

*MATANEL FOUNDATION*

*ACTIVITY REPORT*

**Program:** *The Jerusalem Pre-Military Leadership Program (Mechina)*

**Year:** 2014

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: **The Jerusalem Mechina**

Year of activity: **3, request for year 3 of support**

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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):

The Jerusalem Mechina stands at the end of its 4<sup>th</sup> Cohort and the beginning of its 5<sup>th</sup> cohort. The 4<sup>th</sup> cohort started with 46 students and was ended with 43 after 3 student left during the year. The 5<sup>th</sup> consist 45 students from diverse backgrounds geographic, religious and origin. Last year we received government funding for the first time.

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

After four successful graduating classes we have progressed in achieving our goals in the following areas:

- In the last year we succeeded to double the amount of participant from 25 to 46 and to make the organizational changes that were needed.
- We added new manager and new community work coordinator to the stuff.
- We continued (with some improvements) in our educational program that include: Jewish study through the discourse of biblical texts and modern interpretations as well as via cooperation with neighborhood groups in Jerusalem, humanities, leadership, ethics, and preparation to the army.

- Our alumni have enlisted in meaningful positions in the IDF – the pilots' course, combat positions, the education corps, field intelligence and officer courses. Alumni activities include 3 organized weekends during the year at the Mechina, meetings with Mechina staff at the graduates' military units, personal ties with neighborhood families and above all, alumni planning their future life and social involvement in Jerusalem.
- We increased our Community work in the neighborhood as doubled the amount of students- currently each student is participates in 18 weekly hours working in elementary and middle schools in the morning and with youth at risk and study centers in the afternoon, several students are working mentally disabled children and adult and 6 students have worked with elders citizens from the neighborhood.
- In addition to the routine 18 hours, there are projects such as our a Passover Holiday Day Camp run by the Mechina students for neighborhood kids who cannot afford to pay for vacation activities. Pupils tutored by our program participants have shown improvement and persistence in their studies, their teachers report improvement in grades as well as an increased commitment to study. The most salient result is the improvement in the neighborhood atmosphere and the strengthening of communities within the neighborhood.
- Our most significant project this year was filming a short movie on the childhood stories of the neighborhoods veteran residents: [Neighborhood Story- Kiryat HaYovel](#).

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

Our evaluation methodology include:

- Data from the IDF regarding the graduates received from the Ministry of Defense.
- Data from educational programs regarding performance improvement/decline
- Teaching evaluations
- Feedback talks with participants executed by professional staff twice a year
- Resident involvement in the neighborhood

As a result of this, our conclusions for the future are:

- Continue and stabilized our work with 40+ student divided to two groups.
- Increasing our student recruitment in the periphery areas in Israel.
- Investment in alumni – Since we have more and more alumni that complete military service, we are going to develop the programs that support our graduates that starting their civilian live to come back Jerusalem and be socially active- the main program that we are working on is including help in residence, working in the city, studding program and community work. We expect 10 first alumni in the program next year.
- More meeting with groups of the Israel society- since we believe that meeting diverse kind of living and believe we want to have more such meetings in our yearly program.

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

- A. Assisting in creating a pluralistic, open, free and inviting society in Jerusalem - 4 formal annual meetings between the Mechina students and members of young communities, not including encounters with young community members during lessons and community work. 5-10 additional meetings will take place with Jewish groups from Israel, promoting and creating activities that will advance Jerusalem's young pluralistic atmosphere and improving the image of the city.
- B. Mechina graduates will go on to lead and work for Israel and Jerusalem both through the IDF and in their civilian lives - 100% of all graduates will enlist in the IDF and will work towards a meaningful service, championing awareness of civil and social public involvement
- C. We will continue to invest in civic involvement and the social work of the Mechina Students in Kriyat Yovel – Since the amount of students was doubled and thus we were increased by 100% the public social activities in the neighborhood. We will continue to improve our involvement in and contribution to schools and organization who work in the neighborhood.