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Picture of the week

Exemplary Family

Eyal Davidson is training to become an MDA Paramedic and is a first responder in the Medi-cycle First Responder Unit. He takes great pride in educating his son and saving lives.

It is our hope in the future, we will see them working together to change patient's lives.



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Coronavirus czar, Prof. Ronni Gamzu, on a Special visit to the MDA National Operations Center

“MDA’s emergency response capability - the fastest and most professional”

The coronavirus czar, Prof. Ronni Gamzu, visited the MDA National Operation Center in Kiryat Ono yesterday (Wednesday) and was accompanied by MDA Director General Eli Bin and senior members of the organization. Prof. Gamzu received a comprehensive overview of the activities led by MDA as the national rescue organization and as at the forefront of the fight against the spread of the coronavirus in Israel.

During the visit, Prof. Gamzu heard about MDA’s routine and emergency activities and received an overview of the organization’s response to the Corona crisis and the system of tests and samples. Prof. Gamzu was introduced to the professional, fast and effective test system operated by MDA since the outbreak of the Corona crisis. In addition, the coronavirus czar heard about the array of plasma donations from Corona patients who recovered. Prof. Gamzu toured the National Operations Center and the Corona complex and met employees and volunteers.

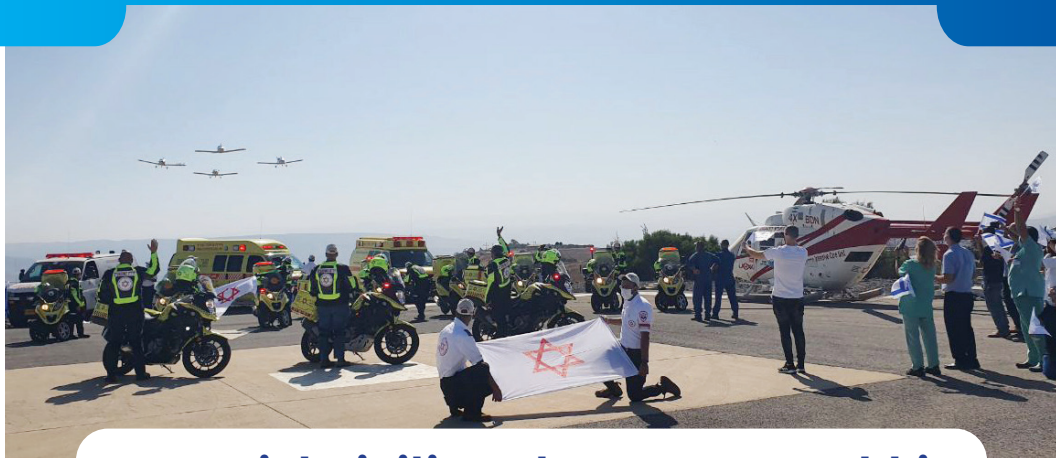
In addition, MDA personnel reviewed Prof. Gamzu about the organization’s activities and presented him with the project “MDA in the Community”, the unique technology developed for and by the organization and the medical equipment that the paramedics will operate in the patients’ homes. Prof. Gamzu also saw

the organization’s unique intensive care unit bus and the special medical and technological equipment that MDA operates in the days of Corona.

Coronavirus czar, Prof. Ronni Gamzu: “Without Magen David Adom we would not have received safety as a health system and as citizens. MDA’s emergency response capability is always the fastest and most professional - the ability to move from command to execution in a crisis, both operationally and technologically unprecedentedly fast. Thanks to MDA’s activities through “Magen Avot” - we were able to save many elderly people and protect the elderly. The current challenge is to expand the testing system in Israel immediately. “Through MDA’s sample system, we will be able to open a window for all Israeli citizens.”

MDA Director General Eli Bin: “I thank the coronavirus czar, Professor Gamzu for his work and his great contribution to the huge and complex challenge called “COVID19”. Thanks to his work, past and present - we at MDA are able to meet the task assigned to us and provide professional treatment to the citizens of Israel citizenship. Fast, efficient and high quality. We thank Professor Gamzu for his many years of public work and for being an MDA partner - in routine and emergency times.”





A Special Civilian Flyover was Held in Honor of Magen David Adom, the IDF, and all medical teams and to Raise Awareness for Compliance with the Ministry of Health Guidelines

The unique civilian salute flyover took off last Friday from Rishon Lezion air pad, in tribute to and to as a gesture of gratitude to the Magen David Adom teams, IDF, and all medical teams who are working around the clock in the national fight against the corona virus and to raise awareness for the Ministry of Health's guidelines for social distancing, masks and hygiene to reduce the spread of the virus. The fly over was initiated by Lt. Col. (Res.) Meir Indor, chairman of Almagor - an organization of victims of terror.

