



Canada for Magen David Adom



Picture of the week on instagram



Torah donated to the Paramedics Midrash at the Ofakin Hesder Yeshiva by Yitzhak Maor Grill



The Sixth MDA International Seminar for Doctors and Paramedics



Friends in Times of Crisis



MDA in a Mass Casualty Drill in Ecuador



The Donation of The Ambassador



The Bar Mitzvah Boy That Decided to Donate a Torah to MDA's Lifesavers



The New Tradition of Blood Donation in The Memory of Sara Margolin RIP



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Canada for Magen David Adom

At the beginning of December 2016, MDA Friends Society in Canada celebrated its 40th anniversary. MDA Friends Societies were established 70 years ago in the United States and expanded over the years, and now there are societies spread out around the world. The Friends Societies urge donors to help with MDA activities and allow the purchase of sophisticated medical equipment, ambulances, and the construction of stations.

The Minister of Health MK Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, and MDA Director General Eli Bin attended the exciting and impressive event which was held in Montreal.

Among the 300 guests at the ceremony were many Canadian donors' families, including the Rossdeutscher family that was awarded with a certificate of appreciation for their work on behalf of MDA over the years and on the donation of six ambulances, a mobile intensive care unit and a motorcycle.

During the event, a film about MDA activities in the past year was screened. The Minister of Health spoke and praised the activities of MDA and the intensive activity of MDA Director Eli Bin. Additionally, representatives of the Association of Friends of Canada addressed the audience.

Minister of Health MK Rabbi Yaakov Litzman: "MDA is devoted to save lives, anytime and anywhere in Israel. This is a praiseworthy activity that we are committed to strengthening and promoting in any way. The contribution of MDA in collaboration with the Friends Societies and MDA Director Eli Bin is important and vital to promote the organization and for the continuation of saving lives. "



Minister of Health Rabbi Yaakov Litzman



Minister of Health Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, MDA DG Eli Bin, the Israeli consul in Montreal Ziv Nevo



Photos: MDA Friend Society in Canada



The Rossdeutscher family



The Rossdeutscher family

The Sixth MDA International Seminar for Doctors and Paramedics

Between 4-9th December 2016 the fifth MDA International Seminar for doctors and paramedics was held. The seminar brought together 16 doctors and paramedics from Italy, USA, Canada, India and Britain.

The purpose of the seminar was to expose doctors and paramedics from around the world to MDA's emergency activities and to connect them with saving lives in routine and emergency as well as strengthen the bond of participants with MDA Friends' Societies worldwide.

The participants heard lectures from MDA professionals, visited the national emergency center, Blood Services, MDA Ashdod and Jerusalem stations, participated in a multi-casualty drill in Ashdod, visited the Shaare Zedek Medical Center and heard an interesting lecture by Dr. Marin, and spent a day spectating on ambulances in the central region.

At the closing meeting the participants commended the visit and the experience they underwent in Israel and emphasized the great importance of the professional learning activities of MDA.



Participate at Mass Casualties Incident drill



Friends in Times of Crisis

MDA Jerusalem Volunteers went to the Beit Shemesh fire station to look after the wellbeing of the firefighters from abroad

Due to the fires, firefighters from other countries arrived in Israel to assist the rescue forces here to control the fires, firefighters from other countries arrived in Israel to assist the rescue forces here to control the fires. Yesterday MK Nava Boker requested from the Director General of MDA, Eli Bin, assistance in providing equipment to the fire stations where the foreign firefighters are staying.

Immediately, MDA DG Eli Bin instructed that, if necessary, MDA would provide for all the foreign firefighters needs in the fire stations throughout Israel and due to necessity, will provide from the MDA emergency storeroom, beds, mattresses and sleeping bags to the station in Bet

Shemesh. MDA Jerusalem volunteers decided to cheer up the foreign firefighters and provided refreshments for their arrival to the station. The volunteers noticed that not all of the teams were present so they decided to return in the morning. In addition, the volunteers presented MDA ambulances to the foreign firefighters and explained to them about the professional and Humanitarian work that MDA has taken part of in past few days due to the fires and in routine times.

MDA medics, Ahron Shteinmitz, Nir Bozaglo and Avi Orlov: "We brought them beds and mattresses so that they could sleep comfortable and refreshments to cheer them up. Not all of the firefighters were present as some of them were fighting the fire so we returned in the morning to meet the rest of them and to talk to them. The Cypriot firefighters were very appreciative and were very interested to hear about MDA and the work that the organization does."



Photo: MDA Spokesmen



Countries around the world learn from the national rescue organization of Israel:

MDA in a Mass Casualty Drill in Ecuador

Around two weeks ago, an MDA delegation travelled to Ecuador with the intention of sharing the organization's information and vast experience of treating Mass Casualty Incidents. The workshop ended with a Mass Casualty drill organized by representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Ecuadorian Red Cross. By the end of which, they built a guide to treating these events and aspects of medical assistance and treating casualties. The delegation, which was organized by MDA and the Israel Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aimed to help the pre-hospital medical system as a part of the lessons learned from the disastrous earthquake which struck Ecuador last April. The final drill demonstrated an incident of a building which collapsed with 70 injured and trapped under the rubble. Representatives of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Health built for the drill, a special facility which represented the disaster scene and allowed for advanced rescue.

Amongst those who came to watch the drill were, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Health Mr. Santiago Tarapues, the Medical Manager of the Ministry of Health for the region of Quito, Ecuador Dr. Manuel Minaya, Manager of the Disaster Planning unit of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Health, The Israeli Ambassador to Quito, Ecuador Advin Yabo, MDA Executive Committee Charmin Dr. Noam Yifrach, representatives from the police and military and many others.



