



MATANEL FOUNDATION
**ACTIVITY REPORT – Tuition Scholarships at the Shoshanim Arts
and Science High School for Haredi Girls**

Name of School:	Shoshanim Arts and Science High School for Haredi Girls
Name of Director:	Vered Bachar
Academic Year:	2018 - 2019
Name of Report Writer:	Shoshana Becker
Function of Report Writer:	Resource Development
Mail:	shoshana.be@kidum-edu.org.il
Phone:	+972-2-6441131
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Summary

During the 2018-2019 school year, 16 promising girls from needy families, who are studying at the Shoshanim Arts and Science High School for Haredi Girls, received tuition scholarships funded by the Matanel Foundation's generous donation. These scholarships assisted the students' families in covering tuition costs, enabling the girls to study at this important and pioneering school.

Shoshanim High School

Opened at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, Shoshanim is a unique four-year high school (grades 9-12) that educates Haredi girls towards a full matriculation certificate, providing knowledge and skills for its students to go on to higher education and/or meaningful and lucrative employment. The school was established in response to the fact that only 10% of Haredi women have an academic degree, with the remainder relegated to menial, low-paying jobs that help perpetuate the cycle of poverty within the sector. Additionally, the girls have no means of self-expression within the Haredi educational network (from which there is a very high rate of drop out). Alongside religious studies, Shoshanim offers its students a quality education in English and STEM subjects, as well as expressive arts classes, intended to advance personal development and expression.

Shoshanim opened last year with a class of 25 ninth-grade students (slightly less than the 30 we'd anticipated). This year (2019-2020), the school has 25 tenth-grade students and a new class of 15 ninth-graders. Though we expected to have a bigger 9th grade class this year, we



came across unforeseen outside circumstances and will work accordingly to increase the numbers for next year.

Scholarship Assistance

The Matanel Foundation's generous donation provided tuition scholarships to 16 students – 500 NIS each to 14 girls from needy families, with the remainder of the funds divided between two additional girls whose families were in particularly extreme financial distress (their stories can be found below). The students were chosen by a committee comprising Shoshanim's principal, Mrs. Vered Bachar, and SAE professionals. Recipients were chosen on the basis of need and scholastic potential.

Personal stories of two scholarship recipients:

Ayala S is a talented student, a graduate of the Beis Yaakov religious school in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood. Ayala was searching for a framework that would enable her to express her intelligence and study for full matriculation, while, at the same time, providing her with a religious education centering upon performing *mitzvot* (commandments) and fear of God. She is the second oldest in a family of five children. Her father does home repairs and her mother is not employed. Ayala has high academic potential. She is studying towards five-point matriculation in mathematics, and has chosen an art track that will enable her to develop her creative side.

Shira M is the fourth child in a family of six children. Her father is a maintenance man and her mother works in a bank. The parents divorced last summer, after many years of family disputes. These included a restraining order on the father, who does not contribute to any household expenses, leaving the mother to support the family single-handedly.

In addition to the support of Shoshanim's educational staff, Shira works privately with one of the teachers, who assists her in dealing with this crisis and with realizing her high academic potential. She is a refined girl, who met with the school principal last month in order to thank her personally for establishing the school, which provides Shira with a model of "normality" and a feeling of home, which she was sorely missing at this stage in her life.

Evaluation

Students are monitored and evaluated on the basis of motivation and academic performance. Grades, participation in classes and activities, and attendance are all considered. Students' ongoing eligibility for a scholarship in following years is indicated by this evaluation.



Advancement of the Program

Shoshanim is now in its second year, and the school's growth is very exciting to witness. We will continue to provide scholarships to needy, promising students – both new students and those continuing – for the next two years with the assistance of the Matanel Foundation's grant, and, hopefully, for years following that.

The Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, and the staff and students of the Shoshanim High School are extremely grateful to the Matanel Foundation for providing tuition scholarships to students who might not otherwise be able to attend Shoshanim.

Financial Report

Project Expense	Details	Cost in NIS
Matanel Scholarships	16 students	10,000
Other Scholarships	20 students assisted in total	4,000
Total Project Expenses		14,000
Project Income		
Matanel Foundation		10,000
SAE		4,000
Total Project Income		14,000