Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism
התנועה הרפורמית יהדות מתקדמת בישראל

ACTIVITY REPORT July 2018

Submitted to the Matanel Foundation

IMPJ Mechina Youngleadership Program in Jaffa and Holon

Name of the Program: IMPJ Mechina for Young Leadership

Year of activity: 2018

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Number of active participants in the program: 75

Estimated number of impacted participants: 67 (8 dropped out at different points in the year).

Actual State of the Program:

We are currently nearing the end of a very successful year at the Mechina. This year saw the expansion of the Mechina program to our new branch in Holon, and we are very pleased with the management of our first year in a new location. Programming was successful, and we were able to set up an effective infrastructure and partnerships with local partners and authorities.

Mechina programming included pluralistic Jewish study and Tikkun Olam social action in local society, as well as young leadership seminars, day trips and special activities for participants and alumni: Tikkun Leil Shavuot study and the 15th year anniversary event for the Mechina. In addition, thanks to expanding the Mechina program to Holon, we enlarged our circle of Tikkun Olam and were able to aid many more children at risk through the participants' volunteer work in the community, increasing the number of children at risk impacted from 350 to 500.

The Main Achievements:

- Mechina programming for 75 young adults in two separate locations (Tel Aviv-Jaffa and Holon): a year of pluralistic study, Jewish identity, volunteer work and Tikkun Olam within the local communities.
- Expanding of the Mechina to Holon, groundwork, infrastructure and establishing partnerships, successful running of program.

- Enlarging of the Tikkun Olam social action circle: reaching 500 children at risk via volunteer work three times a week, attended by 75 participants.
- Event for the 15th year anniversary of the Mechina, attended by participants, staff, key figures and 250 alumni.
- Increase of participants from the Jewish diaspora, from three per year group last year, to seven this past year.

Evaluation

The Mechina conducts an in-house evaluation at the mid and end-points of each year, both quantitative and qualitative, via online questionnaires and surveys answered by each year's participants. The results enable us to create a more impactful and meaningful program for the participants: we may look for more suitable teachers/lecturers, refresh the Mechina's policies, and work on new initiatives for the participants' in accordance with the Mechina's ideals.

Moreover, we remain in close contact with the Mechina's vast network of 650 alumni and send out periodical surveys via which we can evaluate the long-term impact of the Mechina: how alumni apply ideals of pluralistic Jewish identity, Tikkun Olam and Jewish peoplehood during their army service and their young adult lives.

Over 250 alumni attended the Mechina's 15th anniversary alumni event. Additionally, a substantial number of them have agreed to become activists and participants in the Mechina and IMPJ's programs, helping to raise funds and to increase awareness of our work.

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

- We plan to continue developing the Holon branch of the Mechina, and strive to expand the number of participants from 24 to 30 by the year 2020. This will include securing a more suitable site for the Mechina in Holon.
- We plan to expand the total number of participants in both branches of the Mechina to 80 young adults by the year 2020.
- For the next year of programming, we will continue our work with the municipality of Tel Aviv in order to secure a permanent residence for the Tel Aviv-Jaffa branch of the Mechina.
- We will maintain the increase of children at risk aided via the Tikkun Olam social action volunteer work of the Mechina participants (500 children per year).
- We will continue to provide fresh young leadership initiatives for the Mechina's participants, in accordance with the ideals of the IMPJ Mechina young leadership program.

Please find attached:

- Financial report
- List of participants
- Photos of the program