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Israel's National EMS

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"It's All Thanks to You"



Following the Return of
Omrit to Life



The First Course
of Magen David Adom
Concluded in Tayibe



Saving Life Anywhere in
the World and at All Times



A Volunteer Appreciation
Evening for Jerusalem's
Volunteer EMTs and Drivers



Came Back to Life for the
Third Time

Picture of the week



Do you have an interesting story?
An exciting news? Send us to:
info@mda.org.il

Photo: Assi Dvilenski

Preparing for a Stormy Winter

MDA teams from the Yarkon Region conducted a combined conventional and hazardous materials drill at the Ephraim Gate crossing to ensure preparedness. The teams cooperated with the fire fighters and practiced rescue and treatment of the injured following exposure to hazardous materials.



“It’s All Thanks to You”

So says MDA Blood Services Director Prof. Eilat Shinar to dozens of MDA blood services volunteers and employees who celebrated the winning of the Yitzhak Rabin Quality and Excellence Award yesterday. Prof. Shinar addressed the importance of quality and excellence in blood services and thanks to the blood donors, employees and volunteers of the blood services. MDA Director General Eli Bin also congratulated the employees and volunteers for their work, and for winning the important award.

Michal Amit, who is in charge of the award committee in Israel, said that for the first time 4 gold stars were awarded to an organization anywhere in the world.

On behalf of the blood donors Mr Shimon Redlich, Honorary President and an active member of the Blood Donor Volunteers Organization, a blood donor for more than 50 years, expressed his appreciation.

The award, given to Magen David Adom's Blood Services two months ago by the Civil Service Commission and the Prime Minister's Office, is based on the EFQM's European System of Excellence. MDA's Blood Services won the award, four gold stars, based on many criteria, these include: management and leadership, strategy, human capital, collaborations with other entities, work processes, service and reaching goals.



Following the Return of Omrit to Life

Her sister from Texas life could also have been saved

Omrit Israelovich Shefer from Rishon LeTsiyon participated in training at the Wingate Institute, as part of the Aerobics Fitness Training Course, where she studied. Suddenly, during an exercise, she suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed.

The training hall was in great panic. One of the trainers called the MDA 101 emergency line, while at the same time another trainer came out of the hall to call for help. A short distance away, she saw an MDA ambulance, and the EMTs Igor Treskin and Gassu Tekla, who were on the scene for medical securing of an event. The trainer called the medics and within a few seconds, they reached Omrit. They immediately realized that Omrit was unconscious and had no pulse and was not breathing, and began performing advanced resuscitation, which included chest compressions and electric shocks by a defibrillator.

Less than a minute later, after the CPR began, and in just about two minutes after Omrit's cardiac arrest, she returned to life. The pulse stabilized, Omrit again breathed on her own and regained consciousness. The MDA MICU's team that arrived on the scene performed medical examinations and evacuated Omrit to a hospital when her condition was stable. Omrit was hospitalized and underwent examinations. Six days later, and when a special pacemaker (defibrillator) was implanted in her body; she was

released from the hospital to her home.

Omrit's sister, Neta, who lives in Texas, completed a visit to the country the day before Omrit's cardiac arrest, and upon arriving in the US, heard what happened to her sister. Doctors told Omrit after an MRI examination said her immediate family members were advised to check because there was an increased chance of illness. A cardiologist who discovered that she had a problem similar to that diagnosed with Omrit, which could cause acute cardiac events, examined her sister, Neta. Neta, as well as Omrit, never imagined that she could have cardiac arrest, without any prior warning, and at a young age. Shortly

thereafter, a defibrillator was also implanted in Neta's body, through which her life could be saved in the event of cardiac arrest



"My case highlights the need to raise public awareness of cardiac arrest, and perform basic CPRs in the first few moments and use the defibrillator. I was lucky, but unfortunately it is not always the case," said Omrit Israelovich Shefer, "thanks to the MDA team who saved my life, my children have a mother today, and I am grateful for that. Following my case, a medical inquiry was made to my family, and my sister also received preventative care so that what happened to me would not happen to her."



The First Course of Magen David Adom Concluded in Tayibe

At a festive ceremony attended by Tayibe Mayor Sha'a Mansour Massarwa, MDA Yarkon region director Haim Dori, and other MDA senior executives, graduation certificates. Shoulder ranks were awarded to twenty new volunteers who completed the emergency medical and ambulance driver course, MDA's first. During the course, which lasted about six months, the trainees met twice a week for theoretical and practical study.

