Program: SHEKEL's Daycare Center for Elderly with Special Needs

Name of the report's writer: Binyamin Schwartz

Function of the report's writer: Development Officer

Mail: binyamins@shekel.org.il          Phones: 054-2336143

Website / Facebook address of the organization: www.shekel.org.il/en

Number of active participants in the program: 51

Estimated number of impacted participants: 160

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):
The program is currently serving 51 people, divided into 4 groups: 2 groups for elderly and 2 groups for people with severe disabilities, regardless of their age. Each group has two counselors and one National Service volunteer. One group has an Arabic-speaking counselor for eight Arab participants. The program runs daily from 8:00am-3:00pm and includes a hot lunch. Main activities are employment-oriented rehabilitation activities. Also, participants regularly receive music, art and movement therapies, and classes including Home Finance, English, current events, Arabic, drama, literature, and self-defense. Additional staff at the Center includes a nurse, a psychiatrist, and a psychologist (who comes once a week).

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):
The program provides a long-awaited and crucial need for a therapeutic rehabilitation framework for those who have "fallen between the bureaucratic cracks" due to their advancing age or low-level of functioning.
Over the past year, the program reached many achievements. Participants became familiar with and adapted to daily employment routines and work schedules, and attained working habits. Their social interaction, communication, functioning, satisfaction, and self-esteem rose significantly as evident from their moods and smiles. Also, they succeeded in creating beautiful handmade products and artwork that were exhibited at a special event for participants and their families.
Some participants were employed beyond the Daycare Center, such as at the Ein Yael Park and sheltered frameworks including SHEKEL's sewing and candle-production factories.
In May 2019, an exciting open house event was held for participants, their families, and their satellite program staff. Please find photos attached.
The Daycare Center opened a sewing course for ten Daycare participants who learned sewing skills in order to begin creating products that are uniquely associated to the Daycare Center and will be sold to the public as such. Another important achievement during 2019 was in joining the "Community Development/Kehilla Tzomahat" Network – encompassing 140 elderly communities across Israel. The program promotes proactive interaction and participation among the Daycare Center's participants in all forms of community activity in Israeli society and their advancement therein. In order to join the Community Development Network, we employed the services of the gerontologist who guides these 140 elderly communities.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):
Four groups were delineated in order to facilitate individualized routines including activities and employment suited to each participant's specific needs. The methodology employed to evaluate progress is the daily level of attendance, productivity, and satisfaction on the part of the participants and their family members, with the goal of assigning tasks with a growing level of complexity. The results are very satisfying: employment skills are being learned and routine working habits are clearly being inculcated successfully. Participants' interaction and communication skills are developing nicely within the groups, while their former capabilities have been preserved. Guardians and family members are very pleased with the progress and are cooperating very nicely with staff.
In comparison to 2018, the Daycare Center expanded from 46 participants to 53 participants in 2019, beyond the anticipated number of participants articulated in our last report to Matanel. The year concluded with 51 participants. One of the participants, Rafi Oppenheimer z"l, sadly passed away in October, and another participant recently left the program due to the increased severity of his medical issues.

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:
Conclusions for the future include the need to provide a wider variety of therapies conducted by additional paramedical staff, particularly occupational and speech therapists and a physical therapist. We also plan to involve the participants' families this year by providing an informative lecture and end-of-year summarization meeting. During the first quarter of 2020, four new participants are anticipated.

Please find attached the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program, and photos from SHEKEL's Daycare Center. We are still working on providing a brief movie. Hopefully, we'll be able to send it to you very soon.