Making Israel stronger by saving lives every day.

See how your support is helping Israelis.

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Help build Magen David Adom’s new Marcus National Blood Services Center, the world’s first underground, shielded blood bank and processing center.

Your support to build a new national blood services center expresses your love of Israel in a way few gifts can — by saving Israeli lives, by ensuring the vitality of the state, and by protecting Israel’s blood supply for the 21st century.

Be part of the most important national security project in Israel today with a gift to MDA, the state’s national medical emergency organization.

Israel’s most prized possession. And a terrorist’s biggest target.
MDA by the Numbers

1,094
Ambulances and MICUs

22,000
Volunteers of all ages

All calls answered within
4 seconds

600+
Medic cycles

Volunteers invest over
2,000,000
hours of service per year

168
EMS Stations across Israel

First-aid training for
90,000
civilians and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers

Average of
500
resuscitations per month

More than
835,000
patients treated

More than
5,000,000
miles traveled to save lives

Collecting, testing,
storing, and distributing
97%
of the blood for Israel’s hospitals and 100% for IDF soldiers

More than
9,000,000
Israelis

MDA’s work is never done. Your support helps make a difference for the people of Israel every day.

Saving lives. It’s in our blood.
19-year-old injured in terror attack completes training to become MDA EMT.

After a terrorist bomb in southern Samaria killed his sister and nearly took his life, Dvir Schnierb completed the EMS course he had been enrolled in and was certified as an EMT by Magen David Adom, Israel’s national emergency service organization.

In his new role as a volunteer EMT, Dvir, 19, will honor his sister's memory by working to save the lives of others. “I want to use this moment to say thank you to all of the medical professionals who saved my life. You all gave me a gift, the gift of life. I promise to use this gift to be the best I can be,” Dvir said.

Introducing Israel’s latest lifesaving vehicle — MDA’s Seabulance!

With the launching of its first “Seabulance,” Magen David Adom EMTs and paramedics can now provide advanced levels of medical care to patients on Israel’s Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) and seamlessly transition them back to land for additional care.

Just a week after going into service, the boat and its crew have been involved in multiple rescues. In addition to helping a windsurfer in distress, the boat’s crew also helped a man suffering from an allergic reaction and a woman injured on a cruise on the lake.

The Seabulance is also equipped with a hatch on the bow that enables MDA EMTs to haul drowning patients aboard without having to hoist them over the rail, a feature that makes loading patients aboard faster, enabling them to receive potentially lifesaving treatment immediately before being whisked ashore to a waiting ambulance or medevac helicopter for evacuation to a hospital. The boat also has a shallow draft that enables it to get extraordinarily close to shore for transferring patients.

MDA EMTs were involved in more than 160 water rescues around the country last year, including seven people who drowned or nearly drowned in Lake Kinneret. “The Seabulance joined the Medicycle and a wide range of rescue vehicles, which are in the hands of well-trained and experienced forces,” said Idan Greenbaum, head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council. “We hope we won’t need any rescue help this summer, but if we do, MDA is the best there is.”
Female EMT becomes MDA’s first Druze Medicycle first responder.

With their speeding motorcycles weaving through traffic and their role in saving lives, there’s always been a faint air of machismo to being a Magen David Adom first responder. But increasingly, women at Magen David Adom have been abandoning positions on ambulances to become first responders. And now, in a first, a female member of Israel’s Druze community has joined the Medicycle unit.

“In my community, they have a difficult time with the fact that a woman would ride a motorcycle or drive an ambulance and treat patients at all hours of the day,” said Balkees Abu Awad. “But I feel that beyond my personal drive to treat patients and save lives, I have an additional mission of not only driving the ambulance, but also being a first responder and riding the Medicycle in Magen David Adom.”

Balkees’ induction ceremony into the Medicycle unit was held in her hometown of Buq’ata, in the Golan, and was attended by family, neighbors, and the town’s mayor. Her Medicycle is sponsored by the Eugene Applebaum Family Foundation from Detroit.

