



Beit Yisrael
Kvutzat Reut

Matanel Foundation Annual Report Kvutzat Reut - Beit Yisrael 2018-2019

Name of the Program:

Mechinat Beit Yisrael

Year of activity:

2018-2019

Name of the report's writer:

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Function of the report's writer:

Principal of the Mechina

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Number of active participants in the program:

There are currently 68 Shana Alef (Year 1) students in the Mechina in the Gilo neighborhood of Jerusalem, and an additional 20 Shana Bet (Year 2) students in our new Armon Hanatziv campus.

The students come from a diverse range of religious and economic backgrounds, and from all areas of Israel, including kibbutzim, settlements, cities and the periphery. This year, we also had 2 students from the United States and 1 from England.

Estimated number of impacted participants:

The Mechina imparts lessons of tolerance and respectful discussion through joint learning and meet-ups. For example, we held 40 "havrutot" (paired learning sessions) with the Haredi community as part of our "Jewish Connection" project and met with families at numerous events. In addition, the Mechina impacts more than 1,000 children, youth and senior citizens from the local community through our "Growing Neighborhood" project. The project empowers different populations with formal and informal programming throughout the year. Our ongoing work with our students and local population, combined with guidance from our professional staff of educators, brings about sustainable change and has a ripple effect far beyond the Mechina. Our effort strengthens the fabric of society by using community to further societal change, to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood and to break the cycle of poverty.

Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

Cohort 22 of Mechinat Beit Yisrael, Year 2018-2019, recently completed our program. We focused our last month on completing the work in the neighborhood and saying goodbye to our lecturers, and discussing the ways in which we can implement

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what we've learned as we begin our adult lives. Our Year 2 students completed their program three months ago with much success, and were drafted to elite positions in the IDF.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

1. Expansion of the Fundamentals Beit Midrash- This year, we expanded both the subject offerings and forms of study. We added a weekly Gemara lesson in memory of Rabbi Yisrael Fridman Ben Shalom, as well as weekly instructed havrutot on the Talmudic Sages.
2. The Touring Jerusalem program explored the city's rich history and its various religious and cultural aspects in collaboration with Yad Ben Zvi and The City of David. These tours are held once every three weeks.
3. Implementation of the "Jewish Connection" program with havrutot from the Haredi community- Two years ago, we initiated a relationship with Jewish Connection and launched our pilot program. Today, the weekly course serves as a core part of the Mechina's mission. Without it, the students would never interact with their Haredi neighbors in a natural setting without stereotyping them. Now, they get to know each other through open discussion and in-depth studies.
4. Sexuality and Boundaries with the Yahel Center- Once every two weeks, we held separate meetings with instructors from Yahel, an organization that educates on the subject of sexuality and potential challenges at this stage of the students' lives.
5. Army preparatory program- We initiated a formal curriculum to prepare our students for their upcoming military service, and learned about various aspects of the IDF. We also discussed the significance of IDF service and what it means to serve and protect the country. In addition to this emotional preparation for enlistment, we provided students with the option to prepare themselves physically with the help of certified trainers.
6. We increased the total of volunteer hours by 40% (an additional 10,000 annual hours) to two mornings per week + one afternoon.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

Our mid-year and end-of-year evaluations demonstrated that:

- The Mechina experience enhanced the meaning of Jewish and Israeli identity among students.
- The Mechina experience deepened the connection to Diaspora Jews and a sense of responsibility toward the Jewish nation as a whole.



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- All Mechina students affirmed that social activism will be paramount in their lives moving forward.
- At the start of the year, the Mechina students defined their religious status under one of three categories: Orthodox, secular or traditional. At the end of the year, we see an increase in the number of students who define themselves as "without a label".
- By the end of the year, the majority of the students state that their experience of studying, living and working in a mixed group contributed to their understanding of the "other".
- The majority of students state that the community services through the Mechina provided them with a sense of purpose and practical tools to bring about social change in the future, and influenced their personal identities and perspective of their capabilities.
- All students stated that the Mechina experience proved that people from diverse backgrounds can work together for a better society
- Students find value in joint learning with people from a range of Jewish backgrounds

Survey conclusions:

1. There is a need to guide each student through the processes they go through as they discover their identities on the path to adulthood, and to help them process and learn from their experiences.
2. There is also a need to continue to develop and strengthen the group model to ensure close supervision and individualized attention for each student.
3. Exposure to a vast range of programming throughout the Mechina year can be intense, and it requires a summarizing stage to ensure that the material and experiences are processed effectively.
4. The development of creative tools such as an oral survey combined with other artistic outlets such as writing and theater, which will help our students process the Mechina experience.

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

1. Logistical upgrade, as our Mechina is growing.
2. Implementation of an army-prep program from the Council of Mechinot, according to our Mechina's values.
3. Expansion of our volunteer program to reach four additional schools in the Gilo neighborhood.
4. Implementation of a safety and security course from the education ministry following the Zafit tragedy.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as PDF documents)

Attached.



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Please join photos – as JPG files – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as PDF document.
Attached.

Please join a 5 minutes movie describing the project (while the movie should help people that don't know the project or the association at all, understand what it is about).

Link to video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixXL1WIVHlg>

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Matanel Foundation for its continued support of Jewish-Israeli leadership and social change. We look forward to many more years of cooperation!