

MATANEL FOUNDATION -Activity Report

July 2026

Dear Ms. Johanna Cohen and the members of the Matanel Foundation,

We are proud to present the activity report for the **second year** of the Matanel–Hibok (Hug) project, made possible by the generous and continued support of the Matanel Foundation.

This year the project grew in both scale and depth. Building on the foundations laid in year one, we widened the circles of beneficiaries and strengthened the model of personal accompaniment and human connection that stands at the heart of the program. We now reach **elderly people, families of reserve soldiers, people with disabilities and new communities** — including, for the first time, the Druze community in the Galilee.

Daphna Dovev, CEO · **Adi Moreh Schneider**, Chairwoman
Bemeitavi, The Ruth Vrobel Foundation

Name of the Program	"Hibok Haim" - Perach Zahav Matanel Project
Year of activity	Year Two – 2025 / 2026
Name of the report's writer	Daphna Dovev
Function of the report's writer	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
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Number of active participants in the program	102 healthcare students (scholarship recipients)
Estimated number of impacted participants	~290 – approx. 102 students and ~190 elderly people and family members accompanied

Current state of the program

In its second year, the program grew significantly in both scale and depth. It now engages **102 healthcare students** from universities and colleges across Israel — including Tel Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Emek Yezreel College — studying Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Art Therapy and other health professions. Each student receives a scholarship and, in return, provides **140 hours** of personal accompaniment to elderly people living with chronic illness and loneliness, with home visits, empathic listening, identifying needs and bridging participants to community resources.

The activity operates in **10 program sites across 8 cities and regions** — from Eilat in the south to Kiryat Shmona in the north — including Beersheba, Givatayim, Acre, Afula, the Menashe Regional Council and, for the first time, the **Druze community in Julis**, strengthening intergenerational and intercultural ties. In Afula, a dedicated track supports families of reserve soldiers coping with the prolonged effects of the war, and during the wartime escalation with Iran students mobilized to distribute respite and support kits to elderly citizens.

Main achievements during the year

- Scaled the program to **102 active students** and **10 program sites** nationwide, deepening reach versus year one.
- **Launched the first Druze cohort (Julis)** — ~20 local students building intergenerational ties with elderly Druze residents.
- **Widened the circle of beneficiaries** to families of reserve soldiers (Afula) and to younger people living with disabilities, recognizing that isolation is not defined by age alone.
- **Rapid wartime response** — students volunteered to distribute respite and support kits to elderly citizens during the escalation with Iran.
- **Accompanied ~190 elderly people and family members** through regular one-to-one home visits, with over 8,900 accompaniment hours logged by the mid-year reporting date and still accumulating toward the annual target.

Evaluation (methodology, results, conclusions)

The foundation conducts continuous evaluation and measurement throughout the year: quantitative tracking of accompaniment hours against the 140-hour target per student, ongoing supervision by a social worker for every cohort, and qualitative feedback from students and participants. Control questionnaires assess students' connection to their profession and satisfaction from the work, and participants' sense of loneliness and personal wellbeing.

Early results are strongly positive. Compared with year one, the program expanded its student base and geographic footprint and broadened the populations served. The recurring theme across every site is that the relationship itself is the intervention: students describe being called "another grandchild," becoming a participant's one weekly point of human contact, and looking forward to the visits as much as the participants do. The clear conclusion for the future is that

demand for personal, compassionate support keeps growing — and that entering new communities, while requiring trust-building, yields deep and lasting bonds.

“At the end of the visit she said she feels I’m another grandchild she has — and I was moved to hear it.” — Roni Avni, student (Emek)

Provisional guidelines for the next year

- Deepen the new community cohorts — in particular the Druze track — and sustain support for families affected by the war.
- Continue refining outcome measurement, adding structured loneliness and wellbeing indicators for participants and professional-connection indicators for students.
- Expand the circle of students and participants while protecting the one-to-one quality that stands at the heart of the model.
- Strengthen partnerships with municipalities and regional councils to extend the continuum of care.

Attachments

Submitted with this report: the financial report, Evaluation Report, the list of participating students and beneficiaries; and photos and a short film illustrating the activity.

A short film illustrating the activity: <https://youtu.be/1JMFQYiscuo>

With our gratitude and appreciation,

Daphna Dovev, CEO

Adi Moreh Schneider, Chairwoman