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MDA Relief and Rescue Mission to Istanbul



A Tearful Meeting on Good Deeds Day



Special Evening Held to Honor Negev MDA First Responders



Ms. Jacqueline Renée Brown Z'L



A lifesaving MICU Ambulance Dedicated in Memory of Eric Beecham z'I by his Family



MDA Jerusalem Region Celebrates the Festival of Purim!

Did you know?

MDA teams perform an average of 500 resuscitations per month



MDA Relief and Rescue Mission to Istanbul

Immediately after receiving the information about the terror attack in Istanbul and the injured Israelis on Saturday March 19th, MDA's Director General activated the international relief and rescue protocols of MDA, the Israeli Society of the Red Cross organization. The operation was coordinated with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the "Passport Card" insurance company. Two Israeli aircrafts with MDA doctors and paramedics and Israeli diplomats took off on Saturday evening to Istanbul in order bring back home the injured Israeli victims.

After landing in Istanbul, MDA doctors, medics and paramedics assessed the condition of the injured in the hospitals and prepared them for the flight back home. The mission was equipped with advanced medical equipment that enables the MDA team to provide intensive care treatment to the injured victims during the flight.

In the early morning hours of Sunday March 20th 2016, 5 injured Israelis were safely returned home, brought back by the members of the MDA medical rescue team.

With the landing of the Israeli Air Force plane in Istanbul, MDA paramedics and doctors accompanied the remaining 5 wounded, 4 of them in moderate condition, to the ambulances of the Red Cross and on to the plane heading home. MDA ambulances evacuated them to hospitals upon their arrival to Israel. Mission accomplished.



A Tearful Meeting on Good Deeds Day

Usually MDA medics and paramedics tend to surprise the injured whose lives they saved, but on Good Deeds Day the injured surprised the people who saved their lives.

In a moving ceremony held on March 15, 2016, in MDA Headquarters in Tel Aviv, the organization celebrated Good Deeds Day by granting certificates of appreciation to five medics and paramedics-paramedics: Gabi Rosenfeld, Yair Shusheim and Bezalel Ben Hemo and the medics: Shmulik Rhinos and Saul Malka, for their ingenuity while saving the lives of soldiers, Yarin Ashkenazi and Yuval Appel who were injured in a car ramming attack on Route 60 near the village of Sinjil.

Last August, a terrorist drove down Highway 60 near the village of Sinjil and ran into three soldiers with his car. Two of the soldiers, Yarin Ashkenazi and Yuval Appel were seriously injured and their lives were saved by MDA teams that arrived at the scene, gave them life-saving treatment and evacuated them to hospital with a MICU and an air force helicopter.

What recipients of the certificates of appreciation did not know is that these certificates would be presented together by the Director General of MDA and by Yarin and Yuval themselves who recently returned from the hospital with a long journey of rehabilitation ahead of them.

Staff and soldiers had not met before and when Yarin and Yuval entered the room not one eye was left dry in the audience. Paramedics and medics exchanged long embraces with the two that thanked them from the bottom of their hearts for their activity in the field.

Gabi Rosenfeld, of MDA, who has been working for more than 17 years, told the audience about the joy of seeing Yarin and Yuval on their feet: "It's just amazing to see Yarin and Yuval breathe and stand on their feet. I must be honest and say I did not believe they would survive, but their strength and the treatment provided by the medical staff brought us here today to stand together and no one is happier than I am. Seeing you here today is what gives me strength to continue to save lives for another 17 years, despite the difficult hours and the distance from family, working for MDA is worth everything when you see people you saved, rehabilitating and returning to normal life. "



Yarin Ashkenazi thanked the five MDA members in front of the audience: "What you have done is simply incredible! Thanks to your amazing work on the ground, thanks to the commitment and sacrifice, Yuval and I stand here today and there are no words great enough to thank you. You and this organization are doing an amazing job and we and many others owe you a huge debt "And at the end of his remarks saluted MDA.

At the end of the emotional ceremony, spontaneously the 5 medics and paramedics sat with Yarin, Yuval and their families and talked at length about the events of the day of the attack, the difficult rehabilitation and promised to continue to keep in touch.

Special Evening Held to Honor Negev MDA First Responders

On Sunday (March 27th, 2016) a special evening was held to honor the first responder volunteers of the MDA Negev Region.

MDA officials attended the event along with Southern District Police Commander Major General David Bitan and a representative of the Bedouin tribes, Sheikh Ahmed Abu Hamid.

The event began with a lecture by MDA paramedic Shafir Butner, of the MDA paramedics school, who presented to the participants the medical protocols recently updated by MDA's Medical Division which includes a wide range of professional guidelines and emergency procedures for EMTs. At the end of the lecture the protocol folders were distributed to the first responders along with certificates of appreciation.