Photos: MDA Spokesmen and Ecuador Red Cross

The Donation of The Ambassador

On Tuesday, the 22nd of November 2016, MDA Blood Services team arrived at the US Embassy where the US ambassador to Israel, Dan Shapiro, donated a blood unit along with the embassy staff who donated 40 units of blood. This is not the first time that the ambassador chose to donate blood, Shapiro, who regularly donates blood twice a year, realized the importance of blood donation and therefore kept his promise of a few years ago and invited the MDA blood services team to visit the embassy where he donated blood.

Ambassador Shapiro showed great interest with regard to the process of blood donations in the country in comparison to the process used in United States, he also took an interest in the blood and the inventory of blood donated daily and annually in Israel.



USA Ambassador to Israel donates blood. Photos: USA Embassy



The Bar Mitzvah Boy That Decided to Donate a Torah to MDA's Lifesavers

Yitzhak Maor Grill – aged 13, decided to show his involvement to his community and donate a Torah to the Paramedics Midrash at the Ofakim Hesder Yeshiva.

On Sunday Nov. 27th 2016 a festive event took place at the Meir Harel Hesder Yeshiva in the presence of Yitzhak Maor's parents, Steven and Dr. Aliza Grill with their children, Rabbi Eliezer Sheinwald, Dr Eli Jaffe MDA Deputy Director General – Communities, Itzik Alfasi Director of MDA Negev Region, the Yeshiva students, 12 of the first graduates of the joint Paramedics program, 15 new trainees, and MDA Negev Paramedics, EMT's - volunteers and employees.

Benyamin Lifshitz – one of the first Paramedics course graduates has emotionally expressed his thoughts: "I'm proud to be an MDA Paramedic graduate of the first training program at the Hesder Yeshiva. It is an excellent program, combining Bible studies and a meaningful army service. I thank the Grill family for their contribution". The Grill Family, a Zionist American family, are generous donors to several central organizations in Israel. During the Bar Mitzvah ceremonies of their two older sons, they have also donated Torahs for each event. This time, their son decided to donate to MDA, Israel's National Lifesaving organization.

Following the ceremony the family visited the MDA Ofakim Station, received a full overview from the paramedics about the organization's scope of national responsibilities and activities, the lifesaving fleet of ambulances and the advanced medical equipment and systems.

Yitzhak Maor's Mother Dr. Aliza Grill: "It was an emotional ceremony, I'm proud of Yitzhak's decision to donate the Torah to the MDA lifesaving paramedics. I'm thankful to the outstanding work MDA is providing to the Israeli people, everyone who donates to Israel is blessed".

Dr. Eli Jaffe: "A Torah that comes from Gmitul Chessed (act of kindness) is a winning combination represented in the lifesaving mission of the paramedics. During the recent wildfires dozens of the paramedic trainees at the Hesder Yeshivas were members of MDA's national emergency reserves response unit.



Yitzhak Maor Grill at MDA station in Ofakim



The Grill family
Photos: Snir Yazvitzki



From right to left: Rami Meushar, the project coordinator, Tal Pleg, MDA paramedic, Eli Yaffe, MDA Deputy DG – community, Rabbi Eliezer Sheinwald, Head of Meir Harel Hesder Yeshiva

The New Tradition of Blood Donation in The Memory of Sara Margolin RIP

On August 16th, we welcomed the special traditional blood drive in the memory of Sara Margolin, Z"L, who passed away on August 21st 2014. This drive, like the two previous ones, was the organized by Sara's daughter, Michal Margolis–Nevet as a meaningful act, in memory of her beloved mother, and, like those before, was hosted at MDA Blood Services.

Michal's affair with MDA Blood Services commenced three years ago, when she contacted Hagit Peled – MDA Regional Blood Drives Coordinator, aiming at coordinating the collection of blood units for her mother, who was hospitalized at Sheba Medical Center, and needed platelet transfusion for her survival.

The (first) blood drive was set for August, when blood units are most needed due to seasonal shortage of blood. It was also Michal's 32nd birthday, which in Jewish Tradition is translated into the symbolic Lamed Beth Shanaim (32 years) which also compose the word "Lev"-Heart in Hebrew.

During the day there was an ongoing flow of Michal's friends and acquaintances, who altogether donated 33 blood units – 32 for her birthday, and one for next year :)

Exactly a year later – on August 2015, Michal organized the second blood drive, but this time we were saddened to hear that her precious mother had passed away, and that the current

blood drive would be dedicated to her memory. "Our purpose is to commemorate Mom through her distinguished giving - one of her main traits, in a way that will help as many people as possible regardless to their religion, gender or race, at the place where she was defeated. From now on we shall meet once a year in August and gather blood donors in the most challenging time in terms of blood shortage", says Michal.

Michal, a regular blood donor, filled the questionnaire and was about to give her donation when, to her surprise, she was deferred due to low hemoglobin. The reason was revealed to us upon our meeting this year, as Michal shared that a day following last year's blood drive she found out she was pregnant with twins.

Last month we were thrilled to welcome the Margolis-Nevet extended family at MDA Blood Services, when this time, apart from the usual delicatessen and breakfast provided to all blood donors, Michal was accompanied by Itai her husband, along with two additional two distinguished guests: the 4.5 months old twins - Daniel Eshel and Gilad Erez.

We thank Michal and her husband for the beautiful tradition they formed, for the partnership and good spirit in which the blood drives are organized, and for the dozens of blood units donated due to this tradition, which so far assisted in saving the lives of over hundred patients.

We wish the Margolis-Nevet family health, joy and complacency.



In the picture (right to left): Nediva Matt, Orly Habani, Michal Margolis-Nevet, Prof. Eilat Shinar, Hadar Vadai, Itai Nevet holding Daniel. Below: Hedva Nevet holding Gilad.

