



**MATANEL FOUNDATION**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT – Scholarships at Re'ut High School**

Name of School:	Re'ut High School
Name of Director:	Erez Ambar (until July 2019)
Academic Year:	2018 - 2019
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### Summary

During the 2018-2019 school year, 25 promising students from needy families, who study at the Re'ut School, received scholarships funded by the Matanel Foundation's generous grant. These scholarships greatly assisted the students, providing them with opportunities that would otherwise have been unaffordable for them.

### Re'ut High School

The Re'ut High School in Jerusalem was established in 1999, and came under the auspices of the Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, in 2013. It is an outstanding example of pluralism in education. While it is not part of the national-religious system, the school's students and staff represent many levels of religious observance and socio-economic standing. The school honors Jewish tradition and study, together with emphasizing social activism and responsibility, and tolerance.

After a term of six years as the school's principal, Erez Ambar left Re'ut in July 2019. The new principal, who began this year (2019-2020), is Avia Finkelstein. Ms. Finkelstein has a rich and varied academic and school-management background, and we warmly welcome her to the SAE family.

### Scholarship Assistance

The Matanel Foundation's generous donation provided scholarships of 500 NIS each to 25 students who demonstrated academic excellence but come from families in need. The



scholarship selection committee comprised of members of Re'ut's management staff and SAE professionals.

### Personal stories of two scholarship recipients:

**Yael G.** arrived at Re'ut at the beginning of seventh grade. Before that, she lived with her mother at a shelter for battered women, while her mother was assisted in rebuilding her life as a single parent by professionals from the welfare authorities. Yael was referred to a psychologist at the local center for mental health for therapy, given the violence she had experienced, but she refused to cooperate. During her leisure hours, Yael would wander the streets of Jerusalem in dangerous areas, socializing with dubious types who exposed her to a very unhealthy lifestyle.

Re'ut's staff recognized Yael as a girl at risk with high capabilities. A personal program was constructed for her by the school's class coordinator, counselor, and her mother, which included programs for excelling students and social involvement within and outside the school. Yael's time became filled with empowering and positive activities – a music group, which included performances before an audience; a Jewish-Arab youth movement; a program for students excelling in the sciences, etc. Yael blossomed as a result of this massive positive attention – she let her dangerous and negative behaviors go, and wholeheartedly embraced her new identity as an excelling student. Yael is currently a top ninth-grade student, both academically and socially, with no further need for interventions or support.

**Akiva G.** began studying at Re'ut in seventh grade, where he joined a regular class after studying in a remedial class for special needs in elementary school. He comes from a family with many children, and his parents are *Ba'alei Tshuva* (people who became religious of their own choice) without higher education nor professions. Akiva would often miss school, or arrive late, in order to take care of his younger siblings at home. Additionally, when Akiva arrived at Re'ut, he was missing basic learning skills (he could only write a few words). He received private remedial learning assistance for years, and a subsidized psycho-didactic diagnosis in order to arrange his eligibility for support and adapted modes of testing in matriculation examinations. Intense, dedicated work, year after year, resulted in Akiva receiving a full matriculation certificate at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Evaluation

Evaluation of students takes both academic and social factors into account. Grades, classroom performance, involvement in social projects, and more, are examined.



### Advancement of the Program

SAE hopes to continue to offer scholarships to needy students at the Re'ut High School in years to come, helping to provide them with a quality, pluralistic education while easing some of the financial burden of the costs involved.

**The Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, and the staff and students of the Re'ut High School, would like to thank the Matanel Foundation for its generosity in providing assistance to the school's promising students who are in financial need.**

### Financial Report

Project Expense	Details	Cost in NIS
Matanel Scholarships	500NIS x 25 students	12,500
Other Scholarships	152 students assisted in total	193,542
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>		<b>206,042</b>
<b>Project Income</b>		
Matanel Foundation		12,500
Marmamet (Ministry of Education)		28,000
SAE		165,542
<b>Total Project Income</b>		<b>206,042</b>