



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel

23 March 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This week I share with you a glimpse into the lives of 2 of our medics and the unique perspective they bring to volunteering in general and United Hatzalah in particular.

The worrying trend of serious accidents involving buses has caught the eye of quite a few people. We hope that by highlighting these accidents from the vantage point of medics dealing with the outcome tighter standards, training and legislation will lower the accident toll on the roads.

To close the newsletter I share with you a classic United Hatzalah on-the-spot save of a 7 year-old boy.

Have a safe week.

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

Buddies Through It All

IDF buddies Yaakov Loberbaum and Elyashiv Amitai have been through a lot together. They both raised families and tended their homes in Neve Dekalim. They both struggled to transplant their homes and their dreams on the grounds of the former kibbutz Shomriya.

They settled into a fine routine including the routine interruptions of their IDF reserve duty and the not so routine interruptions of United Hatzalah alerts for emergency medical assistance in their area.

Shomriya is situated near Route 40 from Tel Aviv to Beersheba along the “seam line” with the West Bank.

Many illegal migrant workers try to infiltrate the area in search for jobs or nefarious activities. Police and border patrol units scour the roads for the “mules” bringing in the illegal workers.

The stakes are high and both sides play for keeps. The dangerous cat-and-mouse game is often played out on the area roads.





One evening upon returning home from their nearby army base they decided to give their wives a ladies night out and took over domestic responsibilities.

Settling down to some quality time with the kids both fathers had their plans instantaneously changed with an alert <<< 2 wounded in an attack on a police checkpoint>>>. Quick cell phone calls to their forbearing wives ensured parental coverage in their respective homes.

An alert police unit had observed a suspicious vehicle and ordered it to stop. The “mule” had no intention of stopping and aimed his vehicle at the officers as they aimed their weapons at him.

A few well-placed shots wounded the driver and gave the illegal workers an unanticipated ride into the side of a hilltop.

When Yaakov and Elyashiv reached the scene they were assured by the officers that the scene was safe and no officers had been wounded.

Rapid triage indicated primary treatment to the gunshot driver and subsequent treatment to the passengers only one of which required evacuation to the hospital.

What interested me in this story was not so much the professional approach of these medics but their interest in the public good despite the challenges they faced in their personal lives.

Freak Bus Accidents

In recent days United Hatzalah medics responded to a spate of freak bus accidents. United Hatzalah medics helped treat those who could be helped and is redoubling its efforts with public safety education campaigns to help turn the tide in battle against traffic accidents.



In Petach Tikva an ATV rider was struck and thrown 20 meters (65 feet).



In Acre an elderly lady on a motorized cart was killed by a bus. Numerous passengers on the bus were treated for shock.



In Nachal Chadera a large irrigation pipe broke free from a transport rig, blasted forward through the cab of the rig and into the rear of a bus, trapping a passenger, and wounding 3.



A pedestrian was struck and moderately wounded by a bus while walking in the crosswalk.

On the Spot

The driver of the Toyota sedan didn't see seven year-old boy crossing the street near his house in Kiyat Ata until it was too late. The boy was thrown to the ground bleeding from numerous head wounds. United Hatzalah ambucycle medic Naftali Rottenberg was around the corner from the accident when he heard about the accident on his walkie-talkie. Another medic was less than a minute away when the alert came through on his pager.

The young boy was screaming in pain and yelled out "I want to live, don't let me die". Naftali fought back tears brought on from the sudden emotional cries and comforted the child as he expertly staunched the major bleeding while coaxing him to maintain consciousness until the ambulance arrived.

The traffic in the area was blocked, both because of this incident and by another accident caused by a vehicle trying to reverse out of this traffic jam. Ambucycle medics are often the only ones on scene during those critical first moments.

The father of the boy who was on scene to help comfort his son was effusive in his praise for the speedy lifesaving treatment by the United Hatzalah medics.

In trauma situations particularly ones involving heavy bleeding immediate treatment is critical to patient survival. The dispersion of United Hatzalah medics throughout Israel's population is a key factor in providing emergency medical intervention in the fastest possible time. Your support helps us save lives!

**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.