

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT 2025

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: " Arcana: People with Physical Disabilities Developing and Sharing their New Musical Capabilities."

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Number of active participants in the program: 54

Estimated number of impacted participants:

Over 300 people, including participants, family members, staff, peers, and community audiences attending performances and public events.

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

The Arcana program at Tsad Kadima has become a central platform for artistic expression, inclusion, and empowerment for people with complex physical disabilities. During 2025, the program evolved from primarily individual musical exploration into **structured ensemble playing, original creation, and public performances**, supported by advanced physical and technological adaptations.

Today, Arcana operates across **four different educational and adult-care settings**, each with its own musical language and population, while sharing a common vision: transforming people with severe motor limitations from passive recipients of care into **active musicians, creators, and contributors to their communities**.

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

1. Special Education School –Arcana became a core axis of artistic and emotional development.

Key achievements:

- Transition from individual playing to **large musical ensembles**, strengthening social interaction and shared attention.
- Development of **highly individualized physical adaptations** (custom tables, fixation systems, positioning solutions) enabling students with severe and rare motor limitations to play independently.
- **100% of participating students** were able to produce sound and play musical sequences through customized positioning.
- Significant growth in **self-confidence, perseverance, and emotional expression**.

One student, Dvir, who cannot grasp the Arcana handle independently, insisted on playing without restraining his hand. A customized fixation table was built for him, enabling weekly independent practice and clear musical progress, an example of how innovation and determination meet in the program.

Performances: End-of-year school with **~65 audience members** (students, families, staff, and partners).

2. Adult Day Center Rishon LeZion: From Music to Giving Back

It was the **first Tsad Kadima center to adopt Arcana**, and today hosts a **veteran musical ensemble** that has developed a unique artistic identity.

Key achievements:

- A permanent ensemble of four musicians creating **original blues music**, including: Writing personal lyrics based on life stories, Composing and performing original accompaniments, Singing and collective musical storytelling
- Discovery of the **power of giving**: participants experience themselves as musicians who spread joy, especially through performances for senior citizens and community audiences.
- Parallel individual and duo learning tracks, allowing additional participants to play songs of their own choice.

Performances: These public appearances marked a shift from internal activity to **community-facing cultural participation**.

- July 2025 Pub at the Florentin neighborhood, Tel Aviv
- December 2025 Municipal Gallery, Rishon LeZion

3. Adult Day Center Jerusalem operates two structured groups, beginners and advanced musicians.

Key achievements:

- Personalized accessibility solutions for each participant (handles, switches, table height, keyboard alignment, and a newly acquired motion sensor).
- Strong group culture characterized by **humor, mutual encouragement, creativity, and improvisation**.
- Advanced participants perform chamber-style ensemble playing, requiring attention to conductor cues, rhythm, and musical coordination.
- Acquisition of additional Arcana instruments, enabling **five simultaneous musical voices**.

Participants repeatedly describe Arcana as **the activity they look forward to most**, combining joy, challenge, and personal expression.

4. Adult Day Center Ness Ziona: Arcana functions as a social-emotional anchor.

Key achievements:

- Stable participation with **measurable progress** in communication, regulation, and group functioning.
- 26% average improvement in shared attention.
- 30% reduction in challenging behaviors during musical activity.
- Establishment of a fixed ensemble and a repertoire of four group pieces.

Performances Three internal and one community performance, reaching ~75 people. Participants of Arcana, together with HP employees who support our center, held joint rehearsals and performed at an HP event.

The structured musical framework (opening rhythm, group practice, repertoire work, closure) proved especially effective in increasing participants' sense of security and competence.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...): *For detailed methodology, results, comparisons, and future recommendations, please see the full Evaluation Report attached.*

The Arcana program was evaluated across all participating Tsad Kadima centers using structured observations, staff questionnaires, comparative analysis with 2024 data, and qualitative feedback from participants.

The evaluation showed clear progression: participants moved from initial exposure to the instrument to intentional music-making in structured ensembles. Notable developments included:

- Increased frequency and quality of performances, both internally and in the community.
- Expansion of personalized accessibility solutions for participants with complex motor profiles.
- Growth in participants' self-perception as musicians and creators.

These results demonstrate the program's impact on independence, emotional wellbeing, and active participation.

We are deeply grateful to the Matanel Foundation for enabling the program's expansion into a multi-center initiative. Your support transformed music into a tangible source of resilience, dignity, and connection for youth and young adults with severe physical disabilities.

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

- Strengthening and expanding musical ensembles across all participating centers.
- Increasing musical complexity and deepening the shared repertoire, both individually and in ensemble settings.
- Continued development of physical and technological adaptations to ensure access for participants with the most complex motor profiles.
- Expanding the scope of public performances and community partnerships, further advancing social inclusion and changing public perceptions.

Looking ahead to 2026, the continuation of this progress is directly linked to the stability of the partnership that enabled the program's growth.

Ongoing support from the Matanel Foundation will allow Tsad Kadima not only to preserve the achievements of 2025, but to deepen their impact reaching more participants, strengthening musical excellence, and expanding the program's presence in the wider community. We view this continued collaboration as a shared commitment to dignity, inclusion, and the belief that meaningful artistic expression should be accessible to all.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as PDF documents) *List of participants, Evaluation and Financial Report are attached to the email sent with this activity report*

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. *JPG photos are attached to the email sent with this activity report*

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.

Please see our 5 minutes movie shareable and accessible at <https://youtu.be/LivBLt8d0zM>

5 short testimonies from the participants

Dvir – Special Education School, Rishon LeZion

"I have difficulty using my hand, but I wanted to play on my own. They adapted a table for me, and now I play independently, without anyone holding my hand. I press, I play the song, and I succeed. That makes me happy."

Robin – Special Education School, Rishon LeZion

"I tried playing other instruments before, but it was very hard. With Arcana, I can really play. I like sharing the instrument with a friend, it's much more fun together. This year, when my friends are in the group with me, I really look forward to coming."

Sarah – Adult Day Center, Jerusalem

"Learning to play the Arcana allows me to do something I truly love, something I never believed I would be able to do because of my disability."

Noa – Adult Day Center, Ness Ziona

"At first, I was afraid to perform in front of people. But when I play music, I feel that others are really listening to me."

Nir – Veteran Arcana Ensemble, Rishon LeZion

"When we turn our everyday stories into music, it feels like the song is really ours. I play the blues we created from my own experiences, and I can express feelings I couldn't put into words before. It makes me proud and connected to everyone in the group.

The song we wrote goes:

'Once I walked in East Rishon... went to the grocery store... there was a hole in the pavement... I tried to go around... and I fell. They came to help...'

Through the rhythm and repetition of the blues, our story becomes music—personal, honest, and shared with the group."