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Picture of the week

True Love in MDA

Ali Awad and Dua Diab first met when they volunteered at MDA and fell in love. In recognition of the way they met they chose to take wedding photos in their MDA uniforms. Mazal Tov to the happy couple!



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Double Simcha in Times of COVID-19!





Chairperson of the Knesset Committee on his Visit to MDA's National Operations Center

“While the country is in the midst of the Corona crisis, MDA has proven its importance more than ever during these complex times”

MK Eitan Ginzburg (Blue and White), Chairperson of the Knesset Committee, visited MDA's National Operations Center in Kiryat Ono last week and was accompanied by MDA Director General Eli Bin and senior members of the organization. MK Ginzburg conducted a comprehensive tour of the center and met with the MDA teams. He learned about the various areas of expertise and MDA's activities as Israel's National Emergency Medical and Blood Services Organization at the forefront of the corona virus crisis.

During the tour, MK Ginzburg received an overview of the organization's response to the corona crisis in the past eight months as well as the organization's emergency and routine activities. MK Ginzburg was presented with the professional, fast and efficient corona virus sampling system that MDA has been operating since the beginning of the corona crisis throughout the country in conjunction with the Home Front Command and the HMOs. In addition, he learned about the plasma donation system from Corona patients who have recovered that is being held at MDA blood services.

Lastly, he learned about the plasma donation system which is in place at the MDA Blood Services which takes plasma from recovered corona virus patients to provide antibodies to moderate and severe patients.

In addition, MDA team members spoke to MK Ginzburg about the organization's activities and presented him with the “MDA in the Community” project, which is

expected to reduce the need to evacuate patients to the emergency rooms by 30%, thus alleviating the overcrowding in the hospitals. He was also being briefed about hundreds of smart defibrillators placed by MDA throughout the country and on the unique intensive care bus developed by the organization in cooperation with the IDF. In addition, he toured the organization's National Dispatch Center, met with volunteers and employees and was exposed to the many life saving technologies developed by MDA.

MK Eitan Ginzburg, Chairperson of the Knesset Committee: “MDA does sacred work. It is based on about 25,000 volunteers, who work day and night to provide emergency medical services to all of us, which are more in demand today. I was happy to receive an overview of the blessed and diverse activities they hold and tour their call center, which receives all incoming calls and coordinates and operates the array of emergency vehicles. I thank you for the opportunity to hear about the needs and see with my own eyes what it takes for them to continue to function in the best way to continue to save lives. “

MDA Director General Eli Bin: “I would like to thank MK Ginzburg, Chairman of the Knesset Committee, for dedicating his time and coming to be impressed and learn up close about the activities of the National Rescue Organization of the State of Israel during both routine and the Corona virus crisis in particular.”



60 Units of Blood Collected In a Special Blood Drive Hosted at the Ministry of Health Control Center

Due to the national shortage of blood in the State of Israel, Ministry of Health staff led by Professor Itamar Grotto, , held a special blood drive, during which 60 life saving units of blood were collected.

The staff of the Control Center donated blood in order to increase the national blood supply and save lives. Professor Itamar Grotto, the Deputy Director General of the Ministry, also donated.

MDA Director General Eli Bin: “We would like to thank the Ministry of Health and the staff of the Control Center team for their cooperation and for donating dozens of blood units that will help save the lives of about 200 sick and injured. It is not obvious that these days, during a national crisis, the ministry’s staff managed to be available to the important goal and save lives. “





Shortening Response Times in Hadera and Jasr a-Zarqa

Magen David Adom operates a large station in the city of Hadera, where a mobile intensive care unit and ambulances operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with an additional MDA satellite station being inaugurated in the Beit Eliezer neighborhood in the southeast of the city. The new satellite station is located in the municipality's building.

The Magen David Adom stations in Hadera employ dozens of workers and hundreds of volunteers, including about 60 EMTs, ambulance drivers, paramedics and about 150 youth volunteers from the city and the surrounding area, in addition to MDA motorcycles that shorten response times and help save lives. An additional EMT MDA course is expected to be complete soon, with an additional 20 EMTs expected to join the teams.

Another satellite station was opened by Magen David Adom in Jasr a-Zarqa, in cooperation with the local council. The ambulance crew that will operate from the new satellite station will provide service to the residents of the council, the surrounding communities and the road users on Route 4.

Yossi Rokach, Director of the MDA Sharon region: "Opening the new Magen David Adom satellite station is another important step we are taking at MDA in order to further shorten response times and continuously improve the medical response to residents. I would like to thank the residents of the cities, the nearby communities and at their leaders for the many years of cooperation for the cities' residents."





Saving Lives in Memory of Lt. Hila Bezaleli

Eight and a half years after her death in the Mount Herzl disaster, on Sunday, the late First Lieutenant Hila Bezaleli was commemorated in a unique celebration of life. Bezaleli, was a dedicated MDA volunteer and dreamed of becoming a doctor. In her memory, a new ambulance was dedicated at the MDA satellite station in Mevaseret Zion.

