



## United Hatzalah of Israel

### *Highlights of the week in Israel*

3 April 2008

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

United Hatzalah volunteers from all over Israel salute the southern branch for their outstanding devotion. Hatzalah in the south has been under constant attack for many months and continues relentlessly to save lives in the cities of Sderot, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Netivot, and the entire southern Israel.

Volunteers of Hatzalah are also still dealing with horrific car accidents, many of which, tragically, result in fatalities.

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

Chief coordinator

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### **Jerusalem**

14.03.08

At the Shmuel HaNavi intersection, a worker was trapped under an avalanche of sand and rocks. United Hatzalah arrived on the scene, rescued the worker from beneath the rubble after which he was taken to the hospital for care.



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### **Karmiel**

17.03.2008

A young man fell from a high altitude; after being treated by United Hatzalah volunteers, he was flown out by MDA helicopter to Rambam hospital nearby.



## Once Again (!) Beit Shemesh Car Accident

16.03.2008

Many accidents have taken place on the Beit Shemesh Road (Route 38), especially on Fridays, when everyone is rushing home. At 16:40 this past Friday, United Hatzalah volunteers responded, once again, to a terrible car accident on that road.

The volunteers treated 14 injured; 2 of the passengers are in critical condition. The family from the first car was on the way to Jerusalem for Shabbat when they collided with an oncoming vehicle.

The husband and wife who were injured along with their children are the son and grandchildren of Rabbi Goldstein, head of Sharei Yosher Yeshiva in Har Nof.



## Drive Carefully!

19.03.2008

United Hatzalah volunteers responded to an emergency car accident when a woman was run down while crossing the street in the Ramot neighborhood in Jerusalem.

The car which hit her was on its way to pick up a bride and groom to take them to their wedding.

The woman who was critically wounded and was taken to Hadassah Hospital for treatment.

## Purim Highlights-2008

### Purim heat wave

23.03.2008

The heat wave which struck Israel over Purim caused many casualties; most of the injured were individuals who were outdoors in the heat for a prolonged amount of time and many combined the heat factor with the additional complication of drinking alcoholic beverages.

“Purim is that time where the emergency pager doesn’t stop. We get all kind of calls on this



day,” explains Zeev Kashash, volunteer chairman of United Hatzalah “The emergency calls are somewhat similar every year, most of them are about passed-out drunks who are in need of medical care. Then, of course, there are the children who insist on playing with the dangerous fire crackers and get injured in the process.

“Purim is also a time of many more car accidents; people are generally light-headed and tend to lose their concentration on the road as well,” Kashash adds.

Yerach Toker explains: “The combination of the heat and the heavy Purim drinking caused bad results.”

While the heat wave forced most people to stay indoors, many youth who were partying had a bit too much alcohol; they didn’t feel the heat and didn’t drink enough water, which caused them to dehydrate.

“Each year on Purim we have hundreds of calls about people who faint as a result of over-drinking, but this year the added factor of the heat caused many casualties.”

United Hatzalah volunteers responded to hundreds of calls on the day of Purim—mostly of drunks - all around Israel.



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## And this year's Favorite Purim costume is...

Dressing up on Purim day is always fun but “Dressing up as my neighbor, a Hatzalah man is what I was waiting for all year,” six-year-old Yair Cohen from Tel Aviv enthusiastically proclaimed.

“Many children in the neighborhood came to me to ask for a vest, a cap or anything I can give them to complete the costume” says Miri Pollack, a Hatzalah volunteer’s wife from Jerusalem. Attached are some pictures as caught on camera.

It’s never too old or young to want to save a life...

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## Purim Party

As in every year, the volunteers of United Hatzalah from all over Israel gathered together to celebrate life with a large Purim party.

Volunteers from all over Israel, including Haifa, Tzfat, and even Beer Sheva made the effort to join this bonding and very unique party.

“Every time the pager went off, you heard it beeping in every pocket. It was like a big echo,” laughs Zeev Sofer, one of the volunteers present.

“People were dancing and singing and there was a general feeling of achievement to see literally hundreds of volunteers from all over Israel come together as one,” says Zeev Kashash, the



chairman of United Hatzalah.

As one of the volunteers summed it up :”I usually see this amount of volunteers when there is a terror attack, G-D forbid. It’s nice to see everyone finally together on this happy occasion. I hope to see everyone only in places such as this.”

All we have to say in response to his words is “AMEN”!

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## United Hatzalah South

18.03.2008

A special salute/ Purim party to Hatzalah Darom, the United Hatzalah South volunteers, took place in Ashdod. This evening was arranged to elevate the spirit of the southern volunteers who deal with tremendous pressure on a daily basis, volunteering in Sderot, Ashkelon and all over the south.

Over 300 volunteers and their wives attended the affair, including many rabbis who honored the ceremony with their presence.



Amongst them were:

Member of Parliament - Moshe Gafni

Minister of Religious Affairs - Yitchak Cohen

Mayor of the City of Ashdod - Mr. Tzvi Tzilker

As well as:

Rabbi Chaim Pinto, Shlita

Rabbi of Ashdod - Rabbi Yosef Shanin

Rabbi of Ashkelon - Rabbi Yosef Blau

Rabbi Yitchaz Batzrie

And the head of Hatzalah branches from all over Israel

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**Thank you to all who have given us the opportunity to continue our work.**

**We hope you will continue to support us in the future.**

**United Hatzalah** is the largest emergency rescue volunteer organization in Israel which, working hand in hand with MDA has the endorsement of the leading Rabbis in Israel.

**United Hatzalah** has branches in almost every city in Israel from the Golan Heights in the north to Eilat in the south.