



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel 1 March 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are back once again with our weekly highlights.

These past few weeks the situation has escalated immensely in the north of Israel.

Katyushot are being shot at Israeli civilians without a stop, injuring and killing innocent bystanders.

United Hatzalah volunteers/Hatzalah South, headed by coordinator Yussie Weisenstern, are giving it all they've got in Sderot Netivot and Ashkelon, running from scene to scene to help the terrified, wounded men, woman, and children.

I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to these volunteers who chose, voluntarily, to face these scenes 24/7.

For information about United Hatzalah, please log on to our new web site:

www.unitedhatzalah.org

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

War in the south

The massive IDF operation deep within Gaza Strip territory over the weekend did not stop the hundreds of rockets launched by Palestinians which continued to land in the western Negev area and Ashkelon.

Tens of people were wounded and many others suffered shock after Qassam rockets landed in Sderot and western Negev communities.

“You grow so used to hearing about the rockets on the news it starts to blend into your ear until you actually go out there. Thousands of people are living in complete terror, they have no where to escape to, their home is no longer safe” says Yehuda Hertzog who has traveled in to Sderot from Jerusalem to help the volunteers in that area.

“We see little children who are considered “not injured”, they are not even mentioned on the media, yet they suffer terrible shock after every Katyusha falls” says United Hatzalah volunteer



from Sderot. “We end up running from location to location depending on where the Katyusha fell; I find that my thoughts go racing while we are running to the scene, thinking of what I might find at the site.”

The volunteers, who at first were stationed in Sderot, are now splitting their time between Sderot, Ashkelon, and Netivot, a community who has suffered from the rockets as well.

For the community

A massive safety education campaign is underway to raise public awareness about the danger of children’s Purim-time explosive devices.

As the holiday of Purim approaches, hundreds of stores all around Israel display the little bomb gadgets that make loud noises, which seem innocent but are unfortunately very dangerous.

Each year, United Hatzalah responds to tens of emergency calls involving children who are severely burned as a result of these gadgets. Last year, a child almost lost an arm in this way! United Hatzalah, together with Mishpacha newspaper, is trying to put an end to this. Children can enter a special raffle and can win MP3s, CDs and many other prizes if they send in a signed note from their parents stating that they didn’t use these dangerous gadgets.

United Hatzalah took this initiative a step further and decided to tackle this problem legally. By passing a law in the Knesset which changes the definition of a dangerous toy, many stores will be prevented from selling these items.



Snow!

Snow which hit Jerusalem and the Galilee kept the volunteers busy with the usual and sometimes unusual emergency calls.

A special emergency room was set up to receive snow-related calls and they soon came piling in, Many car accidents were responded to, due to the bad weather. Calls also came in for people who slipped over the icy streets. United Hatzala responded to homes of elderly people who were suffering from hypothermia.



A call came in from a young mother whose baby was at the hospital and she needed to travel there to feed the baby.

The calls were mostly standard, but one interesting event occurred when a bride called in, upset, because she had no safe way to get to her wedding!

How long does it take to convince a bride and groom to use the emergency mule (a small emergency vehicle, somewhat like a tiny jeep) Volunteers tried convincing them in multiple ways, telling them: “It’s not dangerous”, “It’s once in a life time”, and “It’s special to arrive at your wedding in such a

unique way...” Thanks to the devoted volunteers, the couple finally reached their destination, making sure no one would say they “got cold feet...”

“Safe Family” Project

Our “Safe family” project is on its way.

Mr. Yussi Refaeli who has already trained many families in First Aid, decided to continue this project after his son was saved from choking by one of the women whom he had trained.

This situation brought to his attention the importance of having family members, kindergarten teachers and any one around children know immediate first aid.



The project will be carried out countrywide, targeting all the major cities. It has run in Jerusalem and several other small locations already and is now being featured in Bnei Brak.

This important initiative teaches a basic first aid course which is about 4 hours long. Each attendee receives a certificate at the end of the training.

Due to its enormous value, the course is subsidized by United Hatzalah.

Eilat-7 new volunteers

26.02.07

Seven new volunteers joined the United Hatzalah team of Eilat, headed by Avi Hanu.

Honoring the ceremony were:

Mayor of the city Mr. Halevie, City council Mr. Mizrachie, City council member Mr. Yaniv Regev, Head of MDA volunteer department, and Negev spokesman, Roy Rosendfeld.

Also traveling in from Jerusalem for the occasion were:

Head of volunteers, United Hatzalah, Eli Pollack

Head of the Ambucycles department, Mr. Zeev Sofer

Head of Telz Mevaseret branch, Yisrael Svimer

Many other important guests attended as well. Medical equipment was handed out at the ceremony, including: radio system, resuscitation bags, emergency kit, orange vests, oxygen tanks, glucose meters etc...

Special thanks to the devoted volunteers who helped Mr. Avi Hanu get this branch to where it is today: Eitan Vizgan, Itzik Ben-Tikvah and Shmuel Ivgi.



**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.