



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel

25 June 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This week was a personally difficult one for me as our volunteers responded to a fatal accident involving a dear friend of mine. I am grateful that they were able to save the children in the car but miss my friend nonetheless.

The United Hatzalah volunteers from Beit Shemesh have once again distinguished themselves in a multi-vehicle accident.

We conclude with a review of an exciting MCI training event with our friends from Taglit-Birthright Israel: Maayanot.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

Goodbye to a Friend

Yisrael and I go back a long way. I was there 12 years ago when his 1 year-old son choked on a grape. I was there performing CPR and I was there 12 years later celebrating at the bar mitzvah of this young son as he turned into a young man.

I wasn't there when his eldest son got married. I wasn't there when his car plowed into a fire truck on the way back from his own son's wedding. I came back from the states to be with the family as they sat shiva for their father and my friend

United Hatzalah medics were there within moments as they and the fire truck had just been responding to a false alarm in the area. They and the children in the backseat of the car knew that Yisrael was killed instantly. But there were 4 young children who had just celebrated their siblings wedding and were now in dire need of medical attention.

United Hatzalah medics on scene were able to give lifesaving care to all 4 children in those critical initial moments. The children were evacuated to Beilinson Medical Center in Petach Tikva and Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer. 2 in critical condition, 2 in moderate condition.





United Hatzalah Chairman Zeev Kashash spent the night with our dear departed friend's family. Dealing with the logistics and comforting the mourners. Phone calls raced throughout the night as friends within the United Hatzalah family shared the sorrowful news. Yisrael was a friend of many United Hatzalah volunteers as well as a friend of anyone who met him. His family carries on his stellar personality, when despite their personal grief they expressed their concern for the volunteers who responded while profusely thanking them for the extensive efforts on behalf of the children.

Beit Shemesh Smash

2 teenage girls were driving along Route 38 outside of Beit Shemesh when, for reasons that are not clear, they swerved out of their lane and collided head-on with a sedan coming in the opposite direction. A third car spun off the road in an attempt to avoid the accident.

While this type of accident occurs with frightening frequency throughout the world its unfortunately all too common here in Israel.

This accident in fact provided a textbook case of inter-agency cooperation, complex extrication and rapid triage/treatment.

United Hatzalah Paramedic Moshe Braun only had words of praise for the volunteers who rapidly responded and integrated with additional rescue forces as they arrived.



MCI Training

Once again United Hatzalah teamed up with a group from Taglit-Birthright Israel: Maayanot. Volunteers from the group were splattered with fake blood (beet juice, cocoa and corn flour) to simulate some of the wounds medics can expect to see in bomb attacks. All the «wounded» wore injury tags depicting the extent of their injuries.

A guest appearance was made by a retired life size toy baby doll my kids no longer used. The doll was hidden in the bushes and eventually found by medics who did a perimeter scan searching for untreated wounded. This real-life phenomenon of unattended infants during MCI's is a recognized issue and is being addressed in practical training.

The setting was in a wooded area thereby realistically complicating access and egress. Ambulances and ambucycles got as close to the scene as possible and set up a field treatment area. TOMCAR ambutractors did the lions share of the work evacuating the wounded from the wooded area.





**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.