



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel

24 July 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I would like to share with you a personal United Hatzalah story. In truth, it is a story about my family and in fact the families of United Hatzalah volunteers throughout the country whose personal lives are often interrupted by emergency calls from people in need. We also highlight the battle for road safety through inter-agency cooperation and public awareness.

Have a great weekend,

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

Another tractor terror attack in Jerusalem

23.07.2008

Yet another tractor terror attack in Jerusalem. This time with a smaller tractor and citizens and soldiers with a faster finger on the trigger. In the moments that it took to commit the act 2 cars were flipped and one person seriously injured. 10 others were lightly injured and/or treated for shock. In addition, one lady was treated by medics for a heart condition exacerbated by the situation.

United Hatzalah Spokesperson Yerach Tucker was first on the scene and radioed in what was transpiring. Rapid response and clear effective communication is the key to effectively handling an MCI. Yerach was rapidly joined by additional medics on ambucycles and private vehicles. Medics treated and stabilized the patient trapped under his vehicle until heavy rescue vehicles were able to extricate him.



What I did on my summer vacation...

17.07.2008

It was a long-awaited vacation. Particularly for my kids. I just been overseas for 3 weeks visiting friends and supporters of United Hatzalah. The warm assistance I received there was encouraging and gave me along with the entire United Hatzalah team energy and resources to continue our valuable work, particularly during these trying times. This however seemed to be of little concern to my children who just knew that daddy wasn't home.

I knew that I needed to make it up to them upon my return. I carved a 5 day block out of my crazily busy schedule and promised to take the family up north for a long overdue vacation. The kids were thrilled and despite all the packing and planning my wife, Gitty also relished the idea of a few days "away from it all".

The trip started out alright with a visit to the Golan and Galilee. I couldn't be in the north and not meet with our intrepid volunteers who so bravely saved lives, literally under-the-gun, during the Second Lebanon War. We had a nice meeting and then I tried to get back into vacation mode. Things were going well until we were on our way to the cable cars at Tzuk Manara.

A call came in over the country-wide communication net that there was a multi-vehicle accident at the Amiad Junction just meters away from our location. I instinctively picked up my walkie-talkie and radioed in that I was on the scene. I looked over to my wife and she gave me this knowing look that bespoke of both commitment and resignation.

Within moments of the call I began to triage and treat the 7 wounded passengers. Additional ambucycle medics from Tzefat and Zichron Yaakov who were in the area joined me. I hadn't noticed but my wife had exited the car and was snapping photos of the incident. When I returned to the car after the lengthy treatment and evacuation process, I noticed the kids looking up to me. I apologized for the delay knowing full well that we just missed our opportunity at Tzuk Manara.

My eldest daughter Avigail seemed to speak for all the kids when she said "Seeing you save those lives was the highlight of the trip!" I gave her a big hug, continued on the trip realizing that maybe we didn't miss the real opportunity, that of sharing our passion for caring with our children.



Red and Orange Saving Lives Together

The number of traffic accidents in Israel continues to climb. United Hatzalah volunteers are working to lower the toll. This week volunteers from the Modiin Illit region raced down the highway to Route 446. There they encountered a 2 car accident with multiple patients and one individual trapped in his crumpled vehicle.



What was interesting about this call was that the interaction between United Hatzalah volunteers, MDA and the Fire Department went beyond simple inter-agency cooperation. To this call (and many more like this) United Hatzalah Volunteer Eli Hazen responded. Eli (in the checkered shirt and safety gloves) is the Coordinator of the Modiin Illit volunteer Fire Department first-responders unit built on the United Hatzalah style model.

This type of cross-training allows for critical rescue skills to be brought to the scene in quickest possible fashion. Eli assisted in directing the extrication, evacuation and treatment of the trapped individual. Keep up the good work, Eli.



Family On Board

Always looking to enhance public awareness regarding road safety, United Hatzalah embarked on a nationwide campaign called Family on Board. One of the first steps in trying to decrease road accidents is to raise safety awareness and bring civility to the roads.

A key element of the campaign is the sticker pictured here with MK Eli Yishai which translates as “Family in Car, Watch over Them”. The idea, similar to Michael Lerner’s “Baby-on-Board” concept launched in the 1980’s, is to make people aware that the car in front of them is not simply a metal machine with tinted windows but actually a vehicle that may well contain a family of men, women and children.



Drivers in cars sporting the sticker who are photographed driving safely will be awarded prizes.

United Hatzalah applauds the involvement of the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mayor Uri Lopoliansky, Knesset Member Eli Yishai, the Ministry of Road Safety, various media outlets and the public at large.

IDF Chief Rabbis in the Moskowitz Command Center

The IDF Chief Rabbi Avichai Rontzki and his assistant Rabbi Eyal Krim visited United Hatzalah's Irving and Cherna Moskowitz LifeCompass Command Center. They were very impressed with the advanced technology and high level of motivation and training of the staff.

Zevy Kashash, United Hatzalah Chairman, explained that the Moskowitz Command Center saves lives on a daily basis by alerting, coordinating and directing our volunteers to wherever they are needed.

IDF Chief Rabbi Rontzki and Rabbi Krim also got a glimpse of the advanced Moskowitz LifeCompass technology developed for United Hatzalah by Matrix through the generosity of The Irving and Cherna Moskowitz Foundation.



**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.