



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel

5 November 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I am in the states as I write this I must say that I have been quite amazed by the enthusiasm and anticipation of the voting public. I applaud all forms of positive community activism.

Our valiant lifesavers in the south are once again under fire. All material support is being made available to them and should the need arise we will arrange for operational rotations to allow them some downtime.

Kudos to our Elad team for their part in the dramatic rescue of a girl who fell down an abandoned ancient well.

In addition, swift response by all parties helped limit the extent of the injuries when a crowded bus crashed into a gas station.

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

Southern Israel under fire once again

Once again rockets are falling in the south. United Hatzalah Southern District is operating under Emergency Preparedness Level 1. All medics are to keep their emergency response bags fully stocked with trauma bandages and to ensure that their oxygen and vehicle gas tanks are full. Radios are to be worn at all times. Medics who have been issued personal armor must keep that on hand.



Yossi Wiessenstern, United Hatzalah Southern District Coordinator reports that the motivation is high among the volunteers in his area, though many medics are operating without personal armor. Some sets have been pulled from the Jerusalem reserve but more are required.





Avraham and Sara by the Well

This week's story has nothing to do with the more famous namesakes in this week's Torah portion. This has to do with a United Hatzalah medic named Avraham, a little girl named Sara and an ancient well.

One day Sara climbed over a fence in her schoolyard to explore one of the many antiquities sites dotting Elad. Accompanied by her friend and a trusty 3 meter (10 ft.) jumprope she began her descent into an abandoned ancient well. Unfortunately for our plucky Sara, the well was 10 meters (32 ft.) deep. Fortunately it had rained enough to soften her fall and thankfully not enough rain fell to fill the well with water. Realizing that being late for class was going to be the least of Sara's concerns, Sara's friend raced back to school to alert the authorities.

One of the first United Hatzalah volunteers on scene was Avraham (Avi) Stern, one of our ever active Moskowitz Command Center dispatchers. After verifying that Sara was conscious albeit scared, Avi reported to the fire department that we had a deep shaft rope rescue on our hands. Moshe Saadon United Hatzalah regional coordinator helped control the scene with the rapidly growing crowd of resources and onlookers.

The Petach Tikva fire department rescue squad was the right team for the job and United Hatzalah Senior Medic

Aharon Shishitski was on duty and rapidly on-scene. Being the only one on-scene with advanced medical training and experience with rope rescues, Aharon made his way down the shaft. Aharon provided c-spine stabilization and performed a primary survey by flashlight on well floor. Bruised and shaken but not seriously hurt Sara was hoisted up the well and taken to the hospital for observation.

MCI on Route 44

Near the Holon interchange intercity bus 411 tried to avoid a small car that cut off the bus in an apparent attempt to enter the gas station. The bus sideswipped the car and ran





up on the sidewalk knocking down a large sign from the gas station.

MDA crews from the Ayalon district joined the United Hatzalah crews from Kfar Chabad and began the triage, treatment and evacuation.

Fire department crews extricated the driver whose legs were entrapped by the crushed front-end of the bus. 17 people were evacuated from the scene, 2 in serious condition, 1 moderate and the rest light.

Photo of the Week

The logo on the bus says SuperBus. I guess that explains the flying leap. Amazing the driver of the car was only lightly hurt.



Donor of the Week

This week we honor a true friend of United Hatzalah, **Asher Zwebner**. Asher dedicated an ambucycle for the people of Bayit Vegan in honor of the extended Zwebner and Schwartz families and in memory of Reb Yechiel Michel Schwartz OB»M a pioneer of Jerusalem who settled in Bayit Vegan over 50 years ago.



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.