

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Ofek Liyladenu's Employment on the Horizon

Program:
Year: 2023

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: 2023

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: There were 53 **blind and visually impaired teens** who were employed in summer 2023 in workplaces throughout the country. An additional 14 participated in the training sessions.

Estimated number of impacted participants:

We believe that our program bore an impact on some 275-300 people in addition to the teen participants. This number takes into account parents and siblings, employers, and work colleagues of the teens. In addition, we believe that many others, members of the teens' community and the public at large, were positive influenced by taking note of—and interacting with—blind and sight-impaired teens in the workforce

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, 53 teens were employed at varied workplaces (retail chains, financial institutions, diverse businesses and nonprofits throughout Israel—including the HaMashbir Department store and Steimatsky's, both new to the program). As noted, an additional 14 teens who did not work during 2023 (mostly due to their personal logistical issues) gained the benefits of the training sessions, which they will utilize in future employment. The training sessions were conducted by specialists in presentation and experts in promoting employment for people with disabilities. Those who worked, were guided by professional staff members (including one who is sight impaired). They counseled and supported the teens, parents and employers in dealing with the challenges of summer employment. Teens included first-time

participants as well as repeat participants--both those who were invited back to their workplaces and those who sought new and different challenges. Overall, our goal is to continue to create a model—so that teens, their families, and employers recognize and support the full integration into the workforce of young people who are blind and sight impaired.

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

We successfully engaged 67 teens who are blind or sight impaired in job training and/or summer work. This included two training days and placements for 53 youth in dozens of work settings from Bank Discount and other financial institutions to retail chains (from ToysRus to Delta and HaMashbir Department store (two of among six new employers this year). They gained knowledge, skills, and experiences that will boost their prospects for future integration into the workforce as young adults. In a number of instances we provided individual guidance to youth with multiple disabilities or emotional challenges to overcome individual barriers and gain the achievement of successful work experiences. Among the prominent new employers who joined our ranks are the Steimatsky's book chain and HaMashbir Department Stores. We continue to cultivate relationships with new employers and to encourage our partners to provide increased opportunities for our youth and to build on the experience of our program to make their workplaces accessible to workers with special needs year round.

Alumni of the program report that their work experiences have built their confidence to pursue voluntary military and national service, and e higher education and careers which will enable them to achieve social and economic independence.

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

Please see the attached Hebrew summary. We will provide an English version if requested.

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

We look forward to building on the momentum of our achievements and enhancing all aspects of the program in the year ahead, as noted: we will enhance relationships with both 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.

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 seems 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.

<https://ofekl.org.il/programs/summer-job/>