MDA southern district Director, Yehuda Shushan, congratulated and thanked the first responders for their life-saving work: *"MDA first responders are doing an incredible job throughout the year both in terms of health care and in terms of dedication and sacrifice for the sake of saving lives. We, in the Southern District of MDA work around the clock to provide assistance anywhere, thanks to new technologies that have recently been implemented in the organization and the Life Guardian project that enables citizens with medical training to join MDA, I am confident we can continue to upgrade the response anywhere, anytime".*

The Commander of the southern district of the Israeli Police, David Bitan, thanked the first responders: *"I am happy to greet you all, you're doing an amazing job and I am jealous because of the right given to you to save lives. In the past I volunteered as an MDA medic and ambulance driver at Ofakim station, it is very exciting to be here and see the extent of large, impressive first responders and hear their extraordinary stories. This is an important unit in the southern district for the public and I am happy about the excellent cooperation between the police and Magen David Adom."*

In addition to the praises and as a part of the training of Bedouin volunteers, CPR kits and first aid were given to MDA Bedouin volunteers from Rahat and Kseifa that joined the MDA first responders. The kits were given by a representative of the Bedouin tribes, Sheik Ahmed Abu Hamid of the Azbarga tribe and MDA South district officials.



Special Evening Held to Honor Negev MDA First Responders



certificates of appreciation distribution



Protocols folders distribution



Ms. Jacqueline Renée Brown Z"L

For 15 years, Jacqueline was the Coordinator of both the Hadas Division and the International Department – the glue between us all.

During her years of employment in Magen David Adom Jacqueline was involved in the complex and sensitive process of MDA's induction to the international Red Cross & Red Crescent movement. To do this Jacqueline recruited her broad experience in foreign relations and her familiarity with the Swiss culture while understanding the importance of this process to MDA and to the country of Israel.

A story from Jacqueline's past – Years before she began working in MDA, while she and her family were residing in Arad, Jacqueline called on the services of an MDA crew when she experienced contractions.

During the ambulance ride, she announced that the pregnancy was advancing, and the crew on the ambulance stopped on the side of the road in order to aid and welcome the birth of one of the two twin girls; the second twin, Jacqueline was able to give

birth to in the hospital. The baby girl that was born in the ambulance grew up to be an EMT and ambulance driver in MDA.

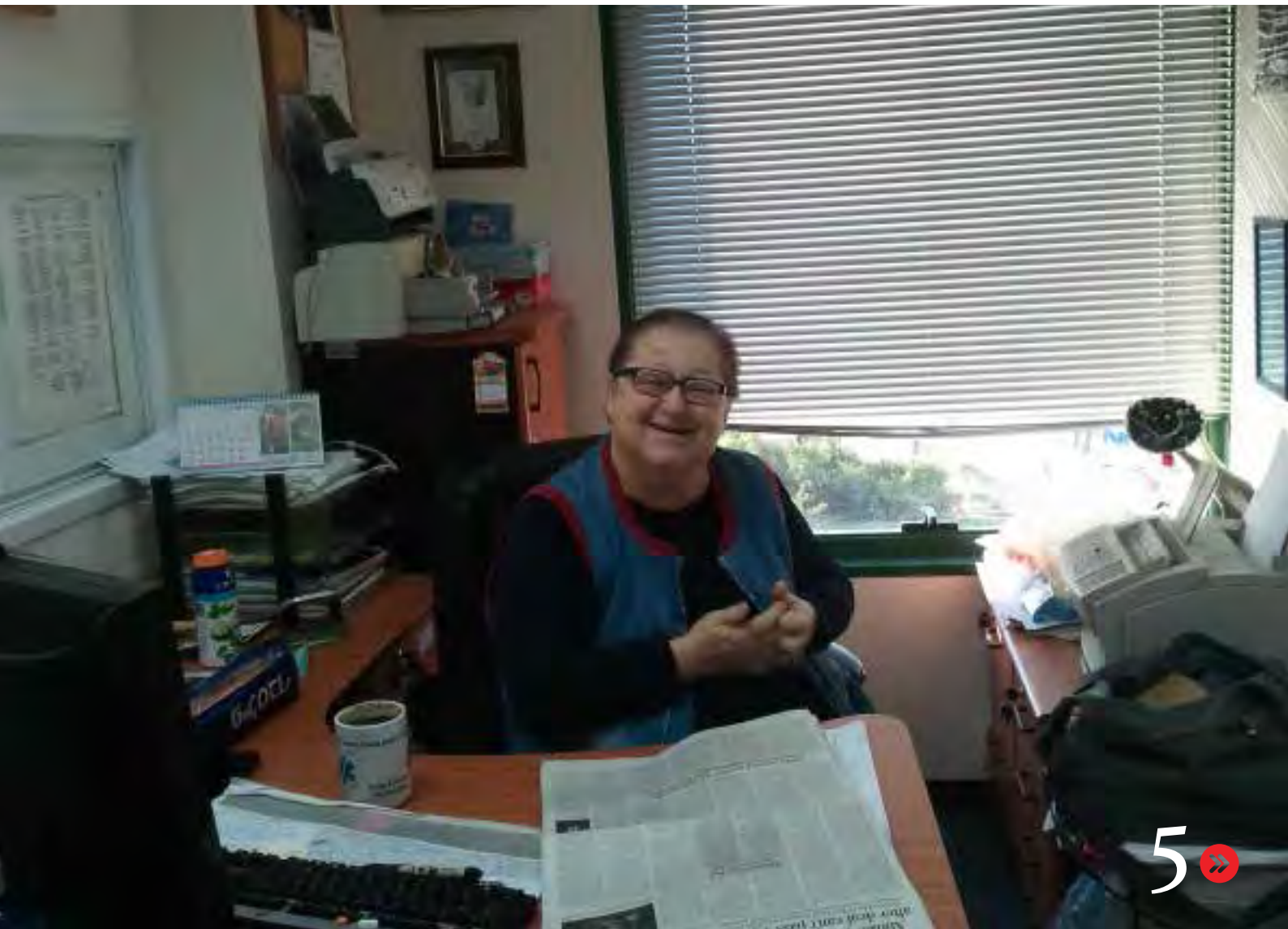
We all have such fond memories of Jacqueline. Always smiling and happy, with a never failing sense of humor, she had a great love for all those around her – and a passion for Magen David Adom around the world and the State of Israel.

