



VOLUNTEENS

Creating an inclusive community



VOLUNTEENS is an app that connects kids and young people with and without autism based on location and shared interests, thus helping to relieve social isolation for both. Furthermore, organizations and municipalities will have the option to use the application as a tool for managing and organizing their audience and volunteers .

The Problem

Children and youth with autism suffer from social distancing and isolation all the time. Most of the time they have difficulties making new friends among their natural surroundings and age group. At the same time, many typical children and youth have a hard time finding places where they can be meaningful.

The Solution

Connecting children and youth with autism and typical youth who want to volunteer based on location and interests. The shared interests will create a meeting revolving around strengths and not weaknesses, thus forming a familiar and comfortable setting. The common location will create an inclusive community. **VOLUNTEENS** will make information and knowledge about the autistic spectrum more accessible. We provide guidance for the first meeting with the parent, tools for meaningful meetings and a virtual community.

The Team

- Amit Yizraeli**
CEO & CMO a social entrepreneur, manager of the inclusion department in Hanoar Ha'Oved Ve'Halomed, managed the marketing department at NOAL.
- Gal Icek**
PM&Research Managed thousands of volunteers, assistant to NAAMAT's speaker, Owner of a successful digital store.
- Omer Bental**
CTO Information Systems and Analytics manager in a large non-profit in Israel, freelance programmer.

Technology

VOLUNTEENS is an app written in react-native communicating with a REST API backend written in python using the Django Rest Framework. The database we will be using is PostgreSQL deployed on AWS RDS.

The Market

There are around 15,000 children and youth with autism in Israel. There are around 1,000,000 youth in Israel between the ages of 14-18. 53% of typical youth in Israel don't volunteer, 40% of these claim that they don't volunteer because they don't know who to contact or that nobody suggested it to them. Organizations that are interested in expanding their service capabilities and identity through the app: Alut, Ilan, Akim, youth movements & organizations, Big Brother - Big Sister, Israel community center network, 257 municipalities in Israel.

Competition

There are few volunteering apps, all of them are general and non-specific, with a small user base. There are organizations and youth movements that arrange group activities, with practically no one-on-one meetings.

Business Model

We are aiming for a sustainable model, to open the gates to new organizations and municipalities we need 200,000 NIS. To make a significant impact and reach 50 organizations and municipalities we need 500,000 NIS. These are the crucial resources for us to continue our work, and will let us develop a more mature business model in the upcoming year.

Status

We have a functioning MVP and are prepared for a first pilot. We are in contact with the municipality of Karmiel, which has shown immense interest in our product. Our main obstacle is how to vet the volunteers and the families before the first meeting. This is a decisive factor that we are aiming to solve during the MVP. We are making contact with other organizations and municipalities.

What We Need

2-3 municipalities or organizations that would like to start a pilot with us, in exchange for a 5-year discount for the fully fledged product. Supporters and donors who will help us stand on our feet for the first year until we reach sustainability.