

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: “Independence: Paths to young mothers employment integration.”
Year: 2021-2022

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

Name of the Program: **“Independence: Paths to young mothers employment integration.”**

Year of activity: 2021-2022

Name of the report's writer: Sveta Rist

Function of the report's writer: fundraising and resource development

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Website / Facebook address of the organization: www.katfef.org.il,

Number of active participants in the program: 50

Estimated number of impacted participants: 100

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

This program was launched in 2021. In 2022 50 women participated in the project. Activities included customized programming for single-mothers, who were unemployed at the time of commitment to the project.

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

Activities: One of the strengths of Independence model is that all activities are customized for each participant based on her identified needs. Working together with our professional team, including her personal mentor, each woman shared her targeted support needs, determined her personal goals and built a tailor-made workplan with measurable objectives broken-down into concrete tasks.

Example: L.T is a 22-year-old single mother who has two children, aged five and seven, from a violent relationship. She was referred to the program by an NGO that helps young women at risk. L, who is hard of hearing since birth and uses hearing aids, comes from a tough background. At a young age, the courts removed her from her home and placed her in a boarding school together with her siblings. L moved to southern Israel in the hope of turning over a new leaf, but without proper support she signed a draconian rental contract which forced her to use up the little savings she had. She started to work as a cashier in a

supermarket but was laid off following the outbreak of Covid-19 and the many lockdowns. With no family support, she feared for her future.

When L came to us, she was desperate, sad and didn't believe that it was possible to help her. Through conversations, we saw her strengths in the face of these challenges: she is very hard-working and yearns for a better future for herself and her children. We started to work with her on finding a job given the constraints. We prepared a CV and explored fields that would be suitable. She had worked in supermarkets as the head of various departments and wanted to return to this line of work while at the same time starting to study bookkeeping.

At the end of the year, L found work in a supermarket, like she wanted.

We steered L towards a stable job. She applied to be a chaperone for a child with special needs and today she is employed by the Ministry of Health to assist a child who is allergic to lactose while he is at school. She is very satisfied with her new workplace and is becoming acquainted with a new world. At the same time, L began studying bookkeeping and hopes to work in that field in the future.

The Israeli government no longer considered L to be an at-risk youth from the moment she became a mother, meaning that she no longer qualified for the support and guidance that she needs. These days, L consults with us on all matters, including her benefits, study options and many other aspects of her life, and we are there for her.

Each woman met with their personal mentor on a minimum of once weekly, although often there were more meetings or phone calls during the week. At first the mentor was the primary drive for building the weekly workplan, but gradually it became the participant's responsibility. All other activities were customized to meet individual needs

All activities focus on one of the following areas of aid:

1. Employment – professional training, vocational counseling, employment search guidance and assistance in obtaining academic/vocational qualifications.
2. Quality of life – health, food, clothing, furniture, house repairs and maintenance.
3. Proper economic management – A plan for the economic recovery of the domestic budget and sensible use of family funds.
4. Parenting aid– subsidized daycare/babysitting, tutoring/academic assistance, after-school group activities, cultural enrichment and strengthening the parent-child bond.

Especially in light of the extremely problematic circumstances facing participants this year Shoulder to Shoulder is immensely proud of progress made by the participants of Independence program

- 87% of the single-mothers who participated integrated into employment in a position that surpasses part-time.
- 87% have taken rein of their personal financial management via mentoring programming so that their expenses now balance income.
- 60% have addressed outstanding debt via management plans with banks /government authorities. Out of a total collective debt of 750,421 ILS, nearly half (354,980 ILS) has already been repaid.
- 100% have accessed their various untapped rights as single parents, (i.e. child support payments, etc.).

We are humbled by these women's incredible strides forward. They are thriving despite the myriad of obstacles involved, having acquired the tools and support necessary to journey from dependence on welfare or charity to economic self-sufficiency. These women have surpassed the milestones that were set for them, achieving their personal goals towards independence. Shoulder to Shoulder will be continuing to track their success in the years to come via longitudinal studies in our constant push toward optimized programmatic efficacy together and with the Matanel foundation generous support.

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

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

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.