

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program:
Year: 2024

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: Matanel AKIM-Jerusalem Art Workshop

Year of activity: 2024

Name of the report's writer: Aliza Gellis

Function of the report's writer: Director of Development Akim-Jerusalem

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Number of active participants in the program: 29
Estimated number of impacted participants: 150

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

In 2024, 29 adult residents of AKIM-Jerusalem homes participated in the Art Workshop, conducted by artist and art educator Motti Yifrach, who has directed art programs for AKIM-Jerusalem for more than 20 years. As in the past, the participants this year are of varied ages and functional capacities. Attendance is excellent, and once again, participants sustained their interest and enthusiasm as they enhanced their skills, self-expression and self-confidence over the year. Participants took part in art, ceramics, and photography classes. They painted, created self-portraits and knitted. The photography sessions included expeditions to sites such as the Mahane Yehuda market. Like all Israelis, our community was profoundly impacted by the war. Since our residents struggle with communication deficits, the arts play a vital role in encouraging calm and cultivating competence and well-being. This year, Motti gave mindful attention to each individual's artistic and personal development.

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

Overall, attendance was consistent and enthusiastic. Participants were able to choose among the arts and crafts that suited them best. Motti led the painting and drawing

classes. There were classes in photography, ceramics (painting pottery) and knitting conducted by art therapists with training in working with people with special needs. .

As noted, given the contingencies of the ongoing war, greater attention was given to individual attention and the therapeutic benefits of personal growth and self-expression. Below are excerpts from the notes Motti kept on the progress and achievements of the participants who were in his painting and drawing classes.

Shalom A. is an older participant with significant disabilities that affect both his hands and legs. Despite these limitations, he works independently with close attention to his painting, utilizing his entire body to create his abstract work. This year we focused on developing his use of color.

Pirhiya N. enjoys creating free floating looms with colors drawn over them. This year we focused on more concrete forms which she chose and she drew with the dynamic use of pencils and brushes. She drew simple images of plants, which gave expression to varied moods and feelings.

Avner M. has developed varied and unique works, which utilize a wide range of techniques. He gives attention to the boundaries between his imagination and reality. This year, we focused on cultivating his technical skills and use of color with the creation of complex works with many details.

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

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our participants. Our caregivers and counselors also shared that the arts sessions had a very positive impact on the residents' engagement with their surroundings and enhanced their overall well-being. Motti and the art therapists for all the groups noted that each participant was enriched by the experience and the group spirit had a positive effect on all. This year, there were 29 participants, an increase from last year.

We plan to build on the momentum of this year's focus on individualized attention to the artistic development of each participant, with a focus on skills, self expression, and well-being. Motti will continue to lead the program and the plan is for the other art therapists to continue with us.

Our aspiration is to expand the program along the parameters we previously planned. We hope that the year ahead will be less turbulent and that we can continue to add new components to the program which we have kept on our agenda since last year. Those include paper mache to a workshop in "Pinterest art"—to encourage the residents to become acquainted with Pinterest and to take the initiative of developing their own projects on the basis of artwork they discover on Pinterest (the image based social media network that functions as a public bulletin board for its diverse users).

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.