Jacqueline was gifted with the rare ability to talk to anyone, volunteers and world leaders alike. Enriched by both the Swiss-French and Israeli cultures, her desire for accuracy and richness of the written word on the one hand and her direct Israeli approach on the other, allowed her to always communicate in the most appropriate way!

Jacqueline will be sorely missed by her family and all her friends at Magen David Adom.

We mourn her passing and send our heartfelt condolences to her daughters, grandsons and granddaughters.

May her soul Rest in Peace.



A lifesaving MICU Ambulance Dedicated in Memory of Eric Beecham z"l by his Family

On March 13th 2016 family and friends of Eric Beecham z"l came together in Tel Aviv's MDA station for a dedication ceremony of the lifesaving mobile intensive care unit donated in Eric's memory via Magen David Adom in the UK.

Jean Beecham, Trisha Ward, Jackie Kyram and Richard Beecham were excited to share the wonderful occasion with their family and friends. Trisha quoted *"Eric would've been immensely proud of being associated with this project and we would like to think that his soul travels along with the medical team that ride this ambulance and do such great work"* **said Trisha.**

Following the unveiling of the inscription by Jean Beecham and Richard Beecham, and the handing over of the keys to EMT Nir Buzaglo of the Jerusalem region, who is the driver of the MICU, Ido Golan-Gutin of the British Desk at the MDA International Relations Department explained to the family where the intensive care unit is stationed (Jerusalem) its importance and unique abilities within the organization and the crew that will work on it – a professional senior Paramedic, a Junior Paramedic, and an EMT driver, all of whom can be volunteers at any given shift.

"Although I did not know Eric z"l personally, from seeing all of you here today I know that he was very dear to you. This lifesaving gift of a MICU is a wonderful way to perpetuate Eric's memory that will carry on allowing MDA's teams to save many lives in his name. MDA is honoured by your support which has provided us with the means to save lives each and every day, especially during these most terrible of days when terror strikes daily. We cherish and admire you from the bottom of our hearts and thank you," **said Golan-Gutin** to the Beecham family.



1. Unveiling the inscription in memory of Eric Beecham by Jean & Richard Beecham
2. Handing over of the keys to EMT-Driver Nir Buzaglo of the Jerusalem MDA station
3. The Beecham family next to the MICU
4. Jean and her daughters Trisha and Jackie hearing an explanation on the advanced medical equipment in the MICU
5. The extended family and friends next to the MICU





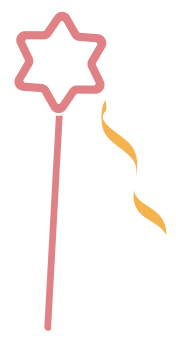
MDA Jerusalem Region Celebrates the Festival of Purim!



MDA workers and volunteers from the Jerusalem Region, together with their families, gathered together on Purim' eve for the traditional reading of the Megilla, which is held every year in the MDA Jerusalem station.

The event took place in the presence of MDA Director General, Eli Bin, and the Manager of the MDA Jerusalem Region, Shlomo Petrover, and the administration of the Jerusalem Region.

After the reading of the Megilla, the workers and volunteers of the Region spent a good time together at the Purim Feast in the best sense of the tradition and in a festive spirit. The MDA children also had a good time during the festivities, whilst many of them chose to dress up as their parents and for one day to be MDA paramedics and medics.



Photos: Joseph Kasuto MDA Jerusalem region Spokesmen