MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: Mechinat Ami-Chai
Year: 2019

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: Mechinat Ami-Chai
Year of activity: 19
Name of the report's writer: Aviad Bashari
Function of the report's writer: Administrative manager

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Number of active participants in the program: 61 Mechina students + 70 Retamim students
Estimated number of impacted participants: 200

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

These days we are in the middle of the program’s 19th year, with 61 great students. Today (29/12/19), during Hanukkah, we embarked on a journey marked by heroism from the entrance of the Mechina to the peak of Masada (65 km). The journey is dedicated to the memory of an IDF fallen soldier: Noam Rosenthal, a combat soldier from the neighboring locality Meytar, who was killed during the “Protective Edge” operation (2014). This journey, which is becoming a tradition in the Mechina, is inspired the Palmach’s initiation journeys and incorporates great symbolism: A journey of members of a pre-military preparatory program, in memory of fallen IDF soldiers and Palmach fighters, to the site of heroism during the heroic days. The journey was concluded by a joint ceremony with the parents of the students at the top of Masada.

We started the month of December with a tour of the villages surrounding Gaza and a
week of fulfillment (Hagshama) - a week in which we met exemplary and inspiring people from the Israeli society who inspired the students. These days we are looking forward to 2020 in preparation for an outdoors skills week, and a series of events surrounding the end of the first half of the annual process.

In the Retamim program we are about to start the Jerusalem Seminar which is the second seminar of the year. The seminar will combine both our groups, 11th grade and 12th grade, with 35 participants in each one. The purpose of the upcoming seminar is to continue work on cohesion within the groups, through emphasis on connecting and clarifying the Jewish identity of each and every one of them. The program consists of participants with various religious backgrounds and therefore the importance of the joint discussion on the issue of Jewish identity. Beyond that, our program participants will experience and learn about contemporary issues in Jerusalem, such as demography, religion and politics.

In addition, as part of the seminar, participants will be exposed to the Gap year options in various lectures and talks, in order to encourage them to participate in one of the programs in the future.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.): The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

One of the great achievements of the passing year is the development of the youth leadership program run by the Mechina, the Retamim program, for youth from the southern cities. This year the program has grown to from 40 to 70 participants and received support and official recognition from the Ministry of Defense and the Joint Council of Mechinot.

One of the important goals of the Retamim program is the exposure of teens from the periphery cities to Mechinot and Volunteer gap year Options.

Retamim Program - More than 80% of our Alumni joined gap years programs. This is quite remarkable, as our participants come from cities with a single digit participation rate, and therefore the program is supported by the Ministry of Defense and the joint Council of mechinot.

During this year the Mechina grows as well and we started with 63 students (last year 57). 90% of the students completed the program. 100% are joining the army. Close to 90% of our graduates serve in command positions and more than 30% complete the officers’ course.

However, the most important achievements are the non-measurable ones. The success of our program lies in developing among our graduates social consciousness, a strong Jewish-Israeli identity and leadership abilities.

Two more significant achievements are in the field of material development and construction. First, we are nearing the completion of the planning of the new Mechina complex. Second, is a significant renovation project in the Mechina, which was carried out by the students themselves with the support of JNF UK (photos attached).
Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

Next year we aim to increase the number of mechina students to 70 and to increase the number of participants in Reatmim to 100 in three different groups. We also wish to develop a new alumni program. One more important development is in the field of planning and building, in order to build a new Beit Midrash and dorms and provide safer and more comfortable living conditions for our students. the new complex is crucial to enable us to keep expending our program.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as PDF documents)

Please join photos – as JPG files – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seems to you relevant – as PDF document.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.