



## United Hatzalah of Israel

### *Highlights of the week in Israel*

28 May 2009

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

This week seemed to be one of unique inter-agency calls. I am proud of the all of the units who distinguished themselves in such a professional manner. Likewise, we look at the inextricable bond between the United Hatzalah medic and the donors like you who make it all possible.

Thank you and Happy Shavuot to all.

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

Chief coordinator

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### Just in Time

United Hatzalah regional coordinator Shimshon Grossberger works hard for the people of the Beitar Illit/Gush Etzion region. Part of that work, in concert with United Hatzalah senior staff, entails ensuring that his team has all of the latest lifesaving equipment available.

When the Uru Achim organization donated medical equipment through the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia around the same time that Mordechai Margolis of Baltimore MD did, it was decided that this equipment would go to upgrade the entire Beitar Illit division. In a brief but moving ceremony last Thursday evening the equipment was dedicated. One of the speakers mentioned the <paramedics prayer> - “May the need for this equipment not arise but should it arise may the equipment be there”».

Not 8 hours later, early Friday morning, the second half of the prayer came into play. Medic Shraga Hoffman who was assigned one of the defibrillators received the alert <<< Car accident, Route 60, Unconscious adult male>>>. Upon arriving Shraga noticed the conspicuous absent of any vehicles at the scene of the alleged car accident. Rapidly sizing up the scene which included a nearby bicycle Shraga realized that the 60 year-old man was probably riding the bicycle when he suffered a heart attack.

Shraga quickly set up the defibrillator, briefly halted the medics administering CPR, attached the leads and had the machine analyze the existing heart rhythm. <SHOCK ADVISED> the mechanical voice chimed in. With the



press of a button a jolt of electricity coursed the wires of the defibrillator into the fibrillating heart muscle.

A passing IDF medical unit joined in the battle to save this man's life. When the paramedics from the ambulance arrived they continued treatment and evacuated the man to the hospital for further treatment. The man's pulse and spontaneous respirations returned but he was not out of the woods yet.

When United Hatzalah medics went to visit the man in the hospital they were pleased to see him responsive with his loving family at his side. Medics explained that the lifegiving current that emanated from the defibrillator actually came from the East Coast of the United States from a group of individuals who may not have been aware of how quickly their donation would save a life.

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## Complex MCI

It was a classic case of inter-agency cooperation during an MCI. A building under construction in the village of Nalin collapsed. There were an unknown number of casualties.

The elite Home Front Command Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team was called up. A mutual aid call was initially sent out to both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv districts as the village was roughly equidistant from each city and somewhat off the beaten path.

United Hatzalah medics from the highly active Modiin Illit region were among the first to arrive. They quickly downgraded the scope of the incident to the «under 20 category».

Still an MCI by anyone's standards but something that could be handled on a district level but no need to activate regional mutual aid plans.

United Hatzalah medics were praised for helping optimize care for those in need while preventing the jeopardizing of care for others who might have been affected by a large turnout.

The actual rescue efforts entailed a significant IDF/police presence securing the area, the Home Front Command USAR team searching for, locating and extricating casualties, uniting the patchwork of emergency medical units to handle the triage, treatment and evacuation.



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## Cellular Communication for all

The last item I want to share with you is simply one of creative thinking when the only consideration is saving lives. It was when responding to yet another late night car accident when United Hatzalah Binyamin District Coordinator Eliezer Heiman found himself once again in a situation when he was unable to reach other units or the command center due to cellular reception difficulties in the beautiful but rugged mountainous and wadi strewn Binyamin region.

Eliezer noticed that Arabs in passing vehicles didn't have such communication difficulties. Upon further technical inquiries Eliezer discovered that while cellular coverage was spotty for the Israeli-based providers the Jawwal cellular phone service had significant presence in the area. By signing up for their service and inserting their SIM card into his standard issue cell phone when needed Eliezer would be able to ensure that critical communications would be reliable at all times, in all places.



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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.