

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Jordan River Village's Hope and Healing Retreats*
Year: 2024/2025

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: Hope and Healing Retreats

Year of activity: 2024/2025

Name of the report's writer: Ms. Ris Even

Function of the report's writer: Director of Development

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Number of active participants in the program: 493

Estimated number of impacted participants: 466 (chronically ill children and their families)

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

Despite significant challenges due to the ongoing war in Israel, the "Hope and Healing" weekend retreats project continues to operate successfully. While the original grant was designated for children with cerebral palsy, we are deeply grateful to the Matanel Foundation for its flexibility in allowing us to extend the use of the funds to benefit children with a wide range of chronic health conditions. This generosity enabled us to support more families in need during a particularly challenging year. Of the eight retreats planned for the 2024/2025 cycle, six were completed, while two were regrettably cancelled due to the security situation. The program remains ongoing, with additional retreats scheduled throughout the coming year. Activities continue to be adapted to meet the emotional and medical needs of chronically ill children and their families under the current national context. The Village remains committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and joyful environment for its participants.

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

Over the past year, Jordan River Village operated under the challenging shadow of the war, which deeply affected families across Israel and disrupted our normal programming. Located in Israel's north, JRV found itself within range of Hezbollah rocket fire and even sustained a direct missile hit on its premises. In response to the escalating security threat, some planned retreats had to be postponed or cancelled, and extensive efforts were made to ensure the physical and emotional safety of participants and staff. Despite these challenges, the Village remained a critical source of support and stability for families of chronically ill children, adapting its activities to meet evolving needs and providing much-needed relief during a time of national crisis.

During the 2024/2025 cycle, Jordan River Village successfully hosted six weekend retreats, each lasting three days and two nights. Retreats are designed to provide chronically ill children and their families with a safe,

joyful, and empowering experience away from the stresses of daily life. The retreats included therapeutic activities, creative workshops, music and movement sessions, and shared family time, all within a fully accessible, medically supervised environment. They offered families a rare opportunity to relax, connect with others facing similar challenges, and create lasting memories together in a setting built for healing and inclusion.

During the grant period, these weekend retreats served a total of 493 participants, including 99 chronically ill children, their families, and children of support staff and volunteers (see attached evaluation report for a breakdown of participants). The weekends were tailored to specific medical populations: one for children with cerebral palsy, one for epilepsy, two for rare syndromes, one for Rett Syndrome, and one for children with intestinal failure. Each retreat provided immersive therapeutic, recreational, and family-bonding activities in a medically supervised and emotionally supportive environment. Despite the disruption caused by the war, the program maintained high engagement and continued to deliver meaningful impact to participating families.

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

As outlined in the original proposal, the program's evaluation included a pre-session registration process with medical and emotional assessments, daily staff meetings during each retreat, and participant surveys conducted at the beginning and again post-retreat. Feedback gathered to date reflects high satisfaction rates and emotional benefit, with families consistently reporting improved morale, a strengthened sense of community, and relief from daily caregiving burdens. While participant numbers were slightly below the original goal (99 vs. 165 chronically ill children) due to security-related cancellations, the quality and structure of each retreat remained consistent with prior years. Looking ahead, we will continue to prioritize flexibility in scheduling and remain committed to reaching our full participant targets as the situation in Israel stabilizes.

Attached:

- 1) Evaluation Report.**
- 2) Financial Report**
- 3) List of the participants in the program (as PDF documents).**
- 4) Photos – as JPG files.**
- 5) Movie from the Family weekend at JRV.**

Thank You!

Ris Even

Director of development

Shalom Ashkenazi

CEO