

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Keshet-Yehuda*

Year: 2014-2015

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

Name of the Program:

Scholarship Fund at Keshet Yehuda Pre-army Academy

Year of activity:

2014-2015

Name of the report's writer:

Amit Cohen

Function of the report's writer:

Executive Director

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

Keshet-Yehuda has 140 students (90 in the first-year program, 40 in the second-year program and 10 in the foreign students program).

This year our scholarship fund provided scholarships totaling \$50,000, in the form of discounts on tuition fees to 45 students whose eligibility was determined based on information they provided to the mechina.

Keshet-Yehuda offers students the opportunity to prepare themselves for adult life in general and for significant IDF service in particular, in the belief that each person must discover his inherent strengths and use his abilities to contribute to the Jewish People and the State of Israel.

Students come to Keshet-Yehuda from all over Israel and from all ethnic backgrounds. The students who receive the scholarships come from weak socioeconomic backgrounds, from low-income families, and without the assistance from the scholarship fund, they would not be able to afford to attend the mechina and build a better future for themselves.

We view our role as a mission and will therefore not deny a student the opportunity to participate in the program for lack of economic means. We do everything we can to provide all our students with equal opportunities.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

Our main achievements in the past year:

1. Our drop-out rate is very low. Over the course of the past academic year only 4 students left the program. This represents a very low percentage, both in comparison to previous years and in comparison to similar programs elsewhere in Israel.
2. Nearly 50% of our students opted to continue learning for a second year. This is a choice that we strongly encourage.
3. Some 95% of our graduates are recruited for significant IDF service, each according to his qualifications and abilities. Those who are not recruited continue learning in advance Torah studies frameworks.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the preceding year, conclusions for the future...):

The development of our program compared to last year is quite significant in a few respects:

1. Enrollment has increased. Each year there are more applicants than the previous year, such that the sum we invest in scholarships also increases.
2. Each year more students apply to continue studying at Keshet-Yehuda in the second-year program. The scholarship fund enables us to grant scholarships to second-year students also, making it possible for them to continue learning, building their character and strengthen their commitment to the Torah, the Jewish People and the State of Israel, in preparation for significant IDF service.

Our graduates' success thanks to the scholarship fund shows that our ability to invest in the fund and provide more and larger scholarships will make it possible for us to streamline the student admissions process and improve the educational and cultural content of the curriculum, in order to enable us to give our students as full a program as possible.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

We hope to have a similar number of students to this year, and to retain the same high quality teachers, who develop strong personal relationships with the students and have a positive influence on them.

If we are able to enlarge our scholarship fund, we will be able to enhance the curriculum and offer the students more and better activities, for the benefit of their personal and spiritual growth:

1. We are planning to intensify the physical education curriculum - which is designed to prepare the students for their IDF service – by hiring a fitness coach who is a discharged officer who served in the naval commandos.
2. We are planning to build a computerized Torah literature library, hold one-day seminars and field trips to various parts of Israel and hold guest lectures with high ranking IDF officers and intellectuals who will broaden our students' outlook and offer them different perspectives and tool for building their character and coping with the challenges during their IDF service and beyond.