



MATANEL FOUNDATION

**Development Scholarships for Excelling and "Trailblazer"
Students from the Ethiopian-Israeli Community**

ACTIVITY REPORT

Academic Year: 2018-2019

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Program Update:

During the 2018-2019 school year, thirty-two junior-high and high school students of Ethiopian origin from throughout Israel were awarded scholarships, funded by the Matanel Foundation's generous grant. Students in grades 7-11, studying at 11 schools from the north to the south of the country, received a scholarship of 3,000 NIS each, comprising a monetary prize of 300 NIS, with the remaining 2,700 NIS allocated to one of three primary options, according to each student's choice. (The division of the scholarship was changed from 500/2500 NIS two years ago, as the computers have increased slightly in price.) Regardless of the students' choices, the scholarships significantly assisted the winners in advancing their studies and personal development. Award options included:

1. **Laptop Computer** – A personal computer is an essential item for studies and, in fact, for life in general. The computer assists students in myriad ways, from accessing information via the internet through producing a typed copy of essays or homework. While youth from higher-income families can generally take owning a computer for granted, such is not the case with students from low-income households. Many students of Ethiopian descent fall into the latter category, such that receiving a computer literally changes their lives.
2. **Academic Assistance** – While the scholarship winners are all academically accomplished, their schools are often competitive, and specific subjects can be challenging for particular students. While higher-income families are able to provide their children with private tutoring and enrichment in subjects that are difficult for them, families of Ethiopian origin generally do not have the financial resources to



enable this. Therefore, one of the options that scholarship winners could select was academic assistance, generally in the form of private tutoring.

3. **Enrichment Courses** – While many families are able to send their children to enrichment classes and leisure activities, these types of “extras” are generally prohibitive for low-income families. Thus, students were able to choose an enrichment course or activity, which would be funded by the scholarship. Examples chosen by the students include joining a choir or basketball league, or taking a drumming course.
4. **Other** – Students had the option of making an individual request for use of the scholarship. Three students chose this possibility: one requested a bookcase in which to store school books; a student in a plastic arts track received art supplies; and one student used the funds for urgent personal needs.

Thirteen students chose to receive laptop computers, eleven chose educational assistance, five chose enrichment activities, and three (mentioned above) chose to use the funds for other purposes.

The main achievements during the last year of activity:

Recipients from the following schools benefited from the Matanel Scholarships for Excellence:

1. Four students from **Hebrew University High School**, Jerusalem
2. Four students from **Arts and Sciences High School**, Hadera
3. Three students from **Ulpenat Noga**, Beit Shemesh
4. Three students from **Amit Yeshiva**, Be'er Sheva
5. Three students from the **School for the Arts**, Ashkelon
6. Seven students from the **Mae Boyar High School**, Jerusalem
7. One student from the **Hebrew Reali School**, Haifa
8. Two students from **Atid School for Science**, Lod
9. One student from **Steinberg Educational Residence**, Kfar Saba
10. Two students from the **Hartman School for Girls**, Jerusalem
11. Two students from the **Hartman School for Boys**, Jerusalem

Matanel Scholarship Ceremony:

The Matanel Scholarship Award Ceremony took place on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at the Mount Herzl Museum, attended by the winners, their families, representatives of each school or residence that had a winner, and representatives of the Society for Advancement of Education (SAE). The ceremony was MC'd by SAE's Shoshana Becker, and speakers included Eitan Moran, Director of the SAE, who expressed his gratitude for the Matanel Foundation's generosity; Johanna Cohen congratulated the students on behalf of the Matanel Foundation; Zion Derbow, a law student of Ethiopian descent at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, who spoke about education as the “entry ticket” to the world and its ability to change one's life;



and Sara Hailu, representative of the recipients who thanked the Matanel Foundation for recognizing their achievements and allowing them the means to excel. Following the speeches, scholarship certificates and cheques were presented to the winners, and those who had chosen computers, received them. The ceremony was festive and empowering for both winners and their families, and all left feeling happy, optimistic, and grateful.

