

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Hillel the Elder*
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: Hillel the Elder (called Zachor V'Chabed on several campuses)

Year of activity: 2025-2026

Name of the report's writer: Grace Baker

Function of the report's writer: Director of Development

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Number of active participants in the program: 42

Estimated number of impacted participants: 600

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

Students have now completed the volunteering component of the program, building meaningful one-on-one relationships with elderly Israelis, including Holocaust survivors, throughout the academic year. Participants visited survivors in their homes on a regular basis, providing companionship, practical assistance, and emotional support. During times of conflict, students continued to check on the well-being of the seniors they had been matched with and maintained contact whenever possible. In addition to individual visits, students organized and participated in initiatives such as delivering Purim care packages, assisting elderly residents with grocery shopping at the Mahane Yehuda Shuk, and visiting survivors around Holocaust Remembrance Day. Across the Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Be'er Sheva campuses, students completed the volunteering commitments for this cohort and are concluding the program with an expressed interest in continuing visiting with their senior beyond the program.

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

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Hillel students across Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Be'er Sheva built ongoing one-on-one relationships with elderly Israelis, including Holocaust survivors, through regular weekly visits. Students provided companionship, emotional support, and practical assistance while developing meaningful personal relationships with the seniors they visited. At Hillel Ben-Gurion in Be'er Sheva, students coordinated their visits directly with their assigned seniors, with support from a social worker when needed, and continued meeting with them throughout the year. At Hillel Tel Aviv, students continued checking on Holocaust survivors before, during, and after the war, adapting their visits to respond to the changing needs of the seniors.

Each campus also organized additional volunteer opportunities that complemented the one-on-one visits. At Hillel Tel Aviv, students delivered Mishloach Manot (holiday packages) to Holocaust survivors before Purim and later returned to check on their well-being following the war. At Hillel Ben-Gurion, students organized an Hanukkah initiative bringing together approximately 80 volunteers to visit around 40 Holocaust survivors' homes to light candles together. Additionally, students visited a Holocaust survivor before Yom HaShoah to hear her personal testimony. At Hillel Jerusalem, students volunteered often at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda Market, assisting elderly residents with grocery shopping, packaged food for families in need, and prepared Purim care packages for Holocaust survivors.

Students also expanded the impact of the program by leading initiatives that connected their volunteer experiences with the broader campus community. At Hillel Jerusalem, participants planned and implemented Zikaron BaSalon, reaching approximately 145 students on campus while raising awareness through social media. These projects gave participants the opportunity to share the stories and perspectives they encountered through their relationships with Holocaust survivors and local seniors.

Across all participating campuses, students completed their volunteer commitments while forming lasting relationships with the seniors they served. Many participants expressed a desire to continue volunteering with elderly Israelis and Holocaust survivors after the formal conclusion of the program.

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

Please see the attached Evaluation report. A few testimonials are included below:

"The meaningful experience I had during the program was the relationship with my survivor. Every week when I visit her, we become closer and closer. Without the program, I would never have met her."

Daniel (Hillel Tel Aviv) reflected after delivering Purim gift baskets:

"When we came to deliver Purim gift baskets, I realized that the most important thing I could do was simply be there for the survivors. It didn't matter what I brought. Giving them a sense of belonging and showing that people still care about them made me feel that I was making a real difference, and I want to continue volunteering in the future."

Similarly, Angwats (Hillel Haifa) shared:

"The program made me understand that not all Holocaust survivors are the same. More than anything, they want someone to listen to them, and I want to continue meeting and listening to Holocaust survivors."

Yuval (Hillel Ben-Gurion) reflected:

"My relationship with Rita is the most important and meaningful thing I gained from the program. I have much more motivation to volunteer and visit survivors."

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

Building on this year's success, we plan to continue the program in its current format, maintaining the emphasis on meaningful, long-term relationships between students and elderly participants. The combination of Holocaust education, one-on-one volunteering, and community engagement has proven to be an effective model for fostering both historical understanding and genuine intergenerational connection.

As an enhancement for the coming year, we hope to create a small keepsake booklet that will collect meaningful quotes, life lessons, memories, and practical advice shared by the participating seniors throughout the year. The booklet will serve as a lasting tribute to their experiences while preserving the wisdom and personal stories that students have the privilege of hearing during their visits. It will also provide participants with a tangible reminder of the relationships they built through the program.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as PDF documents)

List of Participants: Attached

Evaluation Report: Evaluation Report 2025-2026.docx

Financial Report - attached

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.

Attached