



**MATANEL FOUNDATION**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT – Sindiana Arab Youth Village, 2018-2019**

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Academic Year:	2018 - 2019
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### Summary

2018-2019 was the Sindiana Arab Youth Village's second year of operation and, relative to the first year, the population increased significantly. Sindiana's students come from throughout Israel, from as far south as the Negev and as far north as the Galilee. A number of noteworthy achievements and developments took place during the year.

The Matanel Foundation's generous grant assisted greatly in covering rent expenses for the school, and in providing financial assistance to twelve needy, talented students during 2018-2019. The Society for Advancement of Education, and the staff and students of Sindiana, are most grateful for your ongoing support.

### The Sindiana Arab Youth Village

The Sindiana Arab Youth Village was established in response to the need for a quality educational framework for Israel's Arab youth. It opened in September 2017, with some 200 students in grades 7, 9, and 10. In its second year, 2018-2019, the school's population increased significantly, although not as much as we'd anticipated. The school is fully recognized by the Ministry of Education, and teaches according to the Arab Schools curriculum, along with an extensive informal education program including a variety of enrichment classes, field trips and volunteer work. The school also has an agricultural program/greenhouse, in which students learn about growing a wide variety of plants. Sindiana is the only Arab youth village in the country, offering a quality education towards full matriculation (opening the doors to higher education and professional advancement), and cultivating leadership, social and academic excellence, as well as cultural knowledge and pride. Thus, there is extensive demand for places in the school, a demand that cannot be met within the current physical conditions of mobile and temporary classrooms. For this reason, a capital campaign to establish a permanent building for Sindiana, on the Givat Haviva campus, is currently underway.

### Achievements in 2018-2019

Highlights of 2018-2019 include:

- 1) Academic achievements: Matriculation exams were written for the first time, by the school's 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students, in Arabic, mathematics, English, biology, chemistry, civics, and religion/culture. The students' achievements and successes were most impressive.



- 2) Agricultural farm: It is wonderful to see the farm's produce and activities – honey, growing and harvesting vegetables, and flowers with which students decorated the school.
- 3) Science fair: Students in the science tracks (chemistry, physics, biology, and agriculture) held a science fair, in which they presented basic scientific principles to the other students by demonstrating experiments. The fair was set up in stations, and the students, and some parents as well, moved from station to station.
- 4) Debate: Sindiana's students participated in an inter-school debate competition on the subject of Arabic literature, sponsored by the Ministry of Education. The competition took place at the Tomashin School in Tira. It was the first time that Sindiana's students had participated in a debate competition, after practice debates and preparation by Arabic teachers and the extra-curricular debate class. The students won second place in the first round.
- 5) Culture and identity – visit to the Knesset: Sindiana students visited the Knesset. The visit focused on discussion of the nation-state law and the rights of the Arab minority in Israel. The trip was a continuation of workshops on the topic, in which the students had participated as part of their civics class.
- 6) Culture and identity – Ramadan: Students and their parents initiated a break-fast (iftar) meal for all the school's students. This began with the call of the Muazzin, and was important in instilling aspects of local Arab-Islamic identity. The meal ended with a stand-up comedy performance, making fun of and criticizing the complex status of Arab citizens within Israeli society.
- 7) Volunteer work and social initiatives: Volunteering is a central aspect of Sindiana's curriculum, as part of instilling social values and cultivating leadership. Students initiated a number of projects for Good Deeds Day. One outstanding activity was a visit to the Shoham nursing hospital in Pardes Hanna, where students distributed gifts to patients and spent part of the day with them. In honor of the month of Ramadan, students collected donations of basic items required in every household. Each class packed up the donations in a basket and distributed them to needy families in Baka el Garbia and Kafer Kara – the activity helped students experience the important values of Ramadan, which emphasize volunteering and helping others.
- 8) Students teaching students project: At the students' initiative, a semester-long project took place, in which strong students tutored students who have difficulties in specific subjects.
- 9) Special lectures: Two special lectures were held. The first, by Prof. Marwan Dwairy, on the topic "Education: Between Self-Realization and Parents' Aspirations," was open to all students and their parents. The second lecture, for students only, by Prof. Riad Abgaria, focused on the brain's role in decision making and excellence. The lectures are part of an agenda to teach students leadership by example, learning from successful individuals.
- 10) Parents surprising students: During the exam period, parents prepared a special surprise for the students who, when they came out of their exams, found their parents in the school yard, with a meal they'd prepared, containing all the students' favorite foods. Aside from giving the students a well-deserved treat, the activity's purpose was to strengthen parent-student relationships within the school.
- 11) Educational residence: 49 students began the year living at Sindiana's educational residence. However, there were some serious management issues, which led to some of the students leaving the residence. For this reason, the residence manager was replaced. The new manager, is a young,



positive, and dynamic individual, who began his tenure at the beginning of the current year (2019-2020), and we are looking forward to witnessing the results of a new start for the residence.