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

Methodology:

1. Scholarship Committee – The scholarships committee this year comprised five professionals from the SAE: Shoshana Becker, Resource Development; Tomer Hazan, Alumni Coordinator; Tali Yohananoff, Director of Partnership Development; Michal Shavit, Director of Education Development; and Shoshi Sela, Director of Student Absorption (Shoshi was not present at the selection meeting, but did supply input into the process).
2. Selecting the Schools – The majority of the schools were those who had had scholarship winners the previous year, with the addition of the Steinberg Residence, the Hartman School for Boys in Jerusalem, and the Arts and Sciences High School in Hadera. The Pelech High School in Jerusalem was also approached this year, but did not have a student among the recipients. All schools approached are those with a reputation for fostering excellence.
3. Scholarship Recipients are students of Ethiopian descent, grades 7-11, who study at top level schools and have shown academic achievements in their studies.
4. Application Process – Application forms were sent to thirteen schools, which submitted a total of some 50 candidates. The application submissions included grades and recommendations from the school faculty.
5. Selection Process – Winners were selected in a two-stage process. In the first stage, a small committee selected all the applicants who had average grades of at least 80%. During the second stage, the entire committee discussed each of these applicants in detail, reviewed recommendations, and made the final selection of recipients.
6. Distribution – The scholarships were comprised of two parts:
 - a. At the Scholarship Awards Ceremony, each family received a check for 300 NIS intended for the personal needs of each student. Additionally, students who had chosen computers, received them at the ceremony.
 - b. For the students who had selected academic assistance, enrichment activities, or “other,” the 2,700 NIS was transferred to their schools’ bank accounts, in the name of the students, and the schools paid the costs.



Personal Stories about Scholarship Recipients:

Eden S is currently an 11th-grade student at the Mae Boyar High School. He is the child of a single mother, and the family struggles financially. Eden is an extremely intelligent, pleasant young man, who loves to learn and is interested in a very wide range of topics. He has a history of excellent academic achievement, especially in science subjects, and school staff consider him as having immense academic potential. Eden is particularly talented in the field of computers – he taught himself basic programming language, and created computer games and applications on an old computer that he had at home. While he originally chose a computer, he later asked to be given a tablet instead, and his request was granted.

Sara H is currently a 10th-grade student at Ulpenat Noga in Beit Shemesh. Sara had the highest grade average of all the scholarship applicants. She is a high achiever who is active in classes, extremely enthusiastic, invests time in her studies after school, and is sensitive to others. Sara also volunteers within the community, of her own initiative. Sara was chosen to be the representative of the scholarship recipients who would speak at the awards ceremony where she thanked the Matanel Foundation for believing in them and allowing them all the means to excel in their studies.

Yovel B is currently a 10th-grade student at the Reali School in Haifa. He was the only student from Haifa, of five who were submitted, who received the scholarship. Yovel lives at the Military Academy Residence next door to the school. He demonstrates advanced leadership skills, has great charisma, is ambitious and hard-working, and shows high ethical values. Yovel's family has six children. His parents fled Ethiopia, and had a grueling journey to reach Israel. His mother works as a caregiver to the elderly, and the family struggles economically. Yovel was highly recommended for the scholarship by both his school and his residence.

Thank You note from Yovel's teacher who accompanied him to the ceremony:

First of all, thank you again for the scholarship. Last week, Yovel was walking around school holding his new laptop the whole time, I literally smiled to myself every time I saw him. He was very pleased with the ceremony and spoke about how excited his mother was.

The speaker Zion, was excellent and mentioned some great points. It was accurate. The scholarship distribution was also very tastefully done.

I look forward to the day when our school faculty will include these boys and girls. It would be gratifying to see girls and boys from the Ethiopian community receive the scholarships from their teachers who are also from the Ethiopian community.

Thanks again, Alyssa

Program Budget



	Budget	Actual
Expenses		
Scholarships (3,000 NIS per student)	₪ 96,000	₪ 96,000
Ceremony and programming	₪ 3,000	₪ 3,520
Program Coordinator (20%)	₪ 51,240	₪ 51,240
Total Expenses	₪ 150,240	₪ 150,760
Income		
Matanel Foundation	₪ 99,000	₪ 99,000
The Society for Advancement of Education	₪ 51,240	₪ 51,760
Total Income	₪ 150,240	₪ 150,760

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

The scholarship program continues to be very successful in providing outstanding students of Ethiopian descent with much-needed assistance. We plan to continue the program next year, and, hopefully, in years to come.

The Society for Advancement of Education is most grateful to the Matanel Foundation for its continued generosity, greatly enriching the lives of the scholarship recipients, and enabling them to continue to excel academically.