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# The Jerusalem Pre-Military Leadership Program-2012-2013

**Name of program**

208

**Year of activity**

2012-2013

**Name of the report's writer**

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**Status of program**

The Jerusalem Mechina is at the end of its 3rd Cohort, it still does not have government funding, that will only commence next year. The program consists of 25 participants that serve 25,000 Kiryat Yovel neighborhood residents.

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

After two successful graduating classes we have progressed in achieving our goals in the following areas:

- The members of our program participate in Jewish study through the discourse of biblical texts and modern interpretations as well as via cooperation with neighborhood groups in

Jerusalem including the reform, conservative and orthodox synagogues of the neighborhood and the Binna Secular Yeshiva.

- The entire first graduating class has enlisted in meaningful positions in the IDF – the pilots' course, combat positions, the education corps, field intelligence and officer courses. Alumni activities include 3 organized weekends during the year at the Mechina, meetings with Mechina staff at the graduates' military units, personal ties with neighborhood families and above all, alumni planning their future life and social involvement in Jerusalem.
- Community work currently consists of 18 weekly hours working in elementary and middle schools in the morning and with youth at risk and study centers in the afternoon. In addition to the routine 18 hours, there are projects such as our a Passover Holiday Day Camp run at the Mechina by the Mechina students for neighborhood kids who cannot afford to pay for vacation activities. Pupils tutored by our program participants have shown improvement and persistence in their studies, their teachers report improvement in grades as well as a increased commitment to study. The most salient result is the improvement in the neighborhood atmosphere and the strengthening of community ties within the neighborhood.

## **Evaluation**

Our evaluation methodology include:

- Data from the IDF regarding the graduates received from the Ministry of Defense.
- Data from educational programs regarding performance improvement/decline
- Teaching evaluations
- Feedback talks with participants executed by professional staff twice a year
- Resident involvement in the neighborhood

As a result of this, our conclusions for the future are:

- Doubling the amount of participants starting next year
- Adding an additional managerial position in the staff
- Investment in alumni - our organization will continue to grow exponentially as longer as more graduates of each cohort will complete military service and begin socially active lives in Jerusalem. We see the majority of our investment in the future in a social action programs lead by our graduates.

## **Others**

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

- A. Assisting in creating a pluralistic, open, free and inviting society in Jerusalem - 4 formal annual meetings between the Mechina students and members of young communities, not including encounters with young community members during lessons and community work. 5-10 additional meetings will take place with Jewish groups from Israel, promoting and creating activities that will advance Jerusalem's young pluralistic atmosphere and improving the image of the city.
- B. Mechina graduates will go on to lead and work for Israel and Jerusalem both through the IDF and in their civilian lives - 100% of all graduates will enlist in the IDF and will work towards a meaningful service, championing awareness of civil and social public involvement
- C. To expand and improve the civic involvement and the social work of the Mechina Students in Kriyat Yovel - Hours of community volunteer work will be increased to 450 hours for each student, thus increasing by 50% the public social activities in the neighborhood. A project to

encourage enrollment in pre-military programs amongst the high-school students in the neighborhood will be established.

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**Source URL:** <http://www.matanel.org/content/jerusalem-pre-military-leadership-program-2012-2013>