“The ceremony in Buq’ata was very exciting,” said Dudu Berger, MDA’s first responders unit coordinator for the Yarden Region. “Reducing response times is something that MDA continuously strives for.” And the addition of Balkees to the Medicycle unit will help further that goal, he said.

MDA initiates program to reduce heart attack fatalities by making defibrillators available on Israel’s streets.

Magen David Adom launched a program in June that could dramatically increase the survival rate for people who suffer heart attacks outside their homes by making hundreds of defibrillators available at on-street kiosks throughout Israel.

By placing defibrillators on Israeli streets, MDA will enable passersby to begin lifesaving treatment in the crucial first few minutes after a patient suffers a heart attack – even before a paramedic or first responder arrives – which greatly increases the chances of patient survival.

The defibrillators will be placed in specially marked street kiosks to optimize their visibility. In cases where passersby can’t immediately locate a defibrillator, calling 101, the medical emergency number in Israel, will connect the caller with a Magen David Adom EMT, who can advise where the nearest defibrillator can be found or instruct the caller to immediately begin chest compressions until paramedics arrive.

In cases where a passerby removes a defibrillator from a kiosk in an emergency, Magen David Adom will be alerted automatically and paramedics dispatched to the scene based on the defibrillator’s location as determined by GPS sensors in the device.

The first kiosk in Israel was installed in Ramat Gan, outside Tel Aviv, in a ceremony on Monday, June 10. About 100 kiosks will be installed throughout Israel in the next few months, with another 150 to be installed in a second phase.
Michael Strongin
Saving lives as a donor and an EMT.

Michael Strongin is a member of AFMDA’s New York Board, so it’s no surprise he’s a passionate supporter of Magen David Adom. What may surprise you is that he is also chief of Riverdale Hatzalah EMS (New Jersey) and is certified to work as a paramedic for MDA in Israel during national emergencies or war.

On an evening walk in Israel recently, Michael’s wife noticed a man sitting on the sidewalk, slumped against the wall. Michael immediately went to the 72-year-old man’s wife, who said he had passed out and hit his head. The man didn’t want Michael to call an ambulance, but he was complaining of weakness and dizziness, and unable to stand on his own, and so Michael called MDA anyway.

In less than three minutes, a Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) ambulance arrived, and he was surround by three paramedics. On the way to the hospital, the man lost consciousness and the paramedics had to intubate him and perform emergency medical care. If Michael hadn’t called MDA when he did, the patient probably wouldn’t be alive. Along with AFMDA donor and board member, we can add “lifesaver” to Michael’s list of contributions to saving lives in Israel.
Time to begin the countdown to the Opening Dedication!

We encourage all donors to make plans to join us in Israel for what will be an unforgettable event. If you’re interested in attending the dedication of the Marcus National Blood Services Center, please contact Catherine Reed at creed@afmda.org or 866.632.2763.

New renderings of the center’s patio area.
A total of 120 lifesaving vehicles have been sent to Israel to date in 2019.

Magen David Adom receives no operating budget from the Israeli government, so vehicle donations from Americans are vital to its lifesaving efforts.

Our 2019 goal
Send 150 vehicles to Israel. Help us make this a reality!
Valerie and David Farkas of Cleveland, Ohio.

Valerie Farkas has a deep and profound attachment to Israel. It starts with a fascination at how the people of Israel have endured so much hardship and terrorism and yet are still so successful. How a small, poor country turned itself into one of today’s world leaders in technology and medical advancements. Valerie is also impressed with all the good Israel does around the world. “They even take care of their enemies,” she said. Valerie’s parents were Holocaust survivors who came from large families, the majority of whom perished at the hands of the Nazis. On her father’s side, only four siblings survived. Of these, two made aliyah to Israel. In recognition of her family’s tragic past, and to benefit family and friends who live in Israel today, she wanted to do something truly meaningful. To Valerie and her husband, David, there is no more powerful way to show their love of Israel than by donating an ambulance to MDA. They generously sponsored a MICU this past year.

Family of Sheldon Terman, z”l, of Northbrook, Illinois.

