



## United Hatzalah of Israel

# *Highlights of the week in Israel* 11 December 2008

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

It is with sorrow that I note the passing of our dear friend Dr. Abraham “Abe” Chames from Hollywood FL. Abe was a treasure of a man, a pillar of kindness and a “mentch”. He will be sorely missed.

This week we look at a surprise detour for one of our intrepid medics while he was ostensibly on vacation. We also had the pleasure of hosting a fascinating delegation from Georgia. We shared war stories and discussed the challenges associated with providing emergency medical care to a civilian population under attack.

We include a brief look at a responsible United Hatzalah medic and the commendable approach his boss had to his lifesaving activities.

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

Chief coordinator

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## Baby Down South

When Eddie Howard from Tel Aviv wanted to get away from it all, he chose an area that reminds him of his native Australia, Ein Yahav. The raw rugged beauty of the Negev region is perfect for the back-country jeep trip Eddie planned. The ever-responsible Eddie did mention to United Hatzalah dispatcher Avi Stern that he was heading down south and in the unlikely event that something happens in his area he can be alerted.

Needless to say, something happened. It was a “simple call”, a pregnant woman on Moshav Chatzeva was not feeling well. As per his GPS, Eddie was only 7-8 minutes away on his 4x4, so he headed over. Given the frantic gestures at the entrance to the moshav and the screams of the mother-to-be Eddie realized it was going to be ‘one-of-those’ “simple calls”. Eddie radioed in the particulars of the call and prepared his delivery kit. After some words of encouragement to the young lady, Eddie told her to push. Within 3 minutes from



the moment he walked in the door, Moshav Chatzeva welcomed its newest member, a healthy baby girl. A bit later an ambulance pulled up to bring the mother and baby to the hospital for observation. Eddie looked back at the thankful family and with a warm Aussie smile drove off into the proverbial sunset.

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## From Georgia with Love

With the recent unrest in Georgia hopefully behind them, a senior delegation from the Georgian Health Ministry visited Israel to learn about its leading edge medical technologies, treatments and techniques. Deputy Health Minister Mr. Giorgobiani Irakli, Professor Nick Kiphsidze and Mr. Kaloiani Vakhtang wanted to tour the United Hatzalah Moskowitz LifeCompass Command Center.

They were particularly keen on learning about our mass casualty incident management, how we integrate civilian medical care with the army in conflict zones, and of course our ambulance unit. They were astonished when we told them that our average response time in urban areas is 2-3 minutes. When they found out that all of our 1300+ medics are volunteers they were absolutely amazed.



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## Brisket and medical kit to-go

When Yossi Haker hired United Hatzalah medic David

Turgeman, he knew he found a reliable worker. When David Turgeman would ask Yossi whether he could interrupt his work at Haker's well known butcher shop to go on yet another emergency call, Yossi knew he had a problem. The problem was not the missed work, David was always conscientious in clearing any backlogs in orders. The problem was that Yossi was concerned that David might hesitate to go on calls due to his sense of responsibility to his job. That hesitation might cost a life!

Yossi had a solution. Yossi wrote up a contract that stipulated that he and David were full partners in all of David's lifesaving activities. Yossi would outfit the delivery car with lights, sirens and United Hatzalah stickers, David would be free to go on all calls. The two of them would share in the merit of all the good deeds and lives saved.

Everyone gains, especially Avi. F who was in the midst of a serious asthma attack and moments away from losing consciousness when David who had been nearby on a delivery run, rushed in, administered asthma medicine via the inhaler from his medical kit and neutralized a life-threatening situation.



### *Photo of the Week*

One of the first United Hatzalah ambubicycles spotted at a serious truck/bus accident



### *Donor of the Week*

#### **Dr. Abe Chames Z”L**

Abe was always a dear personal friend and friend of United Hatzalah. Actually, he was a friend of everyone he met. Whenever he would come to Israel he would make sure to bring a defibrillator, pulse oximeter or some other lifesaving piece of equipment. Even when his mother passed away and was being brought to Israel for burial, Abe made time to visit our offices to drop off some oximeters. Abe died at the young age of 54 but he will remain an inspiration for those who knew him, especially his devoted wife Debora, daughter and son-in-law Melissa & Eric Shalolashvili son and daughter-in-law Jonathan & Jennifer and son Jacob.



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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.