



קרן רש"י
Rashi Foundation



קרן מלגות ע"ש אפרים קציר

Katzir Scholarship Program

Empowerment Through Education

June 2008

In partnership with:



קרן יהל
YAHTEL
Foundation

In memory of Lavinia Beaman (I.S.A.)
בשם ייחודה לילאון רוסמאני זיל אנג'ל



קרן קיסריה
ע"ש הבית והשחיטה



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Chais Family
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קרן משפחת צ'ייס



פר"ח
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and academic institutes of higher education



Why Katzir?

The need

Higher education is a passport to social and economic advancement. However, the monetary cost and social and emotional challenges of student life put a college education beyond the grasp of many young adults in Israel. Research studies have shown that the best indicator of whether a child will attend university is whether his or her parents did, suggesting the tight connection between socio-economic background and academic opportunity.

Many young adults enroll for college but withdraw their registration because they have no solid funding sources. A large number of students drop out of college after the first year, many because of financial difficulties that compel them to find work and leave studies for later in life, if at all. Other students, who may have enrolled enthusiastically, drop out of college during the early years because they feel overwhelmed by the academic and financial demands of student life and lack the emotional support to buoy up their motivation.

Taking all this into consideration, the Rashi Foundation decided to invest major resources in facilitating higher education for population groups whose chances of acquiring a college or university education remain slim.

What is Katzir?

A brief introduction

The Rashi Foundation established the Katzir Scholarship Program in 2000, named after Ephraim Katzir, Israel's fourth president and one of the first members of the Foundation's board of directors. The goal of the program is to help young adults from disadvantaged populations acquire a higher education by providing them with financial and emotional support for the duration of their college or university studies.

In its first year, the program reached out to 200 students. During the current academic year (2007-8), there are almost 1,400 Katzir scholars at more than 20 institutes of higher education around the country.

Colleges

Achva Academic College | Achva College of Education | Ashkelon Academic College | David Yellin Academic College of Education | Holon Academic Institute of Technology | Jerusalem Academic College of Engineering | Jezreel Valley Academic College | Kinneret Academic College | Machon Lev School of Technology | Oranim Academic College | ORT Braude Academic College of Engineering | Rupin Academic Center | Safed Academic College | Safed College of Nursing | Sami Shamoon Academic College of Engineering | Sami Shamoon College of Technology | Sapir Academic College | Tel Hai Academic College | Western Galilee Academic College

Universities

Bar-Ilan University | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | Haifa University | Open University - Be'er Sheva Campus | Tel Aviv University



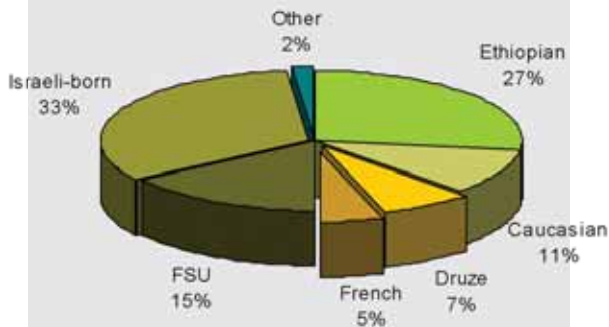
Who are the Katzir students?

Target groups

The original target groups of the scholarship program are students of Ethiopian, Caucasian Mountain, or Druze origin, who have completed their military or national service and have registered to study technology, engineering, education, nursing, criminology, social work, communications and film, or computer science at a regional academic college. Various socio-economic and cultural factors mean that young adults from these communities tread a rocky and slippery path to higher education.

However, while Katzir remains focused on these groups, the program has extended over the years to include other populations that are under-represented in higher education, such as: residents of development towns and of the periphery, lone soldiers, single mothers, immigrants.

Katzir has become a vehicle for supporting students whose lives may be shaped by diverse circumstances, yet who face similar obstacles and challenges when they embark on higher education studies



What do students gain from Katzir?

Program components

- An annual living stipend to help cover the costs of bed and board, educational materials and other daily expenses.
- The services of a program coordinator at the college, who is on hand to help with any difficulty - be it personal, financial, academic or social.
- Academic support and cultural enrichment, (funded jointly by the higher education institute and the Katzir program) amounting to NIS 2,300 per student. This component is managed centrally by the Katzir coordinator for all the students at the same college, and granted according to need.
- In some cases, tuition fees for those students not eligible for grants from governmental or other sources.
- A chance to give back to the community in a structured and significant way through regular, supervised community work. The Perach Tutorial Project, the academic institutes and various programs of the Rashi Foundation are instrumental in coordinating and funding the students' voluntary work.



What distinguishes Katzir from other scholarships?

