

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Ofek Liyladenu's Employment on the Horizon Program*
Year: 2022

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: Ofek Liyladenu's Employment on the Horizon Program

Year of activity: 2022

Name of the report's writer: Yael Weisz-Rind

Function of the report's writer: Executive Director

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Number of active participants in the program:

53 blind or visually impaired teens (young men and women) participated in the program this year.

Estimated number of impacted participants:

Altogether, we believe that our program bore an impact on 225-250 people (in addition to the teen participants) This number takes into account parents and siblings, employers, and communities at large (positively influenced by the active presence of blind and sight-impaired teens in the workforce throughout Israel) and work colleagues of the teens.

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

This year, 45 teens were employed at varied workplaces (retail chains, financial institutions, diverse businesses and nonprofits throughout Israel. In addition, in June 53 teens participated in two training days. Those who (mostly for logistical reasons)

could not be placed in jobs this summer, gained the knowledge and skills to prepare them for future employment. The training sessions were conducted by specialists in presentation and experts in promoting employment for people with disabilities. Young alumni also participated. We are now assessing the achievements and challenges of the program this year, with an eye toward advancing our ongoing process of strengthening the program's capacities as it continues to grow. We continue to utilize and explore the potential of zoom sessions as a component of training to include those in remote locations.

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

We successfully returned to our program's full operations—after two challenging years of coping with the dynamic changes demanded by the COVID pandemic. This year 53 blind and visually impaired teens participated, developing and strengthening the skills, knowledge and experiences they need to work in varied settings and gain the essential resources for future integration into the work force as adults. We also maintained working relationships with employers—who express satisfaction with the program and their increased commitment to the integration of people with special needs into their staff. A new employer, the retail chain Delta, joined as a participant this year.

Alumni of the program report that their work experiences have built their confidence to pursue voluntary military and national service, and to fulfill their potential for social and economic independence.

The number of teen participants reached 53 this year, we conducted two training days as planned, and we hope to have a gathering for participants in the fall.

We are proud to have sustained—and grown—the program despite the challenges of COVID and suspended government funding (due to budgetary issues).

The year 2022 marked the 25th anniversary of Ofek Liyladenu, and we view Employment on the Horizon as a flagship program that we will continue to strengthen. [An op-ed by Guila Seidel](#), our founder and chair, was featured in the Jerusalem Post the other month.

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

Ofek Liyladenu's annual evaluation includes soliciting written and oral feedback to measure the satisfaction of the participants, their parents and their employers with the program's outputs and outcomes. Another key measure is the extent to which the program builds the capacity of alumni to pursue voluntary military and civic service, higher education and employment—as well as community leadership. Over the long term, the program's goal is to make a difference in the proportion of blind and sight impaired people who participate in the workforce and live economically and socially independent lives as adults. We also aspire to be a model for advancing employment among other populations of young people with special needs.

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

We plan to continue to build on the program's success with an eye toward enhancing all components of the program. Among our aims is to sustain and build relationships with longstanding and new employers; provide individualized support to participating teens, and enhance our outreach to teens and families in Israel's socio-economic and geographic peripheries. If we can attain the funding, we would like to conduct a professional research project to assess the longitudinal outcomes of the program, with a focus on the impact on participants in their young adult lives.

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

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**.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.

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