

January 2009

Magen David Adom Aids Palestinians from Gaza



On Thursday, January 8 2009 at 10:30, following humanitarian instructions from Magen David Adom's Director General, Eli Bin, the Lachish dispatching centre sent a Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) and 2 standard ambulances to the Erez Crossing (at the Gaza border). The teams were lead by Moshe Vaknin, Deputy Director of Magen David Adom Southern District. Their mission was to evacuate 3 Palestinian casualties from the fighting in the Gaza Strip. The casualties were transferred to the Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon and were in a serious condition.

Co-Chair's Update



For three weeks Magen David Adom has been on the highest state of alert, responding to missiles being fired from Gaza as well as those hitting the Northern border from Lebanon. Thanks to Magen David Adom the lives of many civilians and soldiers have been saved.

During the conflict, IDF soldiers have been on the frontline and MDA paramedics have rushed to their aid often putting themselves in immediate danger. In early January, the Magen David Adom dispatch centre in Beer Sheva received a call for help from the army to evacuate wounded soldiers from an extraction point on the Israeli-Gaza border. A group of soldiers that were in a building in northern Gaza had been hit by a missile attack and a number of soldiers were seriously wounded. As MDA ambulances arrived at the scene, Hamas launched another barrage of missiles that caused the paramedic teams to run for cover. The army responded with artillery fire towards the source of the missiles in an attempt to prevent further strikes so Magen David Adom and the wounded soldiers could flee safely.

A precarious ceasefire brings a fragile peace. Magen David Adom has not been able to scale down its work on Gaza's border. In fact, our efforts have increased. The Israeli Government has made Magen David Adom responsible for establishing a clinic that will give medical care to the Palestinians of Gaza, injured during the war in the Strip. The clinic will be set up on the Israeli side of the border, close to the Erez Check point.

Thanks to you and to our other supporters, Magen David Adom saves lives regardless of race, creed or ethnic affiliation - not just in times of war but in every hour of every day of every year.

David Gross & David Kahtan, Co-Chairs Young Patrons

Volunteers Save Lives at Negev Bus Crash

On 16 December 2008, a bus full of 54 Russian tourists crashed in the Negev, 35km from Eilat. It overturned and crashed down into the valley. MDA activated the protocol for a mass casualty incident and 40 ambulances and 100 Magen David Adom medics were at the scene within 12 minutes and transported casualties to hospitals across Israel by road and air.

Magen David Adom medics were met with very difficult scenes - bodies were scattered all over the place and victims were spread out over the rocks of the mountain.

18 year old volunteer medic, Ilan Stark, recounts "we were just in Josephtal Hospital when we received the call. The sight before us was dreadful; these victim were spread out all the way along the route the bus had taken. Inside the bus were trapped passengers and from every corner shouts for help and sighs of pain from the wounded could be heard"

Thousands of youngsters, like Ilan, aged 15 and up are members of Magen David Adom, working as volunteers,

treating the sick and the injured that are in need of primary medical first aid.

Magen David Adom Director General Eli Bin said, "volunteering with Magen David Adom, is one of the most impressive in Israel, both in respect to the numbers of volunteers and the many spheres of their activities. These volunteers are an example to al of us and is to be copied."



Gothique Ball Raises £60k



YMDA committee

On Saturday, 6th December, over 300 people attended Young Magen David Adom's Gothique Ball. The sell out event was held at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel. The venue was suitably dressed to match the theme with Gothic style artistes and a fortuneteller entertaining guests.

Over £60,000 was raised on the night and this money will go towards urgently needed supplies and resources in Sderot. The Pure Orange Band provided the live entertainment and the appeal was made by Magen David Adom Israel paramedic, Karen Lipkin.

Football & the Media Nets £5k

Over 120 people attended a 'Football and the Media' evening at St Johns Wood Shul. The event, organised by the Young Magen David Adom Committee, raised £5000 which was used to buy medical supplies for Magen David Adom in Israel.

A lively discussion was held by panel members Henry Winter (Senior Football Writer, The Daily Telegraph), Raphael Honigstein (English football correspondent for Süddeutsche Zeitung, and German football correspondent for The Guardian and talk SPORT, Graeme Le Saux and Mel Goldberg. This was followed by an auction of football memorabilia including Spurs and Everton shirts, signed by this season's entire squad; a Chelsea shirt signed by Graeme Le Saux and an evening attending a Premiership game with Henry Winter and assisting in writing his report of the match.



Panelists at the YMDA Football in the Media event. From left to right; Raphael Honigstein, Graeme Le Saux, Henry Winter, Mel Goldberg, Harry Thwaites and Daniel Geey YMDA Co-Chairs.

BDO Hosts Ambassador at Young Patrons Launch



Magen David Adom Young patrons Michal Stemmer and Shelley Peston

BDO Stoy Hayward's new office was the venue for Magen David Adom's first Young Patrons event on Monday, 1st September 2008. 120 young people attended and had the opportunity to network whilst enjoying canapés and champagne. Young professionals in attendance heard from Co-Chair of Magen David Adom Young Patrons David Kahtan of his personal connection to Magen David Adom, and the lifesaving work of the service in Israel. A moving short film made it clear how vital a role Magen David Adom plays and has played since Israel's establishment 60 years ago. Israel's Ambassador Ron Prozor, then gave an address to the UK, where he described how both he and his wife had volunteered for Magen David Adom in the past, followed by questions from the audience. The event raised £9,000.