



friends of
ofanim
Impact Report



*The story of Ofanim began
long before its founding*



Haim Dahan

Haim Dahan, Ofanim's founder, grew up in a disadvantaged neighborhood in Be'er Sheva. As a young child, Haim met Professor Bergman, a renowned computer science professor, who invited young Haim to visit his computer lab at Ben Gurion University. After six visits, Haim's life changed forever.

This exposure to the world of science and technology at a young age inspired Haim to a lifelong career. After his army service, he completed a BA and MA in computer science at Ben Gurion University, then pursued his PhD in the US, where he lived for 14 years. After building and selling a successful software company, Haim returned to Israel. He knew he wanted to be involved in empowering children from the most peripheral towns and villages in Israel, to ignite their imagination the same way Professor Bergman did for him.

Haim founded Ofanim in 2004 in his hometown Be'er Sheva, with an innovative idea. He converted a bus into a mobile classroom with advanced technological equipment. The first mobile lab served 60 children with after-school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) enrichment programs in four groups.

Shortly thereafter a group of Americans led by Paul Silberberg founded "Friends of Ofanim", to match Israeli fundraising in a 50-50 partnership.

The demand for Ofanim's activities increased continuously among local communities in Israel's periphery. By 2008 Ofanim was operating in four communities with four mobile labs, serving 490 children each week. Ofanim then inaugurated a new branch in the northern periphery.

In 2009 Ofanim was awarded the Minister of Social Affairs Shield for its significant activity in remote communities in Israel. It then reached about 1,000 children in 17 local municipalities every week.

*Equal Opportunity For the
Next Generation*



In 2015, while reaching 1,600 children in 86 groups a week, the organization received Midot's Seal of Effectiveness for creating social value and bringing positive change in the lives of the children, families and communities in which it operated.

A year later Ofanim joined the "5X2" national initiative. This Ministry of Education project aimed to multiply the number of students who reached five matriculation units in mathematics and scientific subjects. This is the highest such level and usually a prerequisite to pursue higher education in science and engineering. Ofanim's results have demonstrated that exposure to these subjects at an early age gives children a stronger probability (3X) that they will continue in these fields.

In 2018 Ofanim marked 10 years of cooperation with the Technion in the "Ofanim in Academia" program, and expanded that model to the southern region in cooperation with the Ben Gurion University of Be'er Sheva.

At the same time, Ofanim began collaborating with Tel-Aviv University in a program where an Ofanim training coordinator accompanies sixth graders and their teachers in a comprehensive scientific research process.

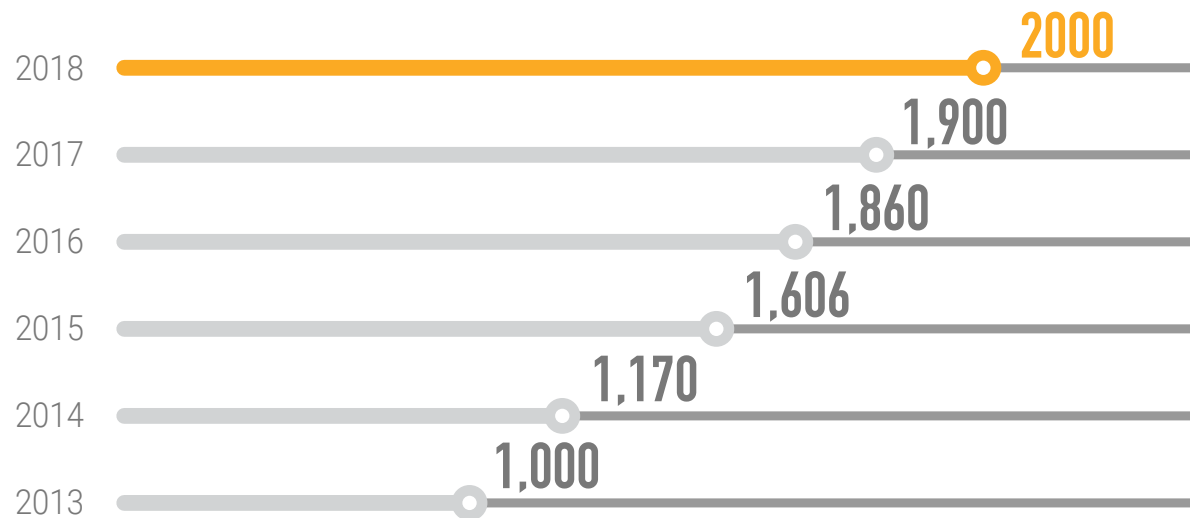
In 2019 Ofanim celebrated its 15th anniversary. 25,000 graduates have participated in its programs since inception. Every week the organization now brings high standard STEM programs to 55 communities, serving 2000 children in 118 study groups.



