

MATANEL FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REPORT

(Please present your activity report as a WORD document, not to exceed 2-3 pages.)

Name of the program: Matanel-Kaima Educational Investment Fund (388)

Year of activity: 2023/24

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Introduction

For the last decade, the Matanel Foundation has been instrumental in advancing Kaima's efforts to provide alternative resources for young people challenged to relate to conventional educational/social settings. Previously, the trustees provided multi-year support of our full-time farming initiative, setting us up for success as we grew from a single farm to a growing national and international network.

Through this particular grant--which seeded the establishment of The Matanel-Kaima Educational Investment Fund--the Foundation is significantly improving chances for success for current participants and alumni by providing access to serious vocational/professional training courses or academic pursuits. This track now forms the centerpiece of our complementary educational track being implemented across our Israel network. Those farms are located in Beit Zayit, Hukuk, and Nahalal.

Over the past three years, this grant has enabled 106 Kaima teens and young adults to participate in certificate-granting courses in fields such as accounting, computer science, cyber security, animation technology, sustainable beekeeping, tractor driving, welding, carpentry, yoga and aerobic instruction and more. Of this number, five Kaima alumni are now pursuing academic degrees through institutions such as the Open University, HIT Holon College of Technology, Sapir College, and Tel Hai.

The report below covers grant usage between May 2023 and April 2024, the third year of the grant.

Number of active participants in the program

A. Select statistics

- At the close of the current reporting period, 21 young people (10 current participants and 11 alumni) made use of the grant. This brings the total number of young people who have benefitted from the grant to 106.
- This year, 100% of those who started courses either completed or are still enrolled.

B. Select participant feedback

- *"I researched a lot of courses and chose to do one on traditional carpentry, a discipline where the woodworker does not use any metal tools or joinery. Though I have a lot to learn, this course definitely raised my competency level. Thank you"*

- *“I really wanted to get my tractor-driving license. This will definitely help me in my future work in agriculture since it [tractor driving] is not a skill everyone has. Thank you.”*
- *“Honestly, I don’t think I would have done this on my own. I needed this program and encouragement to push me to learn a new skill. The first course I took was in jewelry making. I really enjoyed it. After this, I started to work in the Kaima carpentry workshop. It is amazing that these courses are available to us. Thank you.”*

Estimated number of impacted participants

Farm	Total Participants	Current Participant	Alumni Participant	NIS Actual Course Cost	Average Course Cost
Beit Zayit	11	4	7	₪44,500	₪4,045
Hukuk	5	4	1	₪26,000	₪5,200
Nahalal	5	2	3	₪24,890	₪4,978
TOTAL	22	10	11	₪95,390	₪4,741
Coordination				₪34,400	
TOTAL				₪129,790	

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

The grant is allowing us to empower Kaima participants as they research and pursue an educational experience of their choosing. Now, three years into the initiative, we find that this approach validates our assertion that self-chosen educational pursuits are extremely important in a person's development. This type of learning not only improves motivation, but enhances a sense of responsibility and accountability, all of which are encouraged by our group work on the farm, but need to be reinforced in other settings. In addition, the grant has been surprisingly effective in allowing us to maintain a meaningful connection with our alumni and create added value to their lives even after officially leaving the farm and to build on the past investments made by the Matanel Foundation.

Achievements during the last year (number of events, number of participants, etc.)

The number of those participating in the 2022/23 grant period (36) was higher than the number of participants in 2023/24 (21). This is attributed to a variety of interruptions and recruitment challenges in the wake of the war.

Evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with previous year, conclusions for the future):

Project oversight and evaluation is conducted by the network’s social worker, Guy Bar Navon.

Select outcomes:

- Expanding the individual’s skill set and sense of personal agency
- Encouraging overall motivation and curiosity which is linked to post-traumatic growth and increased productivity, happiness, and success
- Enabling us to respond to the needs of Kaima alumni

Additional thoughts: What we know now after three years...

When we initially proposed this project to the Matanel Foundation, our collective dream was that each long-term Kaima participant would enroll in at least one externally facilitated course. The purpose of the initiative was to expand the skill set and enrich the lives of all Kaima participants across our network. The undertaking was designed to be entirely optional, and we had assumed that all would take part. We now understand that this projection was too ambitious for a few reasons.

- **Motivation:** The young people in our care are contending with obstacles that either distract the young person or squash their sense of motivation. It has taken far longer than anticipated for our professional staff to create the stability needed to encourage the young person to go offsite and participate in another activity. Most come to the farm to work and earn a salary. The commitment to do so is enormously significant, especially for those who have been out of the school system for months or even longer. Many are dealing with depression and struggle with feelings of isolation. While for some, being on the farm awakens a sense of curiosity and a desire to try new things; for others, it is a longer process. Others are simply not “joiners.”
- **Population:** We have observed a drop in participation on our sister farms, Kaima Hukuk and Kaima Nahalal, two regions where self-motivation is particularly low. As both farms are now approved to provide educational services through the Ministry of Welfare, enrollment is on the rise. This will equate to increased participation moving forward.

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

We have utilized ₪129,790 during the reporting period. This includes ₪95,390 for courses and ₪34,400 for project coordination. As we have some surplus funds after three years of running the project, we will continue to facilitate the program into the future and will issue a supplemental fourth report to the Foundation once all funds have been utilized.

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

Attached

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.

Attached

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.

Link to testimonial video: <https://youtu.be/KaySSf1v93o>

We thank the Matanel Foundation for believing in and sustaining this initiative.