Sheldon Terman, z”l, cared deeply for Israel. During his lifetime, he had the good fortune to witness the founding of the modern State of Israel. He believed it was important for Jews in America to support their brothers and sisters in Israel. It gave Mr. Terman enormous pride to sponsor two ambulances for Magen David Adom. To continue his legacy, Mr. Terman established a charitable fund for his children and grandchildren to administer upon his passing. When the time came, they all agreed that the best way to honor his memory was to sponsor a MICU. Mr. Terman supported many charities, but MDA was his top priority. His daughter, Marla Fields, said, “My father loved a party – always insisted on a full bar and lots of good food. On the day of his stone setting, we will have the dedication of his MICU and make it a celebration.” A wonderful party to celebrate Mr. Terman’s life was indeed held on a warm summer afternoon in late July. The Terman family came together to remember a life well lived, his love of family, and his profound dedication to Israel.
As part of the Israeli high-school curriculum, students are encouraged to give back to their community through volunteer service hours. As an Israeli, Aharon’s connection to MDA began at a young age, when he was taught how to contact MDA in the event of an emergency. This connection only strengthened when his family became involved philanthropically. MDA was the obvious fit when choosing how to best serve his community. Being a volunteer medic for MDA has taught Aharon many life lessons, especially as he begins his service in the IDF next year. Seeing the look on his worried patients’ faces, and knowing that MDA’s EMTs will provide them with the best care possible, Aharon knows he’s made the right decision to volunteer for MDA.

Lauren Scott
Buffalo Grove, Illinois

“After graduating from high school, I spent a gap year in Israel to decide what I wanted to study in college. While in Israel, I lived in Yeruham and volunteered on MDA ambulances. It was a life-changing experience. I will always remember the relationships I made. There was one woman who was coping with a difficult pregnancy, and we frequently had to take her to the hospital. When we got the call that she was finally in labor, our whole crew was excited! During the ride to the hospital, she joked about how much we had been a part of her pregnancy. During my freshman year at Brandeis, I earned my certification as an Emergency Medical Technician. This past summer, I worked on ambulances serving the Chicago area. It was volunteering in Israel that put me on the path to practicing medicine, something I would never have considered had it not been for my experiences with MDA. I am now a medical school applicant studying for the MCAT—and I am indebted to MDA for providing that spark.”

Aharon Turnauer
Israel

Being a volunteer medic for MDA has taught Aharon many life lessons that he will carry for years to come, especially as he begins his service in the IDF next year.

If you’re between the ages of 18 and 30, you can serve alongside MDA EMTs as a participant in the Overseas Volunteer Program. Visit www.mdavolunteers.org.
SOUTHEAST

Palm Beach Speaker Series

Ambassador Ron Prosor, Israel’s permanent representative to the United Nations from 2011 to 2015, will share his thoughts on the State of Israel, Arab–Israeli relations, and the importance of MDA.

December 9th – Frenchmen’s Creek Country Club
December 10th – Admiral’s Cove Country Club
December 11th – Dinner in a private home
For tickets or event information, please contact southeast@afmda.org.

Two Evenings with Noam Gershony

IDF hero and Israeli wheelchair tennis champion Noam Gershony

December 15th – Weston
December 16th – Boca Delray

The Art of Saving Lives in Israel (Miami)

Honoring Ann and Ari Deshe & Susie and Jon Diamond

Featuring:
Lior Suchard – One of the world’s renowned and critically acclaimed mentalists and supernatural entertainers.

Special guest Chaim Silberstein – An activist who speaks out against Palestinian terrorism after his daughter and her husband were critically injured in a drive-by shooting attack.

December 12th – Wynwood Arts 29 (formerly Rubell Gallery)
Event Chairs: Ronit and David Neuman

More Events!

