



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel 19 February 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This week we celebrated the special efforts of a special person. We also welcomed a highly motivated group of medics from the Maaleh Adumim area. Once again the Eilat unit proved their skill and professionalism during a HAZMAT MCI in their area.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

United Hatzalah's Special Medic

Down's Syndrome can't keep 24 year-old Michael Boaz from following his dream. Michael always looked up the United Hatzalah medics racing along on their ambucycles, lights flashing and sirens blaring, on their way to another lifesaving call. He would often stop in and visit the United Hatzalah National Headquarters on Yirmiyahu Street as he walked with a friend to or from his home-away-from-home at Siach Sod. Sometimes he would ask for a sticker, sometimes stay for a chat and if he was really lucky, situation permitting, he would get invited into the Irving and Cherna Moskowitz Command Center to check out the "action" on all the screens and communication gear.

Michael needs to wear the unwieldy mask of a CPAP machine to help him breathe while he sleeps. The mask is uncomfortable and Michael would rebuff the efforts of the staff of the Siach Sod to help him don the mask before he went to sleep. Sometimes he would remove the mask after the staff left his room. Fearful of the dire consequences of non-compliance with the pulmonary specialist's stern warnings, Siach Sod's devoted Advancement Program Coordinator David Reicher wracked his brain to come up with a plan to help Michael wear the mask throughout the night.

After clearing the idea with United Hatzalah's Volunteer Coordinator Eli Pollack, Reicher made the following offer. "If you could become a United Hatzalah volunteer would you wear the CPAP mask?". An enthusiastic "Yes!" indicated that Reicher had found the right motivation. Eli Pollack explained "At United Hatzalah, we are committed





to saving lives, if making Michael an honorary volunteer would help save his life we are all for it.”

This afternoon in a moving ceremony at Siach Sod, Michael was made an honorary volunteer. Michael received an official United Hatzalah badge, vest and cap. All of his friends joyfully gathered around the ambulances, TOMCAR ambutractor and other vehicles in a very special celebratory event. Michael will be invited to United Hatzalah’s National Headquarters to assist with various mailings and sorting tasks for the storage and logistics department.

Michael’s parents who were visibly moved by the event suprised the participants and said “Michael is actually following in the footsteps of his older brother Avraham, a volunteer EMT with Hatzolah of Crown Heights. Everyone has the ability to contribute in their own special way. We appreciate United Hatzalah’s commitment to people with special needs”.

Newest Medics

The family of United Hatzalah medics is growing by leaps and bounds. This week 17 medics from Maaleh Adumim joined United Hatzalah.

The squad is expected to provide much needed relief to the 33,000 residents of Maaleh Adumim not to mention the residents of nearby Kfar Adumim, Mishur Adumim and Alon. Travelers along Route 1, the Jericho bypass road and the numerous treacherously winding roads around Maale Adumim will be relieved to know that among their fellow travelers or nearby will be a United Hatzalah medic.

All medics received full medical/trauma kits, communication gear and reflective vests. In addition 2 ambulances were dedicated to the needs of the people in and around Maaleh Adumim.

This represents on the one hand United Hatzalah’s commitment to ensuring prompt and effective



emergency medical care throughout Israel. On the other hand it represents a significant financial commitment for the organization.

HAZMAT MCI



This week United Hatzalah Eilat squad had to deal with a HAZMAT MCI (Hazardous Materials Mass Casualty Incident). An error in the delivery of chlorine created a toxic cloud that spread through the luxurious hotel.

Rapid response by United Hatzalah ambulance medics along with all civil and military response teams allowed for prompt treatment and evacuation of the 108 people suffering from thankfully mild respiratory distress.

**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.