MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT – Scholarships at the Dror High School

Name of School: Dror High School
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Summary

During the 2018-2019 school year, 25 promising Dror High School students from needy families received scholarships funded by the Matanel Foundation’s generous grant. These scholarships greatly assisted the students and their families, helping to ease the burden of costs for educational programs not covered by the Ministry of Education.

Dror High School

Dror High School, established some 20 years ago, is the only national religious junior-high and high-school of its kind in Jerusalem, offering 155 religiously observant boys and girls the opportunity to study together in an egalitarian learning environment. Dror’s emphasis on pluralism and egalitarianism makes the school unique in the city’s religious-school landscape, providing a viable option 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 also emphasizes social consciousness and involvement, aiming to engage students in their world, and particularly, in the issues unique to Jerusalem. All students in the school discuss key topics in Israeli society and attend lectures by guest speakers in relevant fields, acquiring knowledge and skills required to become social activists. Dror has been managed by the Society for Advancement of Education since 2006.

Scholarship Assistance

The Matanel Foundation’s generous donation provided 25 students from Dror with a scholarship of 500 NIS each. The scholarship recipients have all demonstrated academic achievement, and come from families of low socio-economic standing. The students were
chosen by a committee comprising members of Dror’s management staff and SAE professionals. Criteria for the scholarship combines need with academic potential.

**Personal stories of two scholarship recipients:**

**Idan M.** is an 11th-grade student at Dror. His family has serious financial and interpersonal difficulties, with eight children being raised by a single mother who has no support or assistance from the father. Some two years ago, the family lost its youngest child to cancer and, since then, Idan has been struggling with considerable emotional challenges that are expressed in a variety of ways, including emotional eating. Idan is currently under the care of the school social worker, who is in ongoing contact with the family and with the adolescents’ department at Sha’arei Tzedek Hospital (regarding proper nutrition). However, despite all his difficulties, Idan succeeded in completing the last school year with good grades, and came to school every day in an organized and orderly fashion. Idan went through a very significant emotional process last year, a process of self-exploration and struggle, to reach an understanding of what activates or blocks him in his life. As a hobby, Idan enjoys baking.

**Eyal L.** is an eighth-grade student at Dror. He comes from a family with serious financial and interpersonal problems. Eyal has five older brothers. His parents are separated, and he divides his life between his father and his mother, who has a slight disability. Both parents have financial difficulties, and a lien has recently been placed on their home. Eyal underwent a significant growth process at Dror. He has matured considerably, and has recently begun taking educational challenges seriously. He is demonstrating motivation to study and succeed, investing time and effort, with impressive results. Eyal receives an hour-long private English lesson once a week, and small-group lessons in Hebrew provided by the Ministry of Education. He is an important figure in the class’ social atmosphere. Eyal’s attendance is excellent, he behaves well, observes rules, and maintains a positive mood and outlook despite the challenges he faces at home.

**Evaluation**

Many factors are included in student evaluations – examinations, scholastic achievement, participation in classes, and discussions with teachers. For Dror students, becoming involved in social issues and making positive choices are indications of success, alongside academic achievement.
Advancement of the Program

Dror High School will continue to offer a pluralistic, egalitarian option to parents who are looking for a religious yet flexible educational framework. The scholarships will continue to ease the burden of needy families with promising students, helping their children to continue to advance both academically and in terms of social involvement.

The Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, and the staff and students of Dror High School, are would like to express their sincere thanks to the Matanel Foundation for providing this assistance to its scholarship recipients.

Financial Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Expense</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Cost in NIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matanel Scholarships</td>
<td>500NIS x 25 students</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Scholarships</td>
<td>47 students assisted in total</td>
<td>51,207</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>63,707</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matanel Foundation</td>
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<td>12,500</td>
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<td>Marmanet (Ministry of Education)</td>
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<td>13,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAE</td>
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<td>38,207</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Income</strong></td>
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