

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *“Young Women Serving the Community”*

Year: 2014-15

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

Name of the Program: “Young Women Serving the Community”

Year of activity: 2014-15

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Function of the report's writer: Partnership Development Coordinator.

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

- At this very period 230 young volunteers (male and female) are completing their sherut leumi year.
- We are in the midst of preparing to accept an identical number of new volunteers.
- During this past year over 30 young women lived in a Bat-Ami apartment (some lived in apartments not under our aegis because of lack of space, but received support services from Bat-Ami).
- During the last quarter (May-July), the coordinator provided individual and group guidance to help volunteers sort out their fears and concerns about being alone, finding a place to live, being able to support themselves, attend studies and find a job, all without having any family support.
- Time was also allocated during this final quarter to prepare creative projects for the Final Event, and to attend meetings with Continuation Program coordinators who encouraged sherut leumi graduates to enroll in the program to continue receiving support and guidance for two more years.

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

- Living arrangements in the apartments were stable, with fewer dropouts than previous years. Anyone who chose to leave the apartments or the group was replaced by others on the waiting list.
- The year is finishing with 100% of the allotments for sherut leumi having been filled.
- 80% of the volunteers regularly attended the weekly Enrichment Day.
- Interest in joining this program has significantly increased, so much that we have a waiting list in Jerusalem, and the request for accommodations has also increased.
- For the first time we were able to arrange for volunteers in the South to enroll in a preparatory course and take an entrance exam for colleges. All those who participated did very well in the exam;

this attests to the applicability of this during the sherut leumi to prepare for academic studies following.

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

- This year Bat-Ami worked intensely with the Hizdamnut Fund which took upon itself the process of measurements and evaluation with the Center for Educational Technology (CET), which originally was going to do this independently. Attached is the 2014-15 program evaluation.
- We came to the conclusion that we should work only with one ancillary services provider in the future, and henceforth Bat-Ami will collaborate exclusively with the Women's Courtyard organization (<http://hatzer.org.il/?lang=en>).
- With each year the need to provide accommodations is growing, and this is a source of great pressure, because if Bat-Ami can't provide for any young woman whose participation in the program is contingent upon housing, she simply doesn't do sherut leumi at all.
- We have concluded that the content of the weekly Enrichment Day needs to be better customized for each specific group.
- With a larger budget we would operate apartments with five to six residents in each, rather than eight to ten, as it is now, because this large number leads to tension and impedes upon creating an intimate, homey, atmosphere, and the formation of group cohesion among the residents.
- As a result of the governmental decision to support ancillary services, Bat-Ami invested a great deal in developing new connections. This was not a simple task, but new processes were initiated and we will continue to work in collaboration with the Women's Courtyard in the coming year to further this relationship.

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

- Add another young men's group; there is a great need for this.
- Refresh the sherut leumi placements frameworks, identify new frameworks.
- Increase investment in skills development of staff supporting volunteers.
- Increase community partners in the program: municipal agencies and services, key public figures.
- Expand activities and processes in the apartments so the apartment coordinator will become a more significant factor in the volunteers' lives and have more impact on the atmosphere and functioning of the dwelling.

Events	No. participants	Beneficiaries/comments
Start of sherut leumi year Sept. 2014	230	Thousands of beneficiaries whom volunteers helped through sherut leumi in social welfare, health and educational frameworks,
Yearly weekly enrichment program	80% of volunteers attended regularly	Sherut leumi volunteers are required to attend a weekly 8 hr. enrichment that enhances life skills.
Transition to independent living	30	There are young women who cannot volunteer in sherut leumi without a solution to housing, as they function in the program otherwise. Bat-Ami has 3 apartments in Jerusalem and 1 in Netanya due to the generous support of the Matanel Foundation and the respective municipalities.
3 study days for program partners in Beersheva Jerusalem and Afula	220	The goal for these days is to facilitate partnerships and encourage joint learning between Bat-Ami and its various partners in this project
Staff training	25	Our national staff was divided into 2 groups and attended training by the regional directors every 3 weeks focused on the roles and functions of the coordinators. The second part of the training was conducted by ancillary services organizations and dealt with the content of the weekly enrichment day for volunteers.
Creative project for the final Event	230	During the final quarter of the sherut leumi year each group worked on a creative project in a medium of its choice to be presented at the Final Event. The projects are being presented at this very time. Among the creative media used are video, art, music, theater.
Graduate Seminar	230	As a means of encouraging volunteers towards the completion of sherut leumi to successfully integrate into the adult world, we invite them to our graduate seminars twice a year. This exposes sherut leumi volunteers to participants in the Continuation Program and demonstrates in a most concrete way how both sherut leumi and the Continuation Program can enable them to find meaningful and satisfying study programs and vocations based on choice, to build healthy relationships and live as contributing citizens.

