



Annual Activity Report for Matanel Foundation

Name of the Program: Mechinat Aderet (pre-army program).

Year of activity: 2012-2013

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The actual state of the program:

The Mechina, 13 years old, operates two main educational programs: a transformative one-year program (Shanna Aleph) with 45 students, and a 6 months advanced program for Mechina graduates (Shanna Bet) with 9 students. The heart of the program is the "Israeli Bet Midrash for Israeli Society and Ecology", in which the students delve deeply into the challenges of Israeli society and the Jewish people. In addition, guided by a professional social worker and in collaboration with Mateh Yehuda local council, students volunteer twice a week, operating 6 learning centers and after-school classes for disadvantaged children, serving 15-30 children each; tutoring 42 children at risk; and operating a community center for elderly people. The demand for the Mechina is dramatically increasing every year. The Mechina plans its permanent campus. Plans were submitted to the regional committee a month ago and are waiting for approval.

The main achievements during the last year of activity:

The most significant achievement of the Mechina in the last year was expanding and deepening the activity of the Mechina alumni, who are the key to the Mechina's larger social impact. We have appointed an alumni coordinator who keeps in touch with the alumni on a daily basis, via telephone calls, meetings, a monthly newsletter etc. We have also conducted a very successful seminar for alumni after their army service (total of 22 alumni), figuring out together how to incorporate social leadership into their adult life. In addition, we expanded the volume of alumni study events, adding three more meetings this year (from 6 to 9). Finally, reaching out to scaling and increasing social impact, the Mechina heads initiated and took active role in creating a network of alumni from all Mechina programs, manifest in programs such as "Hamidrasha Lema'ase".



The Mechina's community work has also scaled in the passing year. The demand for the projects the students lead is constantly rising, and the number of the beneficiaries increased dramatically this year. The Mechina has entered new fields of community activities – after school classes, working with elderly people, and working with youth at risk (Shanna Bet students), along with strengthening its existing activities.

In the Ecological field, the Mechina started two new significant projects putting it in the front line of ecological entrepreneurship in Israel. The first is a joint venture of the Mechina, Mateh Yehuda local council and Good Energy Company, for producing bio-gas from organic garbage. The gas will be used for heating and lighting in the Mechina. The second project, supported by Jewish National Fund and Hugey Sayarut, is collecting rain water for daily use.

Another major achievement is the significant rise in the demand for the Mechina, manifest in the significant rise in the number of participants. The Mechina has also improved its outreach to various populations through a new website and a new Facebook page.

The evaluation:

Evaluating satisfaction: we are conducting a qualitative survey among the students twice a year. Every year, the survey reveals a very high general satisfaction. In addition, the survey allows us to fine-tune our program according to the needs of the students. For instance, this year as a conclusion from last year survey, we added a training seminar in the beginning of the year on the Mechina's professional domains (community work, environmental awareness, learning, etc.).

Evaluating scale: we compared the number of participants in the different programs of the Mechina in the passing year to the precedent year. The results (shown on table 1) reveal an evident rise in attendance to almost all of the Mechina activities. One interesting piece of information is the rise in the Mechina's beneficiaries, naming the children and youth at risk and elderly people the Mechina is serving. This data shows that the Mechina is particularly relevant to its environment and the larger community. The growing impact of the Mechina is also manifest in the rise in attendance to graduate activities and to parents' seminar. This data means that the Mechina is increasing its circles of influence.

One important conclusion derived from this data in keeping the exceptionally good workers in the system. Hiring the excellent community coordinator and the "Shanna Bet"/graduate coordinator for another year yielded significant achievements in their fields of activity.

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

In the next year we plan to keep scaling our activity in all our fields of activity. We plan to enlarge the "Shanna Aleph" to 48 students and "Shanna Bet" to 15 students, and to add more after-school classes and tutoring to children at risk. In addition, we plan to complete the procedures for the building of the new campus.

Table 2 summarizes our plans for the following year.