Boca/Delray – Casino Night for Israel
December 15th – Broken Sound Country Club

Boca/Delray – Polo Club Winter Festival
December 27th – Polo Country Club
For tickets or event information, please contact southeast@afmda.org.
Regional Recaps & News

NORTHEAST

Russian Jewish Community Foundation Dedication

Close to 80 friends and supporters of the Russian Jewish Community Foundation (RJCF) gathered to celebrate the completion of another successful campaign that raised funds to sponsor a Magen David Adom ambulance.

The ceremony was hosted at the Leventhal-Sidman JCC in Newton and will be the last stop before the ambulance is shipped to Israel and put into service in Sderot, in the southern region of Israel.

Magen David Adom Breakfast for Israel

On May 19, in Teaneck, NJ, Israel’s former consul general in New York, Ido Aharoni; Magen David Adom’s head of terrorism-response training, Guy Caspi; Senator Bob Menendez, and the founder of Strength to Strength, Sarri Singer, were among the speakers who headlined at the second Magen David Adom Breakfast for Israel.

Taking place at Congregation Beth Shalom, the event was hosted by Elie Y. & Esther Katz. Zev Brenner, host of radio program Talkline; served as master of ceremonies. Mark Schwartz was presented with the MDA Lifesaving Award, Yavneh Academy was recognized for raising funds for an ambulance, and Juda Engelmayer was presented with the Public Safety Award.

Young Professionals Summer Benefit

Magen David Adom hosted its first Young Professionals Event in New York City on July 17th. Janie Smukler, a New York Leadership Board Member and Chair of the Young Professionals Committee, chaired the sold-out event sponsored by Bank Leumi USA.

The event took place on a beautiful outdoor rooftop space. More than 80 young professionals attended along with Magen David Adom former and current EMTs.

Bistricher Family Ambulance Dedication

At the MDA Bloomberg Jerusalem Station this past July, Zahava Bistricher and the Bistricher family hosted an ambulance dedication.

The ambulance was donated in memory of Zahava’s husband, Henry Bistricher. Henry was a prisoner in Auschwitz. After the war, he met his wife in Israel. Friends, family, and members of the community came to celebrate this wonderful gift of life for the State of Israel.
In October, AFMDA CEO David M. Frankel presented Sandy and Jim Danto with a tzedakah box in honor of their decades of support of MDA and Israel. Keynote speaker was Bret Stephens, who is a Pulitzer Prize–winning op-ed columnist for the New York Times and an expert on U.S. foreign policy.

Following recent armed attacks against religious and public institutions in the United States — including attacks at synagogues, churches, schools, and colleges — Magen David Adom, Israel’s national EMS service, conducted three days of terrorism and emergency response training for civilians in Milwaukee, WI, in mid-July.

For more information about how to schedule First 7 Minutes training in your community, contact First7Minutes@afmda.org.
Carolida Steiner took her first trip to Israel as a teenager in 1967 after the Six Day War. She remembers it as a time of much joy. The country had survived another attack, and Jews were again able to pray at the Wailing Wall.

It was also a time of much grief for the loss of loved ones. Carolida lost a cousin, who was killed in the fight for Jerusalem. Prior to the war, he had been a member of the kibbutz where she was to become a volunteer.

On that and later trips, she saw MDA ambulances donated by Americans “with love and gratitude to the people of Israel.” Though young and jobless, Carolida knew she wanted to do the same. She wanted to donate an MDA ambulance and help protect the people of Israel.

Back home, Carolida became a clinical psychologist and had a satisfying career helping others. When she retired, she put AFMDA in her will. Making a bequest helped Carolida avoid anxiety over outliving her assets.

Besides donating through her will, Carolida is a passionate advocate who now makes gifts to AFMDA annually. She also encourages others to give by speaking with family and friends about its mission of saving lives in Israel.
Magen David Adom

Magen David Adom is Israel’s national ambulance, blood-services, and disaster-relief organization, serving as emergency medical first responders for the state’s 9 million people. MDA comprises Israelis of all ethnic backgrounds — Christians, Muslims, Jews, Druze, and others — who work tirelessly together to help those in need. MDA is the only organization mandated by the Israeli government to serve in this role. But it’s not a government agency, and it relies on people like you for funding. We thank you for your support.

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