and norms of the Mechina from the beginning of the year. With an emphasis on the “why”.
2. Including people from the community as leaders of the social activism course, boosted us up a level, especially because of their deep commitment and availability to the participants.
3. There is a real need to establish a committee of Mechina alumni to integrate the activity of the alumni and increase the realization of the values of the Mechina in the various alumni frameworks.

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

1. To significantly increase and deepen the sphere of our mission in the Emek and the town of Beit She’an based on the second-year participants spending most of their time in this area.
2. Laying the educational and organizational infrastructure for opening a branch of the Mechina in order to resume intimate processes on the group level.