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Aderet Leadership Training Program-2013-2014

Name of program

Aderet Leadership Training Program

Year of activity

2013-2014

Name of the report's writer

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Status of program

The Mechina, 14 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 gradulators (Shanna Bet) with 14 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 5 learning centers and 7 after-school classes for disadvantaged children, serving 15-30 children each; tutoring 74 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.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

The first significant achievement of the Mechina in the last year was the expansion in the Mechina's operation in the field of Mechina alumni, who are the key to the Mechina's larger social impact. First of all, we founded the "Alumni Council", putting together representatives from 7 alumni cohorts who lead the alumni community and create new alumni projects. The council already launched three projects: the "Big Brother" project, in which every student in the Mechina is "adopted" by Mechina alumnus; "Tikun Shavuot" with classes taught by alumni; and Yom Kippur in the Mechina, in which 60 alumni prayed and studied together. We have also conducted a second and successful cohort of the seminar for alumni after their army service. Finally, reaching out to scaling and increasing social impact, the Mechina continued to take an active role in creating a network of alumni from all Mechina programs, manifest in a first of a kind training course for alumni coordinators.

The Mechina's community work has also scaled in the passing year. The number of beneficiaries kept increasing dramatically this year. The Mechina has expanded its tutoring program from 42 to 74 beneficiaries, added two after school classes, and also expanded its work with elderly people, and working with youth at risk (Shanna Bet students), along with strengthening its existing activities.

In the Ecological field, the Mechina has started to operate in full capacity its bio-gas factory, converting organic garbage to gas and using it for cooking and heating in the Mechina. Another major achievement is the stable and significant rise in the demand for the Mechina, with more and more talented and motivated young people attending the selection process. The Mechina has also improved its outreach to various populations through a new website and a new Facebook page.

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 attuned the 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 Number of Graduate programs. With the launch of the Alumni Council, many programs started to come from their own motivation, and the scale of activity rose dramatically. Another is the constant rise in 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.

One important conclusion derived from this data is the importance of using the forces of all of the Mechina's circles of influence (parents, alumni) in achieving the Mechina's goals. The larger impact of the Mechina is not only in its current programs but mainly in the way it succeeds in creating a long-term movement towards change.

Others

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 50 students and "Shanna Bet" to 17 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.

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