



## United Hatzalah of Israel

### *Highlights of the week in Israel*

7 May 2009

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

I share with you a moving story from a dear friend of mine, Noah Elbogen and the reasons behind his support of United Hatzalah. We go behind the scenes of an MCI in the Carmel region and into a tunnel in Jerusalem as medics valiantly try to save a life.

Have a safe weekend.

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

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### **A Father's Legacy and a Son's Love**

Lenny Elbogen was a man who's smile never seemed to leave his face. He was a man whose love for his family and love for Israel were central to his being.

When a massive heart attack struck him in early 2000 volunteer medics from Hatzolah of Flatbush were there. Immediate and intense efforts brought him back. A few months later, it was a mini-stroke and once again the volunteer medics from Hatzolah of Flatbush were there. A third time, even the ever-vigilant volunteer medics of Hatzolah were unable to save him from yet another heart attack.

Lenny's son, Noah, witnessed firsthand the selfless efforts of the volunteer medics and appreciated the added time he had with his father as a result of their hard work. It didn't take Noah long to figure out how he figured into the equation. More mobile medics means more lives saved.

After deciding to donate an ambucycle to United Hatzalah, Noah and his immediate family flew to Israel to visit with the Israeli side of his family. Sitting in traffic upon his arrival in Israel (en route to Jerusalem), Noah was explaining why ambucycles were so critical to helping





save lives. As if on cue, 2 United Hatzalah ambucycles raced past the Elbogen taxi on their way to save lives at the accident that was the cause of the traffic.

After a meaningful dedication ceremony at the Kotel, ambucycle 195 entered active duty. It was assigned to Chezzie Roth from Jerusalem.

What made the assignment that much more meaningful was the fact Chezzie and his dad Menachem, a United Hatzalah medic from the Farkas Haifa Division, are United Hatzalah's first father-son medic team. A gift from a son in memory of his father for a son who lives the legacy of his father.

Yesterday, on the occasion of his father's Yahrzeit, Noah gave a generous donation towards the refurbishing of 2 more ambucycles. At the same time, Chezzie was busy on ambucycle 195 saving an elderly lady who was ill and a young baby with breathing difficulties. Menachem, his father, was saving victims of a structure fire in Kiryat Ata. We are most certain that Lenny was looking down, with a smile, and proud of everyone.

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## Disaster Averted in MCI Bus Crash

It was a touch and go situation during last week's MCI in the Carmel region in northern Israel.

Numerous ambulances had still been shifted to other regions to cover the week of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations in larger population centers.

An urgent MCI call went out country-wide given the manpower concerns.

Medics on vacation in the area joined in the emergency efforts.

The 60 year-old driver of a jeep apparently lost control of his vehicle and slid into oncoming traffic. An Egged bus attempted to avoid the wayward car and in the ensuing accident ran off the road. The jeep was crushed and flipped over by the force of the impact.

Many of United Hatzalah medics were from the Farkas Haifa division. The unit is named after its sponsor Mr. Leonardo Farkas from Santiago, Chile.

A MDA medic on scene recalled that he doubted that there would be enough "hands on-deck" to deal with the event. He was therefore pleasantly surprised to see that by the time he arrived the United Hatzalah medics had begun the preliminary triage and treatment protocol.

The incident ended with 19 people promptly treated and evacuated with various levels of injuries.



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## The Motorcycle and the Ambucycles

The young man was enamored with the powerful machine but was inexperienced in handling it (not to mention unlicensed). It was a downwards sloping bend in the tunnel and the car in the opposite lane never saw him coming. Driver, helmet and motorcycle pieces flew in all directions.

Cars at either end of the tunnel began to impatiently blare their horns unaware of the cause of the traffic. The tunnel created interference with cell phone communication. Someone ran towards the mouth of the tunnel and alerted the authorities. The morning traffic became a veritable snarl of vehicles as a life began to ebb away in the tunnel.

Even the United Hatzalah ambucycle medics reported the challenge of weaving their way to the accident. The first United Hatzalah medics on the scene began CPR and radioed for help. Other ambucycle medics arrived to help in the frantic lifesaving efforts. One of the medics headed to the entrance of the tunnel to help direct the ambulance.

The ambulance was making great efforts, quite a bit of noise but not a lot of progress. Eventually it arrived but it was too late. Traumatic head injuries and the resulting heart stoppage are not particularly survivable under the best of circumstances and this unfortunately was not one them.



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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.