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Aharai! Follow Me! Youth Leading Change-2012-2013

Name of program

Aharai! Follow Me! Youth Leading Change

Year of activity

2012-2013

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Function of the report's writer

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Status of program

Over 50% of our Participants (in both programs) are defined as coming from a low socio-economic background. Over 30% came from boarding schools, 75% from the peripheries, and more than 30% needed various scholarships in order to be able to finish their full year of studies. In light of this, Matanel contribution was much needed and felt. It gave an opportunity for "Aharai!" to help out in places where their home has failed to do so.

The Community Service program:

In the recent year we had 55 participants in the program. 27 have been found to be allegeable to receive a scholarship. This coming year we will have 7 communes+ 1 Nachal group in the following locations; Beer-Sheva, Tel-Aviv, Jerusaelm, Netanya, Karmiel, Neshet, Kiryat Malachi (In February it will move to Nazereth), and Hadera.

Towards the beginning of August we will begin a "new journey" along with 67 participants in the program of the community service.

Gal Academy:

This past year, 64 participated in the program, 15 have received scholarships. In the upcoming year, we are delighted to be opening up a third campus of the Gal Military Academy in Haifa. We accepted 84 students and there are going to be the same number of cadets in each campus (Acre and Haifa).

Main achievements during the last year of activity

The community service program:

In a survey that was done among the alumni of the program this past year, the majority have indicated great achievements in the following realms: self-confidence, facing challenges, independence, time management, public speaking, learning to accept the other and general development. During the year we focus on three circles of support and development: the personal level, group level and the entire program (8 groups). Interestingly, we have found that the most important change the participants underwent was due to the personal process they have gone through. We believe that for many of them, without financial assistance they would not be able to focus on their personal development. It is also important to emphasize that there has been only a 12% dropout from the program. We can point out that two out of those who left at an early stage did so, due to financial difficulties. We can proudly report that there was 100% enlistment in the IDF and National Service.

Gal Academy (according to a special evaluation done for the academy).

Most of the cadets had either partially or completely met the targets set for them:

Emotional personal (2 indices): 100% met the target

Operative (2 indices): 67% have met the target

Social (7 indices): 62% have met the target

Educational functioning (2 indices): 50% have met the target

Scholastic achievements (2 indices): 50% have met the target

Total: 67% have met the targets (15 indices)

- a. There has been a significant change in participant's satisfaction regarding the places of volunteering in the program.
- b. A greater connection between the alumni of Gal to the yearly events.
- c. An increase in the number of educational programs regarding preparation for military service.

Evaluation

An evaluation that was done by the Matan Organization (research and evaluation for the third sector), during 2012, measured the impact of the program. According to the research (attached) we found that, 72% of our alumni of community service admitted that they have gone through a significant change in the way they see their lives. 92% testify that it was a formulative year, which had significant impact on their lives.

Gal Academy (findings from the last evaluation):

d. 82% of the participants feel that they have gained general knowledge.

e. The volunteers reported that their participation in the program has much increased (2.5 on a scale of 1-3) their motivation to study in the future

f. The volunteers reported that their participation in the program has increased their confidence in their learning abilities (2.3 on a scale of 1-3)

- g. The volunteers feel that their participation in the program has somewhat increased their chances of studying in universities (2.4 on a scale of 1-3)
- h. 91% of the cadets feel that they have acquired skills from the program for dealing with new things in life.

Others

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

Community Service:

1. Making sure that all that receive need-based scholarship will be monitored by personal conversations to ensure they are provided with all their basic needs.
2. Making sure that the volunteering part of the program will be dealt with in a more efficient way since it is a meaningful component of the community service.
3. Staff empowerment- since the staff is the most significant component of the educational process, it is crucial that we make sure that they get more enrichment, support, and guidance.

Gal academy:

1. Significantly improving the ability to give basic financial support to each and every participant that will need it (transportation, need-base scholarships, etc).
2. Managing to incorporate the new campus in Haifa into the yearly programs of the entire Mechina.
3. Improving the study environment.

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