

# Givat Haviva - Havazelet Cultural & Educational Institutes of HaShomer Hatzair

## 2021-2022 Project Report

The Matanel Foundation supported twenty outstanding students at Givat Haviva International School (GHIS) in 2021: Afomia, Alma, Ana, Angeles, Boris, Daniella, David, Hoseen, Irem, Issam, Lam, Meital, Mux, Noga, Ohene, Omar, Rawan, Shachar, Tamar and Teena. GHIS is deeply grateful to the Matanel Foundation for their grant of 20,000 euros.

### Progress to Date

The GHIS model revolves around the three essential participant groups which are Jewish, Arab and International students. Despite restrictions in international travel, over the past two years, we have continued to maintain a full cohort of students, building strong relationships with Israel's governmental ministries to gain visas and entry permits.

In 2021, GHIS introduced an extra year of studies for students from Israel (both Jews and Arabs) to prepare for the two-year authorized IB Diploma Program. 125 students from 27 countries now live and study on campus.

Also this year, we introduced an extensive alumni program that helps our graduates on their future journeys to reach their academic and leadership potential. This amplifies the GHIS cross-cultural and conflict resolution mission, as they apply what they learned with us to their lives, sharing their knowledge and experience with peers and so transforming the society around them.

Below are short testimonies from five of the Matanel Scholars together with a financial report. The full budget for GHIS is on the final page of our 2021 Annual Report.

### Afomiya – Ethiopia (12<sup>th</sup> grade)



Afomiya joined GHIS last year on a full scholarship. She comes from Ethiopia where her mother is a beautician, and her father a truck driver. Before coming to GHIS she had never been away from home. Afomiya comes from an underprivileged family but understands how important it is to give. She loves volunteering and is an active member of the GHIS community.

During her first year at GHIS, Afomiya demonstrated her leadership skills as well as her top academic abilities. “Even though I had a big gap to catch up, I ended the year as one of the top students and became the first GHIS African student leader. My dream is to become a biologist and give back to my home community by tackling problems like nutrition for poverty-stricken populations.”

**Irem – Turkey (11<sup>th</sup> grade)**



Irem grew up in Izmir, Turkey. Choosing to come to GHIS in Israel was a brave and unlikely choice as she is a Muslim. Her parents divorced last year, both are teachers. They are warm and supportive but cannot offer Irem the advantages enjoyed by many other students. She required a large scholarship to be able to join GHIS.

Irem is a strong student and a proven leader. She strongly agrees with the GHIS mission, which she is looking forward to bringing to life. “I love sharing a room with an Israeli Jew and an Israeli Arab. My plan is to become an engineer and use my leadership skills to bring people together around her innovative ideas that will make the world a better place.”

**Rawan – Kfar Qara, Israel (11<sup>th</sup> grade)**



Rawan is one of a family of 5 children. She is a leader and loves the arts in many forms including visual arts and dancing.

“Back home, I was always judged by my strong academic skills, but I feel I have much more to offer - leadership skills, social skills and opinions! I am excited about the opportunity to build more friendships with Jews and friends from all around the world. My dream is to become a brain surgeon.”

**Teena – Efrat, Judea and Samaria (West Bank)**



“From a young age, it felt like my life was predetermined. Born in Kiryat Arba in Hebron, I grew up in Efrat (in the West Bank) in a religious household. My dad was a survivor of a terrorist incident, which claimed the lives of my grandfather and uncle. You may think that these events should have steered me to more extremist activities. But I chose a different path. I engaged in joint Israeli/Palestinian educational activities which taught me to see the world in a different light. It also opened doors that led to more opportunities – such as GHIS, which I heard about a week before the start of this academic year and signed up immediately. A scholarship to GHIS offered me the chance to live with people and hear the

stories of those I was taught to hate. It is so important to see things from their perspective and hear their opinions, even if I disagree with them.”

**Issam – Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem**



When asked about which GHIS experiences will stay with him, his eyes glaze over and he says, “There are so many, how can I just talk of a few. Only last Thursday I took my good GHIS friend, Teena, home. So, what’s the story? She lives in the West Bank settlement of Efrat - very close to my home of Sheikh Jarrah. I’d never been to a settlement and was ambivalent whether to accept her invitation to have coffee. Had I not done so, I would not have met her brother. He is in the army, speaks fluent Arabic and has close friends who are politically involved in the Palestinian Authority. Simply meeting him dispelled so many myths and left me feeling that there was hope that things can change.”

We look forward to watching Issam, Teena, Rawan, Irem and Afomiya take their places as leaders - this is the mission of GHIS.

**Financial Report**

<b>GHIS Scholarship Fund</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
10 partial scholarships for international students	\$10,000
10 partial scholarships Israeli students	\$10,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>