

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Vacation Group 365 – The Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Centers*

Year: 2025

Name of the Program: Vacation Group 365

Year of activity: 2025

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Function of the report's writer: Resource Development Manager

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Number of active participants in the program: 26

Estimated number of impacted participants:

The program positively impacts at least 200 people, including the children and their families who cannot host them on vacation, and are relieved that they are taken care of. The staff and therapists at the home benefit both during vacation and during the routine year, as the busy, enjoyable vacation time helps the children remain calm and regulated and allows for their continued growth. Additionally, we employ vacation counselors during the day and the night shift, as well as maintenance and kitchen staff.

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

We continue to successfully implement our Vacation Group 365 Program. Among the nearly 100 at-risk children, aged 6 to 15, that we care for, about 30% have no home to go to over the holidays. The Children's Home is open for them 365 days a year and provides additional programming and therapy services in order to work through this period of potential "abandonment." We require day and night counselors, kitchen and maintenance staff, supplies and food, transportation to and from excursions, and the actual activities. We continue to see success with both on-campus and off-campus activities that are educational and fun. Children enjoy their vacation, feel "a part of," and are well-regulated as a result of this programming.

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

The Vacation Group 365 was successful this year thanks to the combination of dedicated staff and generosity from friends like the Matanel Foundation. Each vacation is catered thoughtfully for the children in our care. Because many of the children's home lives are volatile, unforeseen circumstances often arise, and the number of children staying on campus for vacation can change last minute. Particularly this last year, with the unpredictable security situation, the Vacation Group 365 Program was all the more crucial to providing the children with stability, normalcy, and positive experiences they had missed out on in their earlier childhood.

Key activities since the last report:

- December 2024 – Hannukah Vacation
 - Included 20 children for the week of Hanukkah vacation. Activities included arts and crafts and a special juggling show.
- April 2025 – Passover Vacation
 - Included 26 children for the week of Passover who enjoyed on-campus sports and special activities like “old-fashioned” arts and crafts. Off-campus excursions included extreme sports, ATVing, archery, a hike in Ein Hemed, and a trip to the swimming pool.
- August 2025 – Summer Vacation
 - As the summer vacation is long, the number of children on campus varied throughout the time between 20-35 children. The vacation included exciting activities like an on-campus carnival and BBQ, blow-up castles, an exotic animal experience, a live play, a trip to Superland, a VR experience, a visit to the zoo, hiking, laser tag, and lots of pool time.
- September 2025 – Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur Vacation
 - 20 children stayed with us for this vacation and enjoyed on-campus holiday-related activities.
- October 2025 – Sukkot Vacation
 - 26 children stayed for the week and enjoyed a trip to My Ninja, arts and crafts on campus, a water hike, and a trip to nature.
- December 2025 – Chanukah Vacation
 - We are not sure yet exactly how many children will be staying, but as usual, it will be between 20-35, and we already have plans for off-campus events like a hike, a woodwork workshop, and arts and crafts activities.

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

The 35 children who participated in the Vacation Group 365 for 2025 gained a lot from the program. They were stimulated both intellectually and physically with fun and meaningful activities relevant to the time periods of each vacation. They thrive on outdoor excursions, creating positive memories with their friends and the staff and counselors who care for them deeply. Their teachers and therapists who greet them after the vacation see a clear difference in the children after having enjoyed their vacation on campus, as they report the children being calmer and having an

easier time getting back into routine. It is clear to all of us that the Vacation Group 365 program is very important, and we are grateful to the Matanel Foundation for its support.

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

Approximately a third of the children at the Jerusalem Hills campus each year need to stay with us during vacation times. It is an ongoing issue that these children cannot return to their families or caregivers for holidays, and we work very hard to provide them with a comfortable, educational, and enjoyable environment 365 days a year, including during vacations.

With the generous support from the Matanel Foundation, the children can enjoy special excursions off campus to swimming pools, museums, the zoo and aquarium, amusement parks, movies, and so much more. These memories will last with the children for many years to come, giving them a sense of pride to be part of the Vacation Group instead of disappointment that they could not go home.

We thank the Matanel Foundation from the bottom of our hearts for their support of this special program for the last 3 years. We would love to host your representatives on campus one day soon and show you firsthand the important work being done here.

Thank you,

Zelig Steiner

Resource Development Manager

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