

# *MATANEL FOUNDATION*

## *ACTIVITY REPORT*

**Program:** *Mechinat Yeruham - Perach Zahav*

**Year:** 2025-2026

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:** Mechinat Yeruham

**Year of activity:** 2024-2025

**Name of the report's writer:** Tal barsheshet & Daniel Kedem

**Function of the report's writer:** Tal - Development Manager, Daniel - Head of the Mechina.

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**Number of active participants in the program:** 41 pre-military academy participants, 30 elderly individuals

**Estimated number of impacted participants:** 70 of the Participants

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

The program began in September and concluded at the end of February. The Mechina is currently not active, and the team is preparing for the launch of the new cohort in September 2025. In the meantime, the head of the Mechina is maintaining close contact with the Golden Age Home to ensure that once the new year begins, we will be able to resume our activities there. This is expected to take place after the High Holidays.

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

We strengthened our partnership with the Golden Age Home in Yeruham and significantly expanded the scope of our volunteer work, including the addition of several special events throughout the year.

There was increased engagement both from the participants and from the residents, resulting in a greater number of joint activities.

Examples of special events include: a sports day for the elderly; a Hanukkah fair where we made sufganiyot, and led a candle-lighting activity at the senior center; and celebrations of additional holidays such as Sukkot, during which our participants built sukkahs at the homes of elderly residents.

We also launched a pilot initiative aimed at fostering deeper personal connections, in which several participants visited elderly residents in their homes on a weekly basis.

Compared to the previous year, we saw a significant improvement in both participant enthusiasm and the level of collaboration with the senior center, largely due to the expansion of activity days and the addition of meaningful shared events.

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

We consider this past year to have been highly successful in strengthening the ongoing relationship between the Mechina and the Golden Age Home. Prior to the start of the year, our team met with the volunteer coordinator at the Golden Age Home to set expectations and plan the year's collaboration. We agreed to increase the number of participating Mechina students and to hold more special events throughout the year. I'm pleased to report that we met our goals, and it was a very successful year. In the upcoming year, we aim to maintain both the scope of activity and the strong personal connections built with the elderly residents.

Our key objectives were to expand the scope of activity and to deepen the personal relationships between students and the elderly. To that end, we introduced two new components: building sukkahs at the homes of seniors and initiating weekly one-on-one home visits. We also added four special events—Sports Day, Hanukkah, Tu B'Shvat, and an end-of-year celebration.

One of our goals was to increase student participation, both in routine volunteering and at special events. During the special events, all 41 students participated without exception. In weekly volunteering, the center itself requested an increase in the number of volunteers from three (in the previous year) to four.

I'm happy to share that despite the departure of Irit, the 2023–2024 coordinator, we maintained a strong and effective partnership with Marina, her replacement. We were in continuous contact with her throughout the year to tailor our activities to the needs of the center and its residents. As we now prepare for the upcoming cohort, we are meeting with Marina and other relevant staff to realign expectations and plan for the coming year.

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

We intend to continue our activities in the upcoming cohort with the goal of deepening the personal connections with elderly residents in the community while maintaining the methodology and work plan that guided us successfully throughout the past year.