MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program*:* Solidarity of Nations – Achvat Amim
Year: 2021

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: Achvat Amim
Year of activity: 9
Name of the report's writer: Elianna Boswell
Function of the report's writer: Program Director

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Number of active participants in the program:
21
Estimated number of impacted participants:
21
Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):
The Justice Fellowship was made up of two cohorts totaling 21 participants from diverse socio-political, religious, and national backgrounds. Through careful recruitment, we curated a diverse group of people who were able to bring their unique backgrounds to enrich the learning experience. Our group included North Americans, Europeans, and Israelis- all of whom had spent varying amounts of time abroad and in the land. Our group included Yeshiva students, Rabbinical students, local activists, mental health care professionals, and students pursuing an MA in Holocaust Studies. The group was secular and religious, coming from Reform, Reconstructionist, and Orthodox backgrounds.

Over the course of 5 months, the group explored Zionism and Diaspora, the meaning of home and homeland, structures within Israeli society, collective Jewish identity, and more. After experiencing the Justice Fellowship's impactful education and meaningful community, participants remain engaged with activism and alumni activities after the program, working in both volunteer and staff roles with organizations that support the betterment of Israeli society.

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

Each cohort participated in 18 learning days, totaling over 100 hours of learning. Participants each volunteered 8-15 hours a week in projects supporting youth empowerment and community gardens, among other initiatives.

The group covered material through lectures, tours, group study, mixed media, and discussion. The group was clear that Achvat Amim's approach to educational content was refreshing and stimulating- especially for a varied range of learning styles. We have witnessed participants sharing content from the learning days, connecting with speakers after the programming, and taking friends and families on the same tours that we included in the Justice Fellowship.

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

Over the course of the program, Achvat Amim conducted two feedback sessions with the participants. The first feedback session was at the halfway point and focused on aspects of the program that we would be able to change for the remainder of our time together. The second feedback session, at the very end of the program, focused on structural changes that we can make to future Justice Fellowships.

The feedback demonstrated that our participants had deepened their knowledge and understanding of this land and felt equipped to move forward as leaders in their communities. The majority of our participants became increasingly involved with activist organizations, NGO's, and/or had clear language around how justice work figured into their future.

One piece of feedback was that participants craved a longer educational process that would allow them to dive deeper into the historical events that have led to the current situation. The group found the educational content to be incredibly enriching and they wanted more of it.

This was in part because of our decision (based on previous feedback) to cut some educational programming in order to make space for processing. These groups felt that they had the proper amount of time to build real and trusting relationships and as a result felt deeply connected to one another. Finding the balance between content and processing is something we will continue to strive for and monitor along the way.

Another mechanism of evaluation we used was regular on-on-ones between participants and staff so that participants could share their thoughts and feelings individually outside of the group setting. Participants were able to share about group dynamics or personal struggles with the content or structure in private. From our feedback, we saw that the participants were very appreciative of the availability of the staff and noted that it was helpful for their personal development.

Besides wanting a longer program, the largest feedback was that participants wanted a provided lunch on Fridays (as we fed the group dinner on Tuesdays), as that would have lessened the stress of such an early Friday morning.

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

1. Additional Content: Based on participant feedback, we will provide additional supplementary learning planned by and for participants on Thursdays. These sessions will cover the issues that participants are most excited to learn about and offer them an opportunity to build programmatic and facilitation skills.

2. Enhanced Historical Focus: To cater to participants' craving for a deeper understanding of historical events, we will incorporate more comprehensive historical modules into the program. These modules will explore the historical context that has shaped the current situation, providing participants with a solid foundation for their future activism and engagement.

3. Diversified Learning Methodologies: Building on the success of our experiential educational approach, we will further enrich the learning experience by incorporating additional formats such as workshops, guest lectures, and panel discussions. This will cater to different learning styles and ensure a stimulating and engaging educational environment for all participants.

4. Strengthened Processing Sessions: We will continue to prioritize processing sessions, dedicating specific time and space for participants to reflect, discuss, and share their thoughts and emotions. These sessions have proven instrumental in fostering deep connections among participants, and we will further emphasize their importance in the program structure.

5. Enhanced Communication and Support: We will maintain regular one-on-one sessions between participants and staff, providing a safe space for individual discussions and personal development. We will also continue to ensure constant communication via social media, messages, and phone calls to address any concerns or questions promptly.

6. Provided Friday Lunch: In response to participants' feedback, we will provide lunch on Fridays, in addition to the already provided Tuesday dinner. This will alleviate the stress of early Friday mornings and create a more balanced and convenient schedule for participants.

7. Alumni Engagement: We will establish an alumni network and organize regular activities to facilitate ongoing engagement and support among program graduates. Alumni will have the opportunity to share their experiences, collaborate on initiatives, and contribute to the growth and development of the program.

8. Evaluation and Feedback: We will continue to prioritize feedback sessions throughout the program to gather insights from participants and make necessary improvements. These sessions will focus not only on program adjustments during the current year but also on shaping future Justice Fellowships, ensuring their continued relevance and effectiveness.

By implementing these provisional guidelines, we aim to further enhance the educational experience, strengthen participant connections, and equip them with the knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to become impactful leaders and activists in their communities.

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.