



Published on *matanel* (<http://www.matanel.org>)

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# Nalagaat Center-2012

**Name of program**

Nalagaat Center

**Year of activity**

2012

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**Status of program**

We are pleased to report that the Nalaga'at Center was able to fulfill its financial obligations to suppliers and employees for the year 2012. Thanks to your support and the support of additional foundations, private donors, corporations and governmental institutions, as well as measures that were taken by the Nalaga'at Center in order to reduce expenses (such as: parting with staff members, reductions in staff's salaries, changing suppliers, etc.), we were able to reduce the financial gap that the Nalaga'at Center suffered from in the year 2012.

**Main achievements during the last year of activity**

During the last year we managed to reach substantial breakthroughs:

- In March 2012 the Nalaga'at Theater introduced the original show "Luna-Park", performed by a new multi-cultural deaf-blind theater group composed of 11 deaf-blind Samaritans, Jews

and Muslims. "Luna Park" has performed 31 times during 2012 and continues to perform once a week throughout 2013. The actors joined the circle of working deaf-blind actors at Nalaga'at.

- We have launched an educational program for children ages 5-11 based on the Nalaga'at Theater's children's performance "Prince Rooster". The program helps to instill values of tolerance and acceptance of self and others. It empathizes the importance of diversity and raises awareness to the inclusion of people with disabilities in society.
- The BlackOut pitch dark restaurant has continued its work and expanded its working days, operating four times a week instead of three. This assists in providing the blind and visually impaired waiters with more work-shifts, higher salaries and more opportunities for firsthand interactions with guests, who learn more about the meaning of blindness and visual impairment.
- During 2012 we continued operating the Nalaga'at Center, almost every week of the year, thus providing a stable work place for deaf, blind and deaf-blind individuals. This includes Kapish Café, where all waiters are deaf; the Café operates every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evening, and during other events and conferences taking place at the Center during day time throughout the week. It also includes the BlackOut restaurant, as detailed above, and of course the Nalaga'at Theater that performs three times a week with its original productions "Luna Park" and "Not by Bread Alone" and regular performances of "Prince Rooster" and "Give Me A Sign!".

## **Evaluation**

As a cultural center, the Nalaga'at Center is measured, amongst other criteria, by the number of visitors arriving- Since its opening in December 2007, more than half-a-million people have visited the Center. Feedback from visitors and critics has been highly positive and a great motivation to continue our activities.

The Center's beneficiaries, our deaf-blind actors, deaf waiters and floor managers, and blind waiters and floor managers, are accompanied by the Center's welfare manager that receives constant reports about their professional as well as personal situation. This allows us to monitor the progress of the beneficiaries of our programs.

In addition, we receive constant feedback from professionals in the field of the performing arts and officials from different governmental institutions (such as Israeli National Security and Ministry of Welfare), which assist us in assessing our activities in a wider context.

For our new educational program, based on the show "Prince Rooster", we have developed a special questionnaire, distributed amongst the participating teachers and children. The aim is to evaluate their level of satisfaction from the program, their understanding of the underlying messages and their attitudes towards people with disabilities, in order to improve the program and the work of the Center.

In the near future we plan to work to initiate an academic research that will focus on the Center's influence on its beneficiaries and the wide public, thus allowing us to examine the Center's work from an academic perspective.

## **Others**

This coming year, we focus on strengthening the self-made income of the Nalaga'at Center. We have hired a new CEO that is focusing on this goal, and are working on an efficient marketing plan for our existing programs, as well as generating new sources of income.

We are also working hard vis-à-vis Israeli governmental institutes, to increase governmental support to the Center; and with Israeli companies and donors, to increase Israeli philanthropic support to the Center.

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