

### The Jerusalem Mechina Progress

Event / Program	Activities / Description	Participants and beneficiaries	
		2012-2013	2013-2014
Students group	Our aim is for the group to consist various sectors of the Israeli society from diverse socio-economic levels, peripheral and central urban environments and a spectrum of traditional-secular Jewish backgrounds reflecting the diverse demographics of the Kiryat Yovel neighborhood.	<b>23</b> students that include students from populations that usually never enroll into volunteer gap year	We added another group and enlarge the <b>student amount to 43</b> Many of them from periphery regions.
Tours in israel	<p>We have 7 tours around Israel in the yearly program.</p> <p>The participants are completely responsible in deciding and coordinating the contents of the tours. The tours have proven to be a meaningful learning experience leaving a deep impression on the shaping of the ideology of the participants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerusalem</li> <li>• Pioneers in Israel</li> <li>• Israeli-Palestinian Conflict</li> <li>• Nature – Ramot Menashe</li> <li>• 12 days tour- End of the Year Cross Country.</li> <li>• Two- 2 days trips in the Galil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerusalem</li> <li>• Alternative culture tour.</li> <li>• Israeli-Palestinian Conflict</li> <li>• Nature – Ramot Menashe</li> <li>• 12 days tour -End of the Year Cross Country</li> <li>• Two truipts of 2 days in the Negev and Jerusalem heights</li> </ul>

**Beneficiaries- 2013-2014- 4<sup>th</sup> Mechina Cohort- community work**

In this year the Mechina has doubled the amount of participants and activities – from 1 group of 23 we have moved to 2 groups of 43. This is due to high demand to enroll in the program (the Mechina accepts today 1 out of 3 applicants) and our aspiration to reach greater impact in the neighborhood.

The community work this year consisted this year of the following programs:

The Mechina participants were divided into teams of community work. Each team consisted of 4-8 members and works in the in the neighborhood for 2 full days a week. Each team includes various tasks within the same target population and ideally with the same people during the whole 2 days which gives the opportunity to create deep relationships.

Target population: Children		
Place	Mechina team of:	Work
Argentina School	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special education class integrated in the pre-school</li> <li>• One on one tutoring</li> <li>• After-school classes – special after school center run by the Jerusalem Mechina</li> <li>• After-school family center in Brazil street</li> <li>• Social gatherings</li> <li>• Special events</li> <li>• Neighborhood soccer club – conduct tournaments against other neighborhood soccer clubs as part of the Hapoel Katamon Neighborhood League</li> </ul>
Target population: Youth at risk		
Boyer High School	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special project for Israel and Jerusalem studies for 11<sup>th</sup> graders</li> <li>• Social initiatives with students having difficulties – such as the school paper</li> <li>• After-school learning center for the boarding school bringing in disadvantaged youth from all over Israel</li> </ul>

Ziv Middle School	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One on one learning in the special needs class</li> <li>• Tutoring in the after school center</li> <li>• Cultural breaks during school hours</li> </ul>
Volta Youth-at-Risk Center	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tutoring at the learning center</li> <li>• Social activities in the club house</li> <li>• After school classes such as martial arts</li> <li>• Special after school for hearing impaired in the neighborhood</li> </ul>
Lady Davis High School	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One on one tutoring</li> <li>• In charge of the student body</li> <li>• Work at the youth employment center – the graduates of the Elem run center receive an official vocational diploma</li> <li>• “Big Brother” program in the after-school center</li> </ul>
Target population: Elderly Population		
Beit Rachel Community Center	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Group work - The Mechina is responsible for special activities initiated and managed by the volunteers; English and Computers classes, holiday festivities and special events such as an annual play.</li> <li>2. Individual work – Together with the municipality welfare services, the Mechina participants go to the home of the elderly population and work with them on a gardening or home improvement project.</li> </ol>
Visiting resident homes	20	The Mechina volunteers meet once a week in an elderly neighbor in their home and develop a personal relationship with them.
Neighborhood Heritage Special Event	46	This year we are organizing a special event where the Mechina participants will collect from the veteran residents of the neighborhood stories about the establishment of the neighborhood in the 1950's and then will present this in a communal special event for the entire neighborhood.
Target population: Special Needs		
Elvin Village for the intellectually	4	The volunteers are in charge of social activities, special skills lessons, cultural events and individual outings outside the village

disabled		
Zusman Center for the Hearing Impaired	4	The team is incorporated in this government welfare facility in a special program for family support program where they work with the parents who are often hearing impaired, with the families and how they interact together, with the kids separately during the parent's workshop and the family dinner which is organized for everyone.
Rimonim Pre-Schools for Behavioral Disorders	6	The Mechina volunteers are an integral part of the educational staff operation in 6 pre-schools in the neighborhood. In addition, they stay after pre-school hours for the day-care and work one on one with the children.

### **Community special activities**

Activity	Participants and beneficiaries	Results
Passover Holiday Day Camp for Lower Income families	48 underprivileged kids from the neighborhood who can't pay for camps participated	The neighborhood families were involved and gave a lot of positive feedback to the Mechina students regarding this initiative.
Jewish holidays events	Hundreds of the neighborhood residents who enjoyed: Honey and apples in Rosh Hashanah, open "Sukkah" in Sukkot, candle-lighting in Hanukah...	
Reopening the Thrift Shop in Brazil Street	Hundreds of the neighborhood residents who	

	enjoy the shop services. Especially low income families.	
Elderly weekly escorting	20 elderly persons in the neighborhood	Strong connections were create between the students and the elderly persons.