



MATANEL FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: The Yitzchak Rabin Pre-Army Leadership Program
Year: 2015

Name of the Program: **The Yitzchak Rabin Pre-Army Leadership Program**

Year of activity: **2015**

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State of the Program:

The 18th class began with 100 participants in September with seminars on core values of the program, including Judaism, leadership and Zionism. They have now entered into a routine of study and community volunteer service in the school systems and communities of Kiryat Ata, Haifa and Tivon. Among other topics, they explore the Jewish bookshelf, and this, for many, is the first time they connect in a meaningful and relevant way to their Jewish heritage. In their community work, they experience and commit to social activism, volunteer activity and provide compelling role models for children and youth. In addition 38 graduates of the 17th class (2014) are continuing for an additional half a year of community service in a socio-economically disadvantaged neighborhood in Northern Israel, before enlisting in the IDF.

Main achievements during the last year of activity:

The demand for places in Mechinat Rabin continues to rise, therefore we halted receiving applications at 600. For the new 18th class we selected 100 exceptionally talented and motivated young adults. 70% of the 17th class (2014) continue in post –Mechinat Rabin tracks – an extra half year of community volunteerism followed by military service. A main achievement was the opening of a new Mechinat Rabin branch in Haifa, with 23 participants and 3 staff, which enabled us to expand our enrollment (from 87 last year to 100 this year) and the impact we make on Israeli society in general, and the socio-economically challenged Haifa neighborhood where the branch is located. This group also learns spoken Arabic in order to work with a diverse group of disadvantaged populations in the city.

This increase was made possible, thanks in part to the support of the Matanel Foundation.

The evaluation:

The program evaluations are held in January at the end of the calendar year. In the interim, the teachers, guides, counselors and faculty conduct ongoing observation and evaluation of the participants' emotional and educational processes. Small groups allow for intimate discussion about personal changes and challenges, and provide a safe place to vent, work through frustrations and grow. Additionally, two Mechina graduates were hired to conduct a survey of every Mechinat Rabin graduate, and the results will provide an important picture of the mid- to long-term impact of the Mechina on the graduates' experience as leaders and activists in Israeli society.

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

In the coming years we want to enroll English-speaking post high school students from overseas to undergo this significant program together with the Israelis. This, we believe, would benefit all the participants, and the contribution of each one, to Israeli society and Jewish Peoplehood, to the Mechina and to their own personal development, will be exceptional.

We are looking to open up a third location for Mechinat Rabin in Matte Asher. We are in discussions with the local municipality.