



Amutat Kaima

Activity Report

(January - December 2019)



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Kaima – Sustaining the Land, Sustaining the Individual

Since our founding in 2013, Kaima has been making a difference in the lives of young Israelis who have dropped out of school, redirecting them to positive endeavor and engaging the general community in the process. To date, we have provided alternative education through farm employment to hundreds of young people, many lost and alone, some homeless and addicted to drugs. Approximately 80% return to normative school settings within six months on the farm, with a majority motivated to pursue matriculation and army/national service--social commitments important to advancement in Israel society. In 2019, nearly 40 boys and girls entered the program.

Our educational reach also extends to thousands of volunteers and visitors. Last year, approximately 1,000 people of all ages and backgrounds took part in our fun, hands-on agricultural programs. These activities, many led by our young farmers, encourage environmentally responsible consumerism and provide the experiences and tools for individuals to lead in matters of earth-care in their own communities.

How do we do it? Well, in large measure through the international Consumer Supported Agricultural model. By selling our harvest directly to the public, we generate a continual income flow that allows us to pay our young farmers and help support our educational initiatives. Key to our financial ecosystem are our philanthropic partners whose support allows us to dream and extend our reach to others. We are happy to report that in 2019, following a multi-year lobbying process, Kaima finally secured an agreement with the Ministry of Welfare whose financial participation will enable our prototype farm to appreciably increase the number of youth we can help and further legitimize Kaima's unique educational and cost-sharing model.

We hope you enjoy our 2019 report below which summarizes our double impact as we redirect troubled youth to positive endeavor and promote healthy local food sourcing.

The Kaima Team



Kaima is setting a new standard in the delivery of both human and community resources

2019 Prototype Mother Farm Highlights

- ☼ Welcomed an additional 39 new young farmers, bringing to 325 the number of boys and girls who have taken part in our long-term young farmer employment program.
- ☼ Celebrated with 9 graduates as they went on to pre-army preparation courses or to perform army/national service at the age of 18. Another 17 under the age of 18 returned to school and/or assumed other work, accomplishments of which we are incredibly proud.
- ☼ Laid the groundwork to expand our complementary programming to prepare youth for matriculation and further develop employment skills.
- ☼ Organized our annual three-day team-building trip to Israel's southern Arava desert, an incredibly inhospitable region which against all odds is home to some 600 farms supplying more than 60% of Israeli exports of fresh vegetables.
- ☼ Facilitated increased training programs for our Israel network farms and organized a two-day retreat at our sister farm, Kaima Hukuk.
- ☼ Expanded our acreage and experimented with new crops, including snow peas, cherries and melons.
- ☼ Utilized our offsite greenhouse, located at Jerusalem's Botanical Gardens, to grow crops requiring protection, tinker with experimental agricultural practices, and host community groups.
- ☼ Increased our customer base by 14% and expanded delivery points around Jerusalem and its environs. More than 500 households now receive weekly baskets grown by our intergenerational farm team.
- ☼ Completed construction of our Visitor Center.
- ☼ Hosted open day holiday programming on Sukkot for approximately 300 visitors who enjoyed farm tours, food, arts and crafts, and music.
- ☼ Increased our food donation program to needy families and non-profit aid organizations.
- ☼ Provided a platform for other local farmers and kibbutzim to sell their organic products including honey, olive oil, nuts, apple cider vinegar, fruit juices, bread, and a range of condiments.
- ☼ Installed protective fencing to ward off wild pigs and constructed shade netting to protect our plants and ourselves!

On the farm we embrace the rhythm of nature's seasons as a metaphor for human growth.

Kaima - Investing in the Young Person

Kaima's employment-as-education programming is a highly effective tool for the young person who cannot relate to conventional educational settings. Youth who might languish in the classroom flourish on the farm, which can be used to teach any subject, including civics, math, geometry, geography, history, ethics, and more. And whereas the salary our young farmers earn is initially the great motivator, in time the young person is deeply engaged and challenged. When this happens, curiosity becomes its own reward as the young person begins to feel his or her value. In 2019, Kaima provided:

- ⚙️ Fulltime employment for 55 youth who also benefitted from 750 hours of training in our sophisticated onsite wood and metal workshop and 250 hours of offsite vocational training and certificate-granting internships which included courses in professional tractor operation, lifeguarding, therapeutic horseback instruction, audio engineering, and computer science
- ⚙️ Numerous opportunities for the young person to assume important leadership roles on the farm. For example, one youth took over green-leaf agriculture (including planning, ordering plants, and oversight of cultivating and harvesting). Another was responsible for managing our general agricultural activities, while others took responsibility for our water system and our packing house/warehouse.
- ⚙️ Access to a unique intergenerational approach that provides opportunities for young people and adults to come together to share mutually beneficial experiences, knowledge, and skills and foster positive long-term relationships – something missing for many of the youth with whom we work.



In Kaima's workshop



Enjoying Chanukah sufganiot!



Harvest Day!

*Kaima saw me when I didn't see myself. The farm and its team knew when I was giving up...and didn't let it happen.
That is the greatest gift you can receive.*

Enrichment Rounds out the Experience

Sometimes it is important to take a break from the daily challenges of agricultural work. Learning, developing awareness of the larger community, and having fun help youth establish positive and rewarding relationships with others.



Kaima visit to Shalva, Israel's leading NGO that reaches out to special needs people of all ages and their families.



Farmers on surfboards? Yes! Every summer the farm team enjoys sea surfing with NGO HaGal Sheli (My Wave)



Intergenerational outdoor jamming session



Learning from local chef about Slow Food movement

A Day in the Life of a Kaima Farmer

What is a typical day on the farm like? Well, there's actually no such thing. Farm work is never ending and always exciting. Daily tasks may include surveying the land to check for overnight damage by animals and insects, planting, harvesting, determining crop rotation, weeding, fixing irrigation and fencing, and of course making sure we deliver to our 500+ customers each week. All responsibilities are shared by Kaima's intergenerational farm team, which begins each day with a planning meeting and ends with a shared meal with fresh fruit and veggies from our fields.



Charting rainfall and making projections



Celebrating the arrival of our first snow peas



Farming between the raindrops



A village of dwarf mushrooms sets up home in the shade of our hearty celery forest! "Nature's volunteers" have much to teach.



Learning the art of making your bed!



Planning ahead means planting winter crops like cauliflower in the fall

Kaima – Investing in the Community



Six months after transitioning from hydroponic farming to traditional growing, veggies in our offsite greenhouse are thriving in a great combination of soil, coconut fiber, and organic compost. The success of the undertaking demonstrates how urban farming is good for the community.



Kaima has developed an array of programming which encourages individuals and communities to reflect on the local food chain, adopt eco-friendly lifestyles and make a difference in their own communities, in both large and small ways.



Kaima takes part in 2019 Good Deeds Day, a global event to unite people around the world to do good deeds for the benefit of others and the planet.



Kaima, modeling the values of Tzedekah and Tikkun Olam, donates weekly food parcels those in need.

Media Corner

- 🌻 In March 2019, Channel 11 newscast featured interviews with two of our young farmers (Faigy and Chananya), which brought wide public attention to the power of the farm in the lives of young people. [CLICK](#)
- 🌻 Packing Day Video. Crazy stuff! [CLICK](#)

We are family!

Like our veggies, we are growing all the time. We invite you to check out any of our sister farms...they love visitors!



Kaima Beerotayim Founders
The Shevach Family



Kaima Hukuk Founder
Efrat Noy



Kaima Nahalal Founder
Merav Carmi



Kaima Tanzania Founder
Fabian Bulugu



Kaima + You = Socially Responsible Agriculture