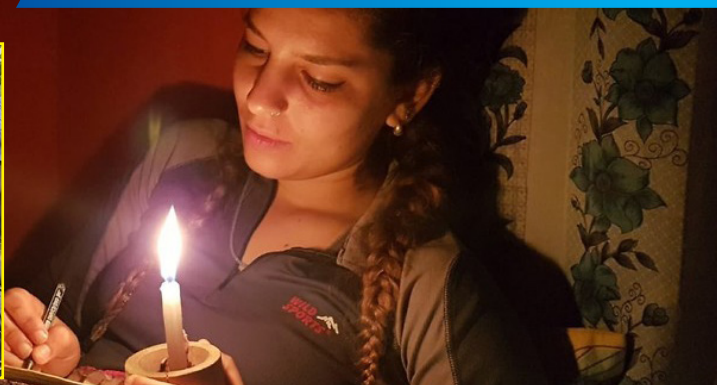
"At the conclusion of a comprehensive and interesting emergency medicine course, we are joined by twenty new volunteers, who will operate in the city of Tayibe in MDA ambulances and as First Responders," said **Saber Azbarga, MDA volunteers' coordinator in Tayibe**, "it is important for us that every one of the tens of thousands of residents in Tayibe feel safe, and knowing that at any given time, there are MDA emergency personnel who are ready 24/7 to provide professional medical care and save lives".

"Since I was a little girl I have dreamed of

volunteering as a medic in MDA ambulances. I dream of going far in volunteering at Magen David Adom, and hope to succeed in helping people and save lives", said **one of the seven women who completed the course in Tayibe, Sanaa Hasdea**." When my daughter was four days old, she had open heart surgery because of a heart defect. I remember the helplessness I felt when I realized that I would not know if she was going to miss something when we were home. Today she is 6 years old, perfectly healthy, and I know that in any case a medical emergency will happen to someone in my area, I will be able to help, and provide life-saving primary care. "

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "This is a significant addition to shortening the response and arrival times for patients in the city of Tayibe, where more than 40,000 residents live. Each time we see people with a sincere desire to volunteer, help others and save lives, it is very gratifying and exciting. Congratulations to the twenty new volunteers from Tayibe for joining the MDA family, and wish them great success."





Saving Life Anywhere in the World and at All Times During a trip to India: MDA EMT Daniela Yardeni saves the life of an Australian man

severely wounded in a motorcycle accident in India

Daniela Yardeni (25) from Rehovot is an EMT who works at MDA's 101 Emergency Call Center, who is currently traveling in India. About a week ago, during a bus ride to a village in northern India, the driver abruptly stopped, and Daniela immediately got off to see what was happening. Meters away, a truck had struck a 50-year-old motorcyclist. Daniela did not hesitate, and immediately took command of the incident. Daniela performed medical examinations, and saw that the injured person was semi-conscious and had significant injuries. She made sure an ambulance was called, and realized that it would take a long time for it to arrive. When she realized that this was truly a life or death situation, she placed a video call to her co-workers at MDA's Medical Dispatch Center. While accompanying her on a video call from Israel, seeing the scene of the accident and the injured person's condition, Daniela continued to perform medical examinations and provide him with treatment while the citizens helping and following her instructions, in order to save the life of the motorcyclist. Only a very long time later, an ambulance arrived, but even then Daniela did not leave the injured, and assisted with the evacuation to the hospital, which is about an hour's drive away. The family and friends of the motorcyclist thanked Daniela personally, and paid tribute to her efforts to save their loved one's life.

Daniela: "I have been an MDA volunteer since the age of 15, and I have held various positions in the field and at the 101 Dispatch Center. This case illustrates to me how much medical training and

experience I have gained as a medic follows me everywhere, and that I will always do everything I can to help the sick and injured and save lives, anywhere in the world and any time. As with my work at MDA in Israel, the determination to save lives increases every emotion in real time. It was only when I left the hospital, on my way to where I was staying, that I began to process the situation, and I was excited by the fact that Israelis in the country at the other end of the world were able to save lives.

"I have no doubt that every Israeli who was in the situation would do whatever he could to help." **Shlomo Zoller is a senior paramedic at MDA Medical Dispatch Center**, who, along with paramedics Osama Abu Moch and Daniel Pollak, assisted Daniela, thousands of miles away. "It's very exciting to know that you have the ability to help save the lives of an injured person on the other side of the world. Daniela herself impressed us, and we were happy to advise and help her.

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "The desire to save lives is inherent to MDA medics and paramedics, wherever they are, and at any time. Daniela represented the State of Israel, as she performed impressively, devotedly and professionally. While on a private trip to India, Daniela didn't think twice and did everything she could to save a wounded person's life. All this, while using the technologies we use in MDA, such as the video call, through which you can see the situation of the scene and assess the condition of the injured person, even from the other side of the world



A Volunteer Appreciation Evening for Jerusalem's Volunteer EMTs and Drivers

More than 400 EMTs and paramedics who volunteer as ambulance drivers in MDA stations around Jerusalem and the surrounding area participated in the evening.

The evening opened with greetings and certificates for 70 outstanding volunteers, followed by professional training by senior paramedic Eyal Zahavi about medical care for elderly patients.

Gadi Amitun, who has been a dedicated volunteer for nearly 50 years, was chosen as the outstanding provider for the Jerusalem Region in recognition of his professionalism and dedication to volunteering in MDA for decades. "Understanding where and how to succeed" - when we understand the big goal, is the secret to succeeding in the small things. It is important to understand that volunteering is a community need, but it also gives something to the volunteer no less than his or her environment," Gadi Amitun said.

Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Leon: "I am here to thank you on behalf of all the residents of

Jerusalem for your volunteering and dedication. You are wonderful. Today everyone already knows there is MDA and there is MDA in Jerusalem."

MDA Jerusalem Regional Director Shlomo Petrover: "This exciting evening is an opportunity for us to thank the hundreds of MDA EMTs and paramedics who volunteer as ambulance drivers in Jerusalem, Ma'aleh Adumim, Beit Shemesh, Ofra, and other communities in the area. They committed to saving lives at all times, which is not to be taken for granted, and for which our thanks are due."

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "Such events of appreciation are the least we can do at MDA to thank our teams who are constantly on a mission mission, to provide medical care to patients and injured and to save lives, anytime, anywhere. Seventy outstanding drivers have been selected, and I have no doubt that most of the volunteers who volunteer in the Jerusalem region are truly outstanding, whose entire desire is to help others and do all they can to save human lives."





Came Back to Life for the Third Time

It was Saturday night when Ilan Keshet (67) returned from a visit with friends while traveling with his ex-wife Nurit. When the two arrived near his home in Ramat Aviv, Ilan began to feel chest pain and difficulty in breathing. Ilan immediately recognized something was wrong, and felt like 15 years ago when he had an acute heart attack. He called the MDA 101 emergency line, and asked Nurit to stop at the side of the road. Within 3 minutes, emergency EMTs Issachar Weiss, Aaron Fisher and Nati Yamin arrived. The team started to examine Ilan, and within seconds, Ilan went into cardiac arrest, lost his pulse and stopped breathing. Ilan was clinically dead.

MDA EMTs lay Ilan on the ground, and immediately began performing CPR, including chest compressions and electric shock from the defibrillator. Within about two minutes of the collapse, Ilan's pulse returned and he was able to breathe on his own. A few minutes later, when Ilan was already on the ambulance bed, just before being evacuated to the ICU, he collapsed again and lost his pulse and breath. Medic Aharon Fleishman and paramedic Yossi Bar Maoz of the MDA MICU team again performed advanced resuscitation operations that included providing another electric shock, and within a minute, his heart began to work again, and he was evacuated to the hospital, fully conscious.

A few days after the incident, when Ilan was hospitalized, they came to visit him, whom he calls "The Angels," medics who ride MDA Medicycles, Issachar Weiss and Nati Yamin, and MDA Aaron Fischer who drives the MDA mini electrical car. The three medics who arrived Ilan in about 3 minutes and brought him back to life, were excited to meet him in the hospital when he was in good condition, surrounded by his family.

This is not the first time in Ilan's life that he suffered a cardiac arrest, died clinically, and came back to life after the MDA medics and paramedics performed CPR. In 2004, Ilan sat in a business meeting with a client, beginning to feel chest pain and left hand pain, and immediately he himself felt that it was a heart attack, as a few years ago, Ilan had a heart attack. Ilan did not hesitate and

asked the customer to dial 101 and call MDA. Within minutes, MICU team arrived, performed medical examinations, and evacuated Ilan to the hospital. On the way to the hospital, Ilan suffered a cardiac arrest. Then, Ilan arrived at the hospital, conscious. In the last 15 years since the first time Ilan returned to life after a clinical death, he has been under medical surveillance, and has lived a full life, working as the personal director of singer Boaz Sharabi, flying abroad at least twice a year and spending time with his family and friends.

"I feel fortunate, and glad that I was aware to my physical condition, knowing that it was a heart attack, and calling MDA on time. I know that I am alive today thanks to the medics and paramedics who came to me quickly this time too, like fifteen years ago, and treated me with infinite professionalism and dedication," Ilan Keshet said. "A few days after the case, while I'm still in the ICU. Everybody for me is an angel, and I'll always be grateful to them."

"As a volunteer medic on a MDA Medicycle, I treat hundreds of sick and injured a month, including quite a few cases of people suffering from cardiac arrest. Unfortunately, not in many cases people come back to life after a clinical death, and when that happens, the satisfaction is immense and gives strength to continue to work day and night, on Saturday and on holiday, for the sake of saving lives," EMT on MDA Medicycle Issachar Weiss said, "meeting with Ilan in the hospital was very powerful for me and my medics, who treated him with me, and I was always accompanied by the thought of what would happen if we arrived a few minutes later, I saw Ilan in good condition, with his family, who appreciated our work, a lot of happiness".

MDA senior medic Aharon Fleischman, who met Ilan for the first time since the incident, said: "To this day, the picture I had of Ilan was on the ambulance bed during the treatment we gave him. Today I was very excited to see Ilan standing on his feet when he was healthy and smiling. Meeting and embracing a person like Ilan after being able to save his life gives me the strength and motivation to continually do our important life-saving mission."