Six private jets took off from the airfield led by Lt. Col. (Res.) Dan Sion, former commander of a fighter squadron and Air Force Aerobatic team member. The flyover then proceeded to the Padeh-Poria helicopter air pad - Lahak and MDA's aerial evacuation air pad where MDA teams were waiting to view the flyover, at the Padeh-Poria Medical Center, led Hospital Director Dr. Erez On, and Malka Amron Nursing Director, who came especially to honor the teams.

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During the flight, the pilot Lt. Col. Dan Sion contacted Magen David Adom's 101 Emergency Call Center and conveyed a message of appreciation in honor of the teams at the forefront of the fight against the Corona virus throughout the country: "At the moment we are flying over your helicopter air pad at Poria Medical Center. Poria, we are paying tribute with this flight to you, the IDF, the hospital staff and all the people involved in the fight against the Corona virus. We thank you on behalf of all Israeli citizens. Thank you!"

The planes also flew over Hadassah Ein Kerem, Rambam, Hillel Yaffe and Laniado hospitals, and later flew over the beaches of Herzliya, Tel Aviv and Ashdod.

Along with honoring and saluting medical professionals, the fly over had another important

goal which is to raise awareness and encourage the public to adhere to the Ministry of Health's guidelines for social distancing, wearing a mask and hygiene in order to break the chain of infection.

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "In these complex days, the special tribute flight held this morning is an optimistic and heartwarming reminder of the public unity and social value in the State of Israel. I would like to thank the initiator of the special event, Lt. Col. (Res.) Meir Indor, Chairman of Almagor who also served today as lead pilot, Lt. Col. (Res.) Dan Sion, a former Air Force commander, a fighter squadron and the five other pilots who succeeded in a special and extraordinary gesture to excite, delight and express gratitude to MDA teams. "We are looking forward to fighting the virus and taking care of public health. We are proud to lead the fight and we will continue to do so until the end of the plague."





The ICRC Commemorates MDA's 90th Anniversary with a Special Gift

This week, the Deputy head of the ICRC delegation, Agathe Stricker, gifted MDA with a photo of an MDA ambulance at Lod airport assisting in the repatriation of Israeli POWs from the 1973 Yom Kippur war held by the Syrian army, organized by the ICRC.





MDA Italy is Returning to Routine

With the outbreak of the Corona wave in Europe, in early March 2020, Italy was the country hardest hit with tens of thousands of sick and dead.

Like MDA's friends societies around the world, the society's activities in Italy were mainly conducted through the ZOOM.

These days, the society is slowly resuming its routine.

In Venice, a defibrillator dedication ceremony

was held at the Jewish Community Center in the presence of community leaders who were involved in fundraising, as well as other community leaders throughout Italy, where defibrillators will be installed in synagogues and other community centers.

In Rome, for the first time in a long time, CPR courses for children and babies in collaboration with the Italian Red Cross were held and were very successful.





Continuing at Full Speed

A global pandemic wasn't enough to stop the devoted team at Candian Magen David Adom (CMDA) from showcasing MDA's iconic Mobile Intensive Care Unit across the country. CMDA was lucky to have a brand new MICU off the assembly line in time for the Jewish high holidays, and they even had large billboards in the populous cities of Toronto and Montreal. In Montreal, the MICU stood proudly in the heart of the city during Rosh Hashana, reminding all those who passed that MDA continues saving lives no matter what. Between October 13th and 30th, CMDA held four safe socially distanced dedication ceremonies. The Brenner, Closner, Steinman, and Yurkovich families were all excited to see a brand new MICU pull up to their front doors. Heartfelt speeches were given, memorable photos were taken, and there was

even room for a special l'chaim over some Magen David wine. We look forward to welcoming all of our generous donors in Israel soon for special ceremonies alongside these new life-saving vehicles.



A New Satellite Station for Magen David Adom in Segev Shalom

“We are working together to develop the community and improve service to the residents”

In a special ceremony held last week, a new MDA satellite station was dedicated in Segev Shalom, which operates in cooperation with the Ajeec Association of the Negev Institute. The new satellite station operates in a building allocated by the local council and is an upgrade to MDA's extensive activities on the site and will serve the organization's employees and volunteers for training the community and expand the volunteer network.

