MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: IMPJ Mechina - Young Leadership Program in Jaffa and Holon

Name of the Program: IMPJ Mechina- Young Leadership Program in Jaffa and Holon

Year of activity: 2018-2019

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Website / Facebook address of the organization:
https://www.hamechina.org.il/english
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/HaMechina/events/?ref=page_internal

Number of active participants in the program: 75

Estimated number of impacted participants: 75, plus secondary circle of impacted beneficiaries at about 500 children and youth from marginalized populations.

State of the program:
The current state of the program: program participants are in the midst of a month of in depth study of leadership based on pluralistic Jewish values, and initiating/operating projects to work with local children from various marginalized communities. The Mechina in Holon recently held a Hanukkah event for the Ethiopian community, where old and young community members came together to light candles and discuss improving community life. The Mechina in Jaffa has held shared society projects in the local urban community focusing on art and culture.

Main achievements during the past year:
- Mechina programming for 75 young adults in two separate locations (Tel Aviv-Jaffa and Holon): a year of pluralistic study, Jewish identity, volunteer work and Tikkun Olam within the local communities.
- Continuing the expansion of the Mechina to Holon: groundwork, infrastructure and establishing partnerships while developing the successful running of the program.
- Enlarging of the Tikkun Olam social action circle: reaching 500 children at risk via volunteer work three times a week, by 75 participants.
- Expansion of alumni activity with an alumni coordinator. Monthly meetings between peers, twice-monthly social action workshops and leadership seminars in various regions in Israel. Social events around holidays. We are glad to see that over 70% alumni continue to be involved in social activism and leadership either at work or in volunteer
work. Participants have stated that taking part in the Mechina's alumni programming keeps them connected to this mission.

**Evaluation:**
The program is evaluated in several ways. Young leaders participating in the Mechina's current year of operation partake in qualitative studies at the mid and end point of each year, by answering questionnaires focusing on the overall experience of the Mechina. Topics include specific subjects and experiences that have impacted them during the year, personal conclusions and changes of opinion and attitude as a result, and any other comments or insights that the participants wish to share. In addition to this, the Mechina participants take part in research by the national Mechinot Council who evaluate changes in attitudes, opinions and behavior as a result of participation in various Mechina programs. For example, this year's participants took part in research about gender roles in society, and how their year in the Mechina has influenced their attitudes on this subject. A previous year evaluated attitude and behavior changes on the subject of Arab-Israel relations before and after participating in the Mechina.

Moreover, evaluation of the Mechina’s alumni occurs on an ongoing basis, whereby alumni coordinator meets with each year-group separately as well as with the entire alumni group at large events, and notes the involvement of alumni in leadership and social activism roles in their adult lives. Alumni also show high participation rates in alumni-programming organized by the Mechina, with activities happening at least twice a month.

In the past years' surveys of alumni we found that 55% are employed in jobs related to activism, society, NGO's and leadership, with another 20% volunteering in these fields on a regular basis (while employed in non-related fields). Another question that had a very high positive response was whether the Mechina experience shaped their identity.

**Provisional guidelines** for the advancement of the program in the next year 2019-2020:

**January-March 2020** – Daily program consists of theoretical training, lectures and workshops in the mornings, implementation of values in community work in the afternoons, and mentoring in the evenings. Participants also enjoy social activities and field trips.

**April** – Passover holiday, special activities and social field trips, walking the length and breadth of Israel and visiting diverse areas and sites of conflict – Judea and Samaria, Israel-Palestine and the Northern border of Israel. meeting leading Israeli figures and high-profile organizations.

**May-July** – work experience, continuation of Arab-Israeli community work, young leadership and pluralistic Jewish learning program. Twice a week - Mechina for army, physical preparation, lectures and workshops with key army figures, special focus on a meaningful and patriotic service, rights and opportunities for women.

**July** – Evaluation. Program ends, participants are drafted into leading positions in the IDF and other frameworks. Evaluation following the termination of the program occurs at regular periods. Alumni programming follow up.
Please find attached:
Financial report for 2018 and budget
Evaluation report testimonies (pdf)
List of participants
Pictures (jpeg) and short clip (mp4)
Video: the story of the Mechina