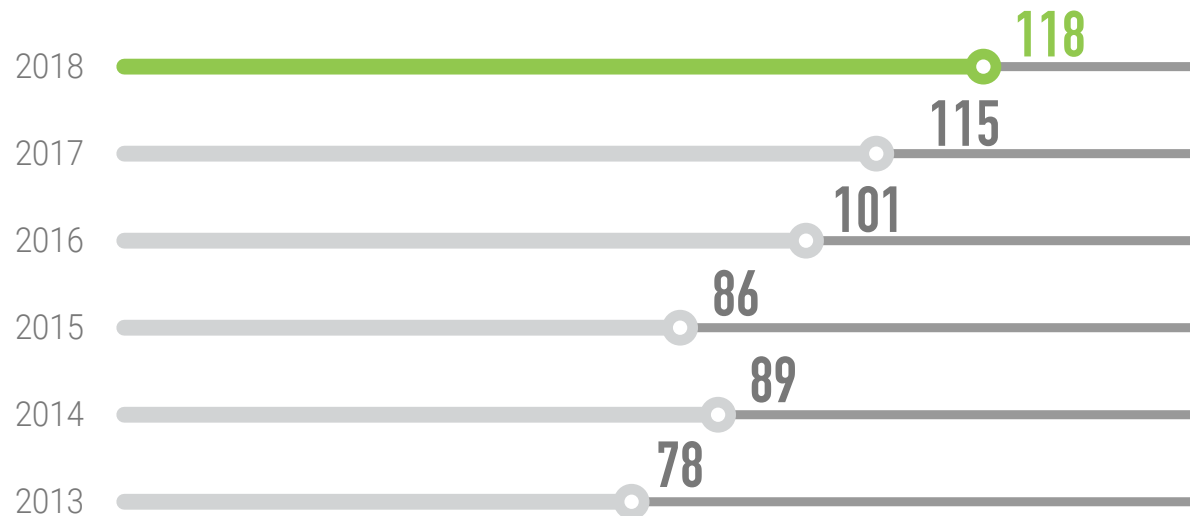
OFANIM GROWTH



NUMBER OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN OFANIM'S PROGRAMS | 2019 DATA



NUMBER OF ACTIVE GROUPS | 2019 DATA



MATH



BIOLOGY



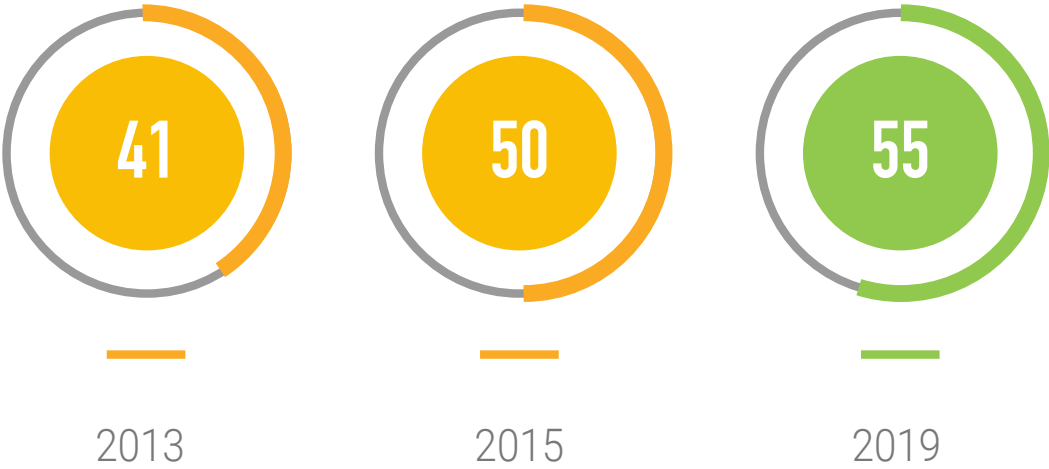
PHYSICS



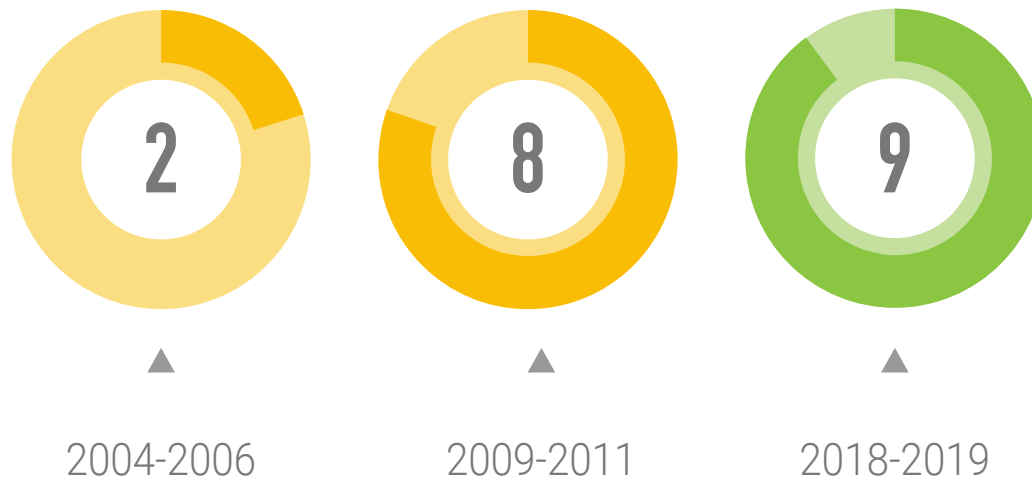




NUMBER OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES



NUMBER OF MOBILE AND MINI LABS



TESTIMONIALS



Dotan, an Ofanim graduate.

"Ofanim had the answers for all my curiosity. They exposed me to new great worlds. Ofanim had a major contribution to the path I took. They led me to academia and I can clearly point out the fact that Ofanim raised my self-esteem.

This experience enabled me to secure my social status, and built me as a young social leader."



Shoshi, Mother of an Ofanim child and a participant in the Parents course.

"The holistic solutions that Ofanim provides for the children and the communities in which they live in, will help them grow and flourish while starting their independent lives."



Ruthi, Head of Pais Center, Ofakim.

"Thank you Ofanim for the initiative, educational activity and equality of opportunities for the children of the periphery. Thanks to your professional work and the pleasure of working with you, the demand is continuously increasing."

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