The donation of the ambulance in memory of the late Hila was made possible thanks to the activities of Israeli Friends of Magen David Adom that raised donations through a donor who asked to remain anonymous.

Sigalit Bezaleli, the mother of the late First Lieutenant Hila Bezaleli: "Herzel said 'every human act is based on a dream'. The heart cries but is so proud. Thanks to all partners' Israeli Friends of Magen David Adom and to the generous

donor, it is an exciting day. Thanks to you, we have reached this moment. We will continue the wish that our Hila left to spread the light everywhere "Mummy, I went out to save lives". I sincerely hope that in any case in which the ambulance to which the ambulance is dispatched is filled with good health and good things and yes, just save lives. "

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "This is an exciting day in which we commemorate the memory of the late First Lieutenant Hila Bezaleli by inaugurating an ambulance in her memory. The late Hila, who was an officer and commander in the IDF, took time to do what she loved and went out to save lives in on the ambulance. She was a dedicated volunteer and the volunteers who will work in the ambulance in which she was commemorated will continue on her path and save lives."





Cutting Off the Chain of Infection in Kiryat Motzkin

MDA's Corona Guardian's Course

In light of the continued threat of the corona virus and with the gradual return to routine, Magen David Adom has developed the "Corona Guardians" Project, which teaches the public practical tools to break the chain of infection. This week, a course was completed in Kiryat Motzkin after having been held entirely online. The course participants were invited to a graduation ceremony which took place in accordance with the social distancing limitations in place per the Ministry of Health.

The purpose of the training is to provide participants with the tools to break the chain of infection and to assist in teaching the public. 15 participants aged 20 to 60 joined the program in Kiryat Motzkin with the aim of assisting in sharing information with the public to reduce the spread of the virus and how to handle a suspected exposure.

As part of the course, the participants learned in detail about the virus, routes of transmission, how to avoid infection and the importance of wearing a mask and maintaining social

distancing. The "Corona Guardians" will undoubtedly assist in reducing exposures to the virus and reducing the spread of the virus.

Odeya Cohen, course participant: "I heard about the course through a Facebook post and signed up to be able to learn more about the corona virus pandemic and learn the guidelines to deal with preventing exposures. This was a fun experience in which I learned a lot. The graduation ceremony was special and exciting and I enjoyed meeting the instructors and other participants face to face for the first time."

Course instructors and MDA EMTs Ariel Goldberg and Leon Kolesnichenko: "Teaching an online course is an extraordinary experience. On the one hand it makes participants readily available and motivated, but on the other hand, all we know are their pictures. Being able to have the graduation ceremony in person was very exciting and special and allowed us to see the faces from behind the computer screen. It was exciting and fun."



Tefillin Stands have been Set Up at Many MDA Stations Through Out Israel

Last week, MDA began a unique project in which many Tefillin stands were set up in the organization's stations around the country. These are for the use of the organization's employees and volunteers.

The project was initiated by Rabbi Yonatan Shpitzer, an ambulance driver and EMT organization and director of the MDA Chabad House, who established the new stands with the help of Rabbi Yosef Nachshon from the "Soldiers in Love" project. The initial stands were placed at the MDA stations in Kiryat Ono, Jerusalem, Haifa, Afula, Tiberias, Rishon Lezion, Netanya, Acre, Ashdod, Beer-Sheva and other cities.

In the days of Corona, when the organization is at the forefront of the fight to prevent the spread of the virus and operates around the clock, the new tefillin stands will be available for use of the medical staff. In light of the high demand for the project, the organization is working to expand the placement of stands to additional stations throughout the country

in the near future.

Rabbi Yonatan Shpitzer, the project's founder, says: "The goal of the project is to create a nice location for the tefillin and give dedicated volunteers and employees a comfortable and worthy opportunity to pray. I thank the MDA Director General who gave the green light for the project and came today. We will commission tefillin stands at other stations around the country. We are already seeing an increase in demand and we are receiving requests from other stations to set up stations there. This is a great privilege that has fallen to us."

MDA Director Director Eli Bin: "I congratulate Rabbi Yonatan Shpitzer and his partners in this project and thank the donor for his contribution and work to bring us together and make the Tefillin accessible to our employees and volunteers. Chabad does a wonderful mission and spreads free love and support to the organization. I thank Rabbi Nachshon for his hard work on the project. "



Double Simcha in Times of COVID-19!

Even in the most challenging of times there is always a reason to celebrate! Jesse and Josh Slade chose Magen David Adom for donations in honour of their Bar Mitzvahs which were held over zoom in October.

“MDA helps out Israeli citizens in need, whether it be in times of medical emergencies or to provide joy and happiness for extremely ill individuals through the Wish Ambulance. The very impressive Blood Bank currently being built will be life changing for so many



Josh Slade 2020



Jesse Slade 2020

individuals. So many important and lifesaving projects for one organisation!”. The Slade Family

MDA Australia is so appreciative of Jesse & Josh’s family and friends who donated so generously in honour of the boy’s Bar Mitzvah’s and purchased 2 defibrillators for the streets of Israel.

Thank you all for your support and generosity.