A unique solution for underprivileged students

Katzir is one of the only scholarship programs that provides **a scholarship for the duration of studies** (on condition that the student does not transfer, and generally complies with the program's terms) and does not require students to reapply every year. This feature means that students can concentrate on their studies in the knowledge that they have ongoing financial support.

Each Katzir student is allocated a sum (paid for jointly by the college and by the program) for **cultural and academic enrichment**, which is expended on an as-needs basis. A student, for example, who requires extra tutoring for English, will benefit from free lessons out of this allocation. Theater shows, computer courses and trips to historic sites are other sample offerings, which vary from college to college.

The main condition of the scholarship is that the student commits to engaging in at least four hours a week of **community volunteer work**, in an activity that matches his or her skills and interests, and is needed in the community. This volunteer work builds confidence and skills, educates towards social responsibility, and can leave a positive imprint for life on the student.

As many of these students are the first members of their family

to pursue higher education, the **Katzir coordinator** is a valuable advisor on all matters related to student life, offering sympathetic and friendly support to help maintain students' morale and solve everyday problems. The coordinator ensures that the students' volunteer work is providing satisfaction to the student and benefit to the recipient, and is in charge of planning the cultural and academic enrichment component for the Katzir students at the college.

The Katzir program arranges **conferences and seminars** that bring students together from all over the country, from various fields of study and interest, offering stimulating and topical presentations by leading Israeli figures, and the opportunity to mingle and learn from each other. These gatherings play a part in bolstering the students' motivation, giving them the feeling that "they are not alone".



How has Katzir managed to expand?

Opening new tracks through partnership development

The engine driving Katzir's expansion from 200 to 1,400 students is the network of partnerships that has developed around the program.

The Rashi Foundation continues to provide funding and direct the financial and organizational administration that operates all aspects of the program - recruiting students and coordinators, paying out scholarships, reaching agreements with the colleges, etc. Cooperation with other philanthropic foundations and with social organizations has enabled the Katzir program to reach out to new target groups in additional institutes of higher education, to open the following tracks:



Students from Ethiopian, Caucasian Mountain and Druze communities

| Classic Katzir |

A greater number of students from these first target groups of Katzir have benefited from the participation of the **Leon Recanati Yahel Foundation**

and the **Perach Tutorial Project**. Over the years, the program has extended to students from these communities taking a degree at university, and those continuing on to a Masters degree.

Scope 2007-8: 350 students

Target 2008-9: 450 students

Annual scholarship: NIS 6,000 (50% paid by Perach for up to 300 students) + NIS 2,300 for academic-cultural enrichment (30% paid by college).

Single mothers

Young women from socio-economically deprived backgrounds who juggle single-parenthood with

studies face many difficulties and require multi-faceted support to help them succeed in their dream to finish college. Katzir has recently expanded to this target group with the help of **Fundacion Dorset, Matanel Foundation** and **ISEF**.

Scope 2007-8: 120 students

Target 2008-9: 180 students

Annual scholarship: NIS 16,000 (average, includes tuition fees) + NIS 2,300 for academic-cultural enrichment (30% paid by college).



The Classic Katzir program has opened this new track in order to tap the potential of young adults from disadvantaged homes, who have a sense of social responsibility and a zest for social change, and wish to develop their leadership skills during their student years. They participate in a special training program that has been developed with the input of **Hillel, IsraCorps** and **Mi'Mizrach Shemesh**, meeting at least twice a month to explore and analyze social issues and solutions. In parallel, they plan and operate a social project in the community to build their practical experience.

Scope 2007-8: 120 students

Target 2008-9: 200 students

Annual scholarship: NIS 7,500 on average + NIS 2,300 for academic-cultural enrichment (30% paid by college).

Student leaders

| Katzir Leadership Program |



College returnees | "Shalechet" |

Young adults, who dropped out of studies just before or during their final year for financial reasons, return to complete courses and graduate.

Scope 2007-8: 40 students

Target 2008-9: 60 students

Annual scholarship: NIS 4,000

Students of Ethiopian origin in pre-academic course for engineering studies

The **Chais Family Foundation** funds the ongoing living and social expenses for this group studying at Sami Shamon Academic College of Engineering in Be'er Sheva.

Scope 2007-8: 23 students

Target 2008-9: 43 students

Annual scholarship: According to the individual needs of the student.

| "Chomesh Aleh" |

Students from underprivileged homes at the Jerusalem College of Engineering and Sapir College

| Aviv |

Scholarships are provided by the **Caesarea Foundation**, which makes use of the Katzir organizational infrastructure for the operation of the program.

Annual scholarship: NIS 9,000 on average + NIS 2,300 for academic-cultural enrichment (30% paid by college).