### **Matanel Perach Zahav project**

Karmel participated in Matanel's Perach Zahav Program, volunteering 5 hours per week, to help Amana, an elderly lady residing in her neighborhood, in the city of Taybeh. Amana who suffers from diabetes has three children, two of which live close to her but are very busy and a rarely home to help her. Karmel's assistance included shopping, cleaning Amana's home, helping her contact her family online when they were on vacation, talking and drinking tea with her, and cooking special foods for her. In her report, Karmel wrote that she very much enjoyed the experience, despite initial hesitation. She learned a great deal about both her family and Amana's family, and she feels that the experience has improved her ability to speak with others, and in helping the elderly. She states that she would be happy to volunteer in such a way again. Karmel adds that she believes that it would be useful to add other populations to benefit from the project, such as underprivileged children who need learning assistance.

### **Scholarship Assistance**

During the 2018-2019 school year, the Matanel Foundation's generous donation provided 500 NIS scholarships to twelve needy Sindiana students. A committee of representatives of Sindiana's staff and of the SAE selected the students who would receive the scholarships. The students all demonstrate high academic potential, but come from families who are struggling financially.

### **Evaluation**

One of the indicators of Sindiana's success is its growing student population from year to year, increasing demand for places, and the wide geographic area that the school is serving (as mentioned above, students come from the south to the north of the country). While the population grew very substantially from the first to second year of the school's operation, it was less than we'd anticipated. This is for two reasons: 1) The school's current quarters are unable to accommodate as large a student population as we'd like, and 2) As 10<sup>th</sup> grade is the first year of high school, some of the 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students were hesitant to begin in a new school, and thus chose to study elsewhere, lowering the number of anticipated students.

Parents' satisfaction is an additional measure of success. Parents are involved in some of the programs (detailed above), and enthusiastic about the school and about having their children study there. This is evidenced by the number of returning students. Additionally, in a unique arrangement, at Sindiana, the students facilitate the end-of-semester summarizing meetings with parents and teachers. This is an expression of their willingness to take on leadership roles. In preparation for the meetings, students complete self-evaluation questionnaires, which are then given to the staff and parents. Overall, students have expressed their resounding satisfaction with the school, and parental feedback regarding these student-facilitated end-of-semester meetings has been excellent.

Sixteen students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade in 2018-2019 were the first in the school to write matriculation exams (this is the start of the matriculation process, which is completed at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade). The results were unanimously excellent, another testament to the school's success.

The school's principal and head teachers monitor staff and student progress. The principal, school management, and the SAE's director of projects and initiatives meet on a weekly basis to discuss, plan,



and evaluate the informal education curriculum, which is a very significant component of Sindiana's educational process.

### Advancement of the Program

Plans are to continue to expand Sindiana in the coming years. The student population has grown even further during the current year (2019-2020), and we hope to build a permanent building in the coming years, to accommodate a much greater number of students. A greater number of students increases the need for scholarships, and we are most grateful to the Matanel Foundation for doubling the number of scholarships provided to students relative to the previous year. We believe that the overwhelming majority of Sindiana's students will continue to higher education, and take on positions of impact in Israel.

**The Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, and the staff and students of the Sindiana Arab Youth Village, would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Matanel Foundation for assisting needy students in covering their educational costs, and for helping Sindiana cover its rent payments.**

## Financial Report

### Matanel Perach Zahav, 2018-2019

1 Student	Karmel	₪ 3,000
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### Sindiana Rental Budget, 2018-2019

Project Expense	Actual (in US\$)
Rent to Givat Haviva	269,521
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>269,521</b>
Project Income	
Matanel Foundation	10,000
SAE	259,521
<b>Total Project Income</b>	<b>269,521</b>

### Scholarship Assistance, 2018-2019

Project Expense	Details	Cost in NIS
Matanel Scholarships	500NIS x 12 students	6,000
Other Scholarships	94 students assisted in total	362,763
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>		<b>368,763</b>
Project Income		
Marmamet (Ministry of Education)		16,000
Matanel Foundation		6,000
Private Foundation		91,706
SAE		255,057
<b>Total Project Income</b>		<b>368,763</b>