The MDA ambulance in Segev Shalom will operate from the new satellite station from Sunday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. An additional first aid course for the training of additional youth volunteers is expected to open soon at the new satellite station.

Shimon Alkobi, Director of the MDA Negev Region: “We welcome the inauguration of the satellite station and thank the Ajeec Association and the Council for their cooperation. This new station will improve MDA's medical response to the area and will help shorten the response times. I sincerely hope that the satellite station will be a magnet for the residents of the council to volunteer for others.”

Khair Elbaz, Chairman of the Ajeec Institute of the Negev: “We are excited about the grand opening of another important center in Bedouin society and consider it an important service, not only for the residents of Segev Shalom, but for the entire population living in the area. We welcome the expansion of the number of volunteers to the lifeguard circle and hope that the numbers



will continue to grow, and we are confident that the important partnership with MDA and the local councils will continue to grow and develop. The future is in training more young men and women, both in the field of first aid, in the field of ambulance drivers and in the training of paramedics who will serve the various areas. “

Amrana Suilem, Deputy Head of the Segev Shalom Local Council: “I am happy and welcome the opening of the new satellite station and thank our partners along the way - MDA, AJIC, the volunteers and those involved in the craft. I consider this a right and necessary step, since the station provides help to all the citizens in the area - residents of the settlement, the diaspora and also Jews who live nearby. The station will contribute a lot for the population and help the community. “

Eli Bin, MDA Director General: “MDA works to provide the most comprehensive, professional and efficient service possible. Shortening response times and expanding the number of volunteers, community residents, will strengthen cooperation and improve the ability to save lives and provide medical assistance in an emergency. I welcome the opening of the new satellite station and I am sure that the number of volunteers will expand significantly, for the benefit of the residents of the council, the diaspora and the entire area. We thank the local council, its head and the Negev Ajeec Institute, who have been working with us for years to develop the community and improve service to the residents. “



Panic at the Zoo

Amir Bendel, a zookeeper in the Safari in Ramat Gan, was on a routine visit to the kangaroo yard when he suddenly had a heart attack and collapsed. Thanks to the defibrillator installed at the zoo Amir's life was saved.

These days, when most places are closed, the Safari workers and zookeepers continue to care for the animals despite the lack of visitors. That day started the same as any other, but nearly ended in tragedy.

A few weeks ago, the safari management decided that from now on, two caregivers would work in the kangaroo yard, for their safety. In retrospect, that decision saved lives. Amir Bendel, a zookeeper, entered the kangaroo yard for routine treatment, but soon felt pain in his chest and collapsed. His co-worker who was standing nearby immediately called Magen David Adom and called Doron Tam, the Operations Manager at the Safari, who has also been a volunteer with MDA for the past eight years.

Doron Tam, an MDA Senior EMT, in addition to being the operations manager at the Safari, is also responsible for the first aid at the zoo. As part of his job, he arranged for two defibrillators to be installed at different locations throughout the park. That morning, he and his co-worker Gilad received an emergency call for their unresponsive coworker.

The two immediately rushed to the scene with the AED. Doron recounted those first few moments "when we arrived at the compound, we saw Amir on the ground unresponsive. We began CPR and connected the AED, which provided two electrical

shocks. Following the second shock, he began to breathe again. We provided him with oxygen, and at the same time an MDA Medi-cycle First Responder and MICU arrived and continued medical treatment. Amir was evacuated in stable condition to Sheba Tel HaShomer Hospital for further treatment."

He adds: "This is the first time I have performed CPR in the Safari and on a co-worker. We have set up a network of medical assistance and I am glad that this enabled us to save his life. Amir came back to visit us and it was very emotional. We are eager to see him return to work and make a full recovery"

Amir Bendel, a caretaker in the monkey department and a safari train driver, admitted that he does not remember anything from the moment of the incident - and two days back. Despite this, he heard about the case from his co-workers and medical staff and was thrilled to discover that thanks to his safari colleagues - his life was miraculously saved.

On his return to the safari for the first time after the incident, Amir excitedly recalled: "I was very happy to return, even if it was a short visit until I make a full recovery. It was very exciting to meet Doron and Gilad - this time when we all smiling and on our feet. I thanked them and Doron was more excited than me. I could not believe that I came to visit so quickly. I am still in the process of rehabilitation, walking around my home but am looking forward to returning to the safari. I thank everyone who helped and was a part of my return to life."