



MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT – Sindiana Arab Youth Village, 2017-2018

Name of School:	Sindiana Arab Youth Village
Name of Director:	Ms. Andera Biadse, Principal
Academic Year:	2017 - 2018
Name of Report Writer:	Shoshana Becker
Function of Report Writer:	Resource Development Associate
Mail:	shoshana.be@kidum-edu.org.il
Phone:	+972-2-6441131
Submission Date:	December 20, 2018

Summary

The Sindiana Arab Youth Village opened in September 2017 with some 200 students in grades 7, 9, and 10, twenty-five of whom were living in the residence. The school has a rich curriculum of informal education, in addition to the Ministry of Education's formal curriculum. Students are primarily from the Triangle region, but the residence enables students from throughout the country to attend. This year, the student population has doubled to some 400 students in grades 7-11, of whom 60 are living in the residence. Over 800 people attended an open day in preparation for the current school year, and there is great demand for spaces in the school. The Matanel Foundation's generous grant assisted greatly in covering rent expenses for the school, and in providing financial assistance to six needy but promising students during the 2017-2018 school year, and the Society for Advancement of Education is extremely grateful for this.

The Sindiana Arab Youth Village

The Sindiana Arab Youth Village was established in response to the need for a quality educational framework for Israel's Arab youth. It opened in September 2017, with some 200 students in grades 7, 9, and 10. The school is fully recognized by the Ministry of Education and teaches according to the Arab Schools curriculum, along with an extensive informal education program including a variety of enrichment classes, field trips and volunteer work. 2017-2018 was an extremely successful opening year, leading to great demand for places in the school, a demand that the school is currently unable to meet. Sindiana is the only Arab youth village in the country, offering a quality education towards full matriculation (opening the doors to higher education) and cultivating leadership, social and academic excellence, as well as cultural knowledge and pride.

Achievements in 2017-2018

As 2017-2018 was Sindiana's first year of operation, the opening of the school and everything that took place was, in fact, an achievement. However, we would like to highlight some specific accomplishments:

- 1) Move to the new building: Due to some unforeseen complications, Sindiana's buildings were not ready for the beginning of the school year. Thus, students started to study in temporary premises in another area of Givat Haviva, and moved to Sindiana's buildings about three months into the year, once they had been completed and the area had been fenced in. Teachers took the opportunity of



- moving to the new building to focus on the concepts of “home” and “belonging.” This both helped students clarify their own sense of “home,” and strengthened the feeling of belonging to the school.
- 2) Informal education: During the 2017-2018, Sindiana’s students were offered a range of enrichment activities intended to strengthen cultural identity and knowledge, cultivate leadership, and expose the students to the country and its culture. Enrichment classes, in which all students participated, took place two days a week after regular school hours and included: rhetoric and public speaking, a variety of sports and athletics, photography club and workshops culminating in a student photography exhibit, theater/drama, art, Zumba, and Debka traditional Arab dance. Additionally, students went on field trips to sites such as the Acco antiquities and Arab villages abandoned in 1948. 7th grade students met with Jewish students from the Gvanim school in Pardes Hanna throughout the year (and are continuing to do so this year), and learned about each other's culture.
 - 3) The Shorashim (“Roots”) project, focusing on culture and identity: Every student researched their family’s roots. It was an impressive year-long project that ended in a portfolio about each family’s history. For many families, this was the first such research that had been done, and many learned things they hadn’t known previously.
 - 4) Self-Evaluation: In addition to teachers’ evaluations, students also engaged in a process of self-reflection and evaluation. This was also expressed in parent-teacher-student meetings, in which the students facilitated the meetings and the parents had an opportunity to witness their child reflecting upon and evaluating his or herself.
 - 5) Volunteer work: Volunteer work is one of the key elements of Sindiana’s curriculum, as part of its agenda to foster social responsibility among its students. Three outstanding examples of voluntary projects that took place during the 2017-2018 year are: 1) Cancer project. This was a very special, interdisciplinary project, in which all of Sindiana’s students were taught about cancer and its prevention in their science classes. They then worked with the drama teacher to prepare a presentation, which representatives of each class presented at other schools and community venues in the area, teaching others about the disease and preventative measures. In addition, all students participated in a bake sale with foods from their homes, and with the proceeds, bought gifts for children hospitalized with cancer at the Schneider Children’s Medical Center in Petach Tikva. Representatives of each class brought the gifts to the children, played with them, and generally raised their spirits. 2) Sports day for children with physical disabilities. Within the framework of “Good Deed Day” (April 15, 2018), Sindiana’s 10th graders organized a sports and games day for children with physical disabilities from the special education school in Arara. A variety of “stations” were prepared for the children, each one with a simple sports activity or game. Sindiana’s students planned and operated the stations, and helped escort the children between them. 3) Messages of hope. Also on “Good Deed Day,” each class went into a different Arab village and distributed flowers with cards bearing messages of tolerance and love.