Students from the periphery

The **Academia** project assists high-school students in the periphery graduate school with matriculation

of the standard required for higher education. After military service, Academia and Katzir continue to support the Academia pupils throughout their college or university career.

Scope 2007-8: 115 students (including 18 graduates of Academia's high school program)

Target 2008-9: 180 students

Annual scholarship: NIS 10,000 on average, to meet the individual needs of the student + NIS 2,300 for academic-cultural enrichment (30% paid by college).

Students who assist families with blind members

Cooperation with the **Aleh Society for Blind Students in Israel** has resulted in scholarships available for discharged soldier students whose community work consists of assisting sighted children of blind parents, or blind children.

Scope 2007-8: 45 students

Target 2008-9: 45 students

Annual scholarship: NIS 5,000 on average

Students who live in newly-developed communities as part of the **Ayalim Association's** mission to develop the periphery and encourage long-term residency there, receive scholarships in return for significant community work.

Scope 2007-8: 50 students

Target 2008-9: 50 students

Annual scholarship: NIS 10,000.

French immigrants

Katzir offers scholarships to immigrants from French-speaking countries, studying for first or second degrees, who are not eligible for assistance from the Student Authority.

Scope 2007-8: 65 students

Target 2008-9: 65 students

Annual scholarship: NIS 6,000 on average + NIS 2,300 for academic-cultural enrichment (30% paid by college).

Residents of student villages



Where does Katzir go from here?

Strategic directions to deepen impact

The Rashi Foundation continues to invest efforts in consolidating existing tracks, while exploring the needs of additional under-served population groups who are denied access to higher education because of socio-economic reasons.

In 2008-9 we are launching a new track for the **graduates of youth villages and boarding schools**, thanks to the generous enlistment of a new partner. Young adults who have spent a considerable part of their childhood and adolescence away from their biological families need immense support when they take the courageous decision to attend college. During its pilot year, Katzir will reach out to 50 students in this track.

Single mothers have been identified as a group that faces extraordinary challenges on their path to achieving an academic qualification. The track opened two years ago with 10 students; this year there are 120 scholarship recipients. We intend not only to expand the track to reach more single mothers, but also to include elements such as financial aid for exceptional needs, a

professionally-led peer support group, supplementary English lessons, and the option of spreading academic studies across four years - needs which have emerged from the field, requests of the students themselves, to facilitate their progress through college.

A relatively small investment can achieve a life-changing impact in the case of **students who drop out** towards the end of their college career. Working in coordination with the colleges, who provide the data regarding the drop-outs, we plan to expand this track so that the strains of financial hardship are eased for college returnees.

There is also a call from the colleges and the students to expand the **Katzir Leadership Program**, which gives an enormous boost to those young adults who are naturally built for social leadership but whose circumstances are not conducive to their pursuing this direction in life. This track enables them to continue with their academic studies while developing their inclination and talent for social change.

We invite individuals, foundations, corporations and federations who have an interest in equalizing opportunities for social mobility in all parts of Israeli society to join the Rashi Foundation in supporting the expansion of the Katzir Scholarship Program.



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The **Rashi Foundation** is one of the leading private family foundations in Israel. Established in 1984, the Foundation is dedicated to assisting the underprivileged in Israel, focusing on children, youth and special-needs populations in the geographic and social periphery of Israeli society. We concentrate our efforts on three related areas of activity – education, social welfare and health.

About Rashi

Prof. Ephraim Katzir

Eminent scientist and the fourth President of the State of Israel Ephraim Katzir was born in Kiev, Russia in 1916, and immigrated to Israel with his family in 1922. After graduating from the Hebrew Gymnasium in Jerusalem in 1933, he studied – and later taught – biochemistry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 1949 he was among the first scientists to join the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, where he headed the Biophysics Department. In 1959 he was awarded the Israel Prize in life sciences, and in 1966 he was the first Israeli to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences (USA). During 1966-1969 he served as Chief Scientist of the IDF. In April 1973 he was elected President of Israel, and in this capacity he hosted President Anwar Sadat of Egypt on his historic visit to Jerusalem in November 1977

Contact Information

Ronit Segelman Director of Partnerships, Rashi Foundation
ronits@rashi.org.il | +972-8-9146610

Michael Chen General Director, Association for Change in Education
taf_chen@rashi.org.il | +972-8-9146645

Shaya Imagor Director, Katzir Scholarship Program
shaya@rashi.org.il | +972-8-9146662

Rashi Foundation
Kfar Hanoar Ben-Shemen 73112, Israel
Phone: +972-8-9146600
Fax: +972-8-9219404
E-mail: rf@rashi.org.il
www.rashi.org.il

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