



Chabad's
Terror Victims
Project

Together, We're Rebuilding
Shattered Lives





In the four years since the outbreak of the Palestinian Intifada in October 2001, more than 1,000 innocent persons—mostly Israeli men, women and children—have been murdered, while nearly 7,500 individuals have been injured and maimed in terrorist attacks against the Jewish State.

Introduction

In the years since the outbreak of the Palestinian Intifada in October 2001, more than 1,300 innocent persons--mostly Israeli men, women and children, have been murdered, while nearly 10,000 individuals have been injured and maimed in terrorist attacks against the Jewish State.

Can anyone be prepared for, let alone contemplate, the effects of such a catastrophe when it strikes? As a survivor? As a grandparent, parent or sibling? As a child who has suddenly been orphaned? What does one do first? What contingencies are in place? Can one even think coherently?

The photographs in this booklet portray the pain and perseverance of men, women and children whose lives have been radically and forever altered by the scourge of terrorism. The images also illustrate Chabad's commitment to bring healing, compassion and renewal to these individuals for years to come, even for the rest of their lives.

Emergency Response

Within minutes of a terror attack in any Israeli community, Chabad sets into motion its network of shluchim (emissaries) and trained volunteers stationed at 230 Chabad centers nationwide.



Care

Our emergency teams:

- Rush to area hospitals to assist families with any and all needs in the minutes and hours following the catastrophe.
- Strengthen, counsel and comfort the wounded victims, as well as their family members waiting anxiously in emergency wards and hospital corridors.
- Comfort and guide grieving families in planning funeral arrangements.
- Perform initial assessments of each family's emergency, material and logistical needs and distribute urgent assistance on a case-by-case basis.

Linda Buzaglo of Tzfat is visited by a Chabad delegation as she recovers from injuries from the Feb 25, 2005 suicide bombing outside the popular Stage Club in Tel Aviv. Linda's 40-year-old husband, Yitzchak, was one of five people murdered in the attack.

When a loved one has been killed or maimed after a suicide bombing, what can be done to help them cope with their day-to-day lives?

In the Days Following an Attack

What is a family from Beersheva to do when their loved one lay critically wounded in a Jerusalem hospital following a terrorist attack?

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Compassion

- This precisely underscores why Chabad's Terror Victims Project is best equipped to deal with this crisis. The local Chabad shaliach (in Beersheva) visits the family, assesses their situation and addresses their needs. At the same time, the Chabad shaliach at the hospital assists the patient and family.
- Distribute emergency aid money for cabs, babysitters, food, room and board for traumatized families caught in a situation without basic funds and logistical support, allowing them to heal and to mourn.
- Assistance for families with Shiva, daily minyanim (quorums) and kaddish -- especially for lone, isolated survivors requesting ritual guidance.
- Help the community embrace their stricken neighbors and express solidarity with them by holding public memorials at the site of the attack on the occasion of the shloshim.

Elizabetha Kaufman (center) lights a candle marking the shloshim (30th day of mourning) for her 68-year-old husband, Michael, who was murdered in the Oct. 26, 2005 suicide attack at Hadera's open market. Six persons were killed in the attack. Chabad's Terror Victims Project led a memorial ceremony at the site of bombing for Mrs. Kaufman and surviving families of the victims.



“The hospital director asked the Chabad rabbis to visit a teenage patient whose face was severely injured and massively swollen by the blast.

The patient was in complete shock, not speaking to nor recognizing anyone, including his mother, who sat at his side. A large bandage covered the side of his face. As he sat upright in his bed, looking straight ahead, eyes wide open and unblinking, the Chabad shaliach, Rabbi Yochanan Butman of Hadera, took his hand. “Michoel, we love you,” the rabