



## United Hatzalah of Israel

# *Highlights of the week in Israel* 13 November 2008

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

This week I share with you some of the highly charged emotional calls that our volunteers responded to on a daily basis.

This week United Hatzalah once again provided emergency medical response to a large gathering at Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem.

Our volunteer of the week is Isaac Katz. I don't know what we would do without him.

Have a great week.

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

Chief coordinator

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### A special save

It was an uneventful ride up from Ashdod for United Hatzalah medic Yehuda Hertzog. That all changed as he travelled up Route 446 near Modiin. An alert from the GPS based Moskowitz LifeCompass Incident Management System let Yehuda know that a serious car accident occurred 1.5 minutes from his current location.

When Yehuda arrived he realized that he was dealing with more than a «simple» multi-casualty trauma incident. Some of the injured were handicapped children.

A young wounded counselor was frantically trying to revive an unconscious child outside their transport. Another child was inside the vehicle slumped over the tray of his wheelchair. Yehuda shifted into high gear as he began to triage and treat the special patients while updating arriving medics on the scope of the incident.

More help came from a United Hatzalah volunteer who was on active duty at a nearby army base, also alerted by the Moskowitz LifeCompass. The volunteers began





to resuscitate the unconscious children. They called out on the internal communications net to fellow United Hatzalah volunteer with the IAF's elite 669 SAR medevac unit.

More help began to arrive and the injured were evacuated to Tel Hashomer Medical Center. Doctors there credited the United Hatzalah medics with giving these special patients another chance at life.

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## Special Day at Rachel's Tomb

This past Sunday tens of thousands of men, women and children converged on Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem to commemorate her Yahrzeit.

United Hatzalah set up the command and control center in the closed off plaza. Over the course of 24 hours there were 87 medical incidents that were responded to.

While many of the incidents were run of the mill fainting spells and shortness of breath.

Some people were injured when they sought cover during a shooting incident nearby. It turned out that IDF soldiers securing the area fired warning shots in the general direction of a growing crowd of Arab protesters.

Thankfully the day ended peacefully and people were genuinely appreciative of the military and medical support provided.





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## Special Delivery

It was a routine shopping stop for one medic and a slight detour for an ambucycle medic. United Hatzalah medic Daniel Katzenstein was on his way to the Givat Shaul commercial center when the first alert came through on the pager. <<<woman in labor \*\* Givat Shaul St.>>. A cluster of cars delayed his progress but he noticed an United Hatzalah ambucyclist avoiding the snarl and moving forward.

Driving down the street Daniel noticed someone gesticulating wildly in his direction. Daniel rushed towards the person and saw fellow medic Nissim Hasset still wearing his helmet in a huddle of ladies standing outside in the courtyard of the address referred to on the pager.

Before he had a chance to ask what was going on, Nissim handed him a small cyanotic baby with a weak cry and began to treat the mother. Daniel quickly wrapped the baby in the disposable sheet from the Nissim's OB kit and raced to the ambulance that had just arrived. Hopping in Daniel called for oxygen and placed the baby in recovery position to allow for better drainage of fluids from his breathing passages. The baby gave a hearty cry and began to turn a healthier color.

One member of the ambulance team brought the cot over to the mother, Nissim helped load the mother and off they went. Daniel and Nissim marvelled at the confluence of events and technology that brought them together just in time.





### *Photo of the Week*

Massive HAZMAT incident in Hod Hasharon. Thankfully medics were not needed.

### *Volunteer of the Week*

This week we honor a stellar volunteer,

#### **Isaac Katz.**

Aside from his cool professional handling of this weeks event at Rachel's Tomb, Isaac has made a name for himself throughout United Hatzalah with his eager attitude and steely determination. His assistance with projects in Sderot, the Kotel, and with new branches throughout Israel is priceless.



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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.