Scholarship Assistance

Thanks to the generosity of the Matanel Foundation, in 2017-2018, six needy Sindiana students received a scholarship of 500 NIS each. The students were chosen by a committee comprising members of the management of the school and SAE officials. Students were selected considering a combination of need and academic potential. Below are stories of two students who received the scholarship.



Malek Basul. Malek is an outstanding student, currently in 10th grade (9th grade in 2017-2018), from a single-parent family (her father passed away when she was in preschool, and she has been raised by her mother). She came to Sindiana as she and her mother had sought a different and special educational framework. Malek studies in the physics and biology track, and during 2017-2018, participated in swimming, football, and young-leadership enrichment activities. She also participated in the voluntary cancer project (mentioned above), and presented lectures in other schools, where she impressed everyone. Malek dreams of studying medicine and becoming a doctor specializing in diabetes, the disease that led to her father's death.

Muhamed Ganem. Muhamed is a struggling 11th grade student (10th grade in 2017-2018), from a single-parent family – his father died suddenly when he was in 7th grade. He came to Sindiana in search of a special framework in which he could receive the support that he needed. Muhamed studies in the biology track, and during 2017-2018, participated in the young leadership and swimming enrichment activities. He also excelled in the culture and identity classes, presenting at a parents' evening and at the end-of-year party, and participated in the sports day for children with physical disabilities (mentioned above). This year, Muhamed has been chosen to head the students' council. His dream is to succeed in his studies and to learn engineering, to continue the path of his father, who was a famous geodesic engineer.

Evaluation

The main indicator of success in Sindiana's first year is the growing demand for places in the school (for example, the current demand for places in 7th grade is three times what the school can absorb). In its second year, the school has doubled its student population, and has residential students from as far north as the Galilee and as far south as the Negev. 800 people attended the open day in preparation for the current school year, indicating the extent of interest in the school.

Parental satisfaction and involvement is another measure of success. The parents as a group donated a huge pergola, with benches and synthetic grass, to the youth village, for use by students in the school and the residence. A pergola of this size is a very costly item, and the parents' willingness to donate it demonstrates their desire to be involved with the school.

Teachers track students' academic progress, but as 2017-2018 was the school's first year, no comparisons can be made to evaluate progress. During the current year, 8th grade students will take the national "Meitzav" exams in science, math, Arabic and English, in order to evaluate their standing relative to other students their age in the country. An additional survey will focus on students' and teachers' feelings about the school and being part of it. Additionally, this year's 11th grade students will be the first to write matriculation exams, which will provide us with further evaluative information.

Advancement of the Program

Plans are to continue to expand Sindiana in the coming years. It is anticipated that the student population will increase by 120 students in the 2019-2020 school year (25 of whom will be residential), and to build a permanent building in the coming years. As the number of students expands, so does the need for scholarships, and we are most grateful to the Matanel Foundation for increasing its scholarship donation for this purpose. As the years pass, we anticipate seeing Sindiana's graduates going on to higher education and holding leading positions in Israeli society in general and the Arab sector in particular.



The Society for Advancement of Education, Jerusalem, and the staff and students of the Sindiana Arab Youth Village, would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Matanel Foundation for assisting needy students in covering their educational costs, and for helping to keep a roof over the school's head.

Financial Report

Sindiana Rental Budget, 2017-2018

Project Expense	Actual (in US\$)
Rent to Givat Haviva	96,110
Total Project Expenses	96,110
Project Income	
Matanel Foundation	10,000
SAE	86,110
Total Project Income	96,110

Scholarship Assistance, 2017-2018

Project Expense	Details	Cost in NIS
Matanel Scholarships	500NIS x 6 students	3,000
Other Scholarships	11 students assisted in total	3,250
Total Project Expenses		6,250
Project Income		
Matanel Foundation		3,000
SAE		3,250
Total Project Income		6,250

Sindiana Students who received Matanel Scholarships in 2017-2018 (CONFIDENTIAL)

Last	First	Grade
██████████	██████████	9th Grade
██████████	██████████	9th Grade
██████████	██████████	10th Grade
██████████	██████████	10th Grade
██████████	██████████	10th Grade
██████████	██████████	10th Grade