

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: Perach Zahav Matanel – Intergenerational Activities at Reuth's Affordable Housing

Year: 2025-2026

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: Perach Zahav Matanel – Intergenerational Activities at Reuth's Affordable Housing

Year of activity: 2025-2026 academic year

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Number of active participants in the program: 334

Estimated number of impacted participants: 540

This number includes the program's direct beneficiaries (residents, high school students, kindergarten children, and young professionals) as well as the children's and students' parents. While they do not participate in the program directly, they benefit from it because the program helps their children develop positive values.

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

This past year, Reuth's intergenerational program operated in partnerships with two local high schools and two local kindergartens. We have also developed new partnerships with a youth movement and the Antakarana Center. Program activities include weekly gardening activities with kindergarten and high school students, social visits from high school students, and special events such as holiday celebrations or workshops. In addition, one kindergarten is permanently based at Reuth, meaning that children come to Reuth almost every day.

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

The program's main achievement this year was the successful renewal of its partnerships with local high schools. Activities with one local high school began during the program's first

year, but had to be paused in the second year due to the war (see previous report for details). We are happy to report that this past year the activities not only resumed but expanded beyond their original scope, with the program now partnering with two local high schools. Below is a detailed description of the program's main activities over the past year.

Activities with high schools: Reuth partnered with local high schools on three types of intergenerational activities: gardening, social visits, and digital literacy workshops.

The gardening and social visits were carried out within the framework of "Bagrut Hevrat" -- a mandatory Ministry of Education program that requires high school students to complete extensive community service in order to receive a high school matriculation diploma. Ten students from the partnering high schools chose to complete their volunteer hours at Reuth. Four students come several times a week to work in Reuth's garden under the guidance of one of Reuth's residents and a professional gardening consultant. Together with several participating residents, the students maintain and beautify the space. An additional six students visit Reuth weekly to spend quality time with the residents in small groups or one-on-one. Activities include conversations, board games, assistance with technology, and more. Notably, many of Reuth's residents are Russian-speakers with limited Hebrew proficiency. Three of the participating students are also Russian-speakers, which allows residents who are sometimes unable to fully participate in structured activities due to language barriers to engage more comfortably and meaningfully in the program. By fostering conversation and connection across generations, these activities alleviate loneliness among the residents and allow students to learn from the wisdom of the older generation.

In addition to these visits, we also organized three digital literacy workshops that enabled students to introduce residents to AI tools and other digital technologies that have become increasingly essential to everyday life. The workshops helped strengthen the residents' digital confidence and independence. Unfortunately, this year, Reuth was unable to host high school students at its annual Yom HaShoah and Yom Hazikaron ceremonies. These days were only one or two weeks after the ceasefire with Iran came into effect, leaving little time for preparation. Likewise, the students and the residents were all still recovering from deeply traumatic months of war and had limited emotional capacity to participate in program activities.

Activities with kindergartens: This component of the program continued under the same successful model developed in previous years. Children from one local kindergarten visit Reuth's community garden weekly to participate in a range of activities, including planting seedlings, caring for plants, harvesting herbs and vegetables, and learning about the lifecycle of plants. The activity is consistently led by one of Reuth's residents, who has extensive gardening experience, with additional residents joining whenever they wish. In addition, the kindergarten children visit the residents' apartments on their birthdays to sing songs, bring small gifts, and make them feel valued and celebrated. This past year, the children also participated in a joint Tu B'Shvat celebration at Reuth that included singing, music, and planting activities. Each resident and child went home with a potted plant. Lastly, one kindergarten is permanently based at Reuth. While these children do not often participate in structured activities with the residents, their constant presence creates a lively atmosphere that helps the residents feel integrated into the local community rather than isolated from it as is often the case with seniors living in institutional settings. Collectively, activities with kindergarteners lift the residents' spirits, reduce feelings of loneliness, and contribute meaningfully to their emotional wellbeing.

For a detailed list of program activities and participants, see the attached Evaluation Report.

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

Reuth's in-house social worker regularly collects feedback on the program as part of her wellness checks with the residents. We are happy to report that the vast majority of our residents have participated in at least one intergenerational activity throughout the past year. One key strength of the program that the residents consistently mention is the wide range of activities and age groups involved, which allows them to choose the type of activity that feels most meaningful at the moment. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from residents points to the achievement of the program's core objectives: (i) enhancing the well-being of seniors residing at Reuth's affordable housing, (ii) easing their loneliness, and (iii) fostering the intergenerational transfer of knowledge. As previously mentioned, the main difference in this year's program was the resumption and expansion of activities with local high schools. Unfortunately, the relationship with the high-tech company that we established last year and had hoped to continue this year ultimately did not materialize. However, Reuth has recently established a new partnership with the Antakarana Center that will likely lead to the renewal of visits from young professionals (see question below for details).

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

This year marked the third and final year of the intergenerational program supported through the generous grant of the Matanel Foundation. Given the program's continued success and the profound impact it has had on the wellbeing of our residents, we are currently seeking funding from new donors to ensure that these activities can continue in the years ahead. In the coming year, we plan to continue the kindergarten and high school components of the program according to the same successful model described in this report. We will also expand the program through two new partnerships with the NOAM youth movement and the Antakarana Center, both of which have already resulted in successful activities. As part of the partnership with NOAM, eight youth movement members visited Reuth to spend quality time with small groups of residents. The Antakarana Center is a practical philosophy center that connects young professionals with meaningful volunteer opportunities. Through this partnership, a group of 13 young professionals has already visited Reuth during Hanukkah to light candles with the residents in their apartments and celebrate the holiday in a warm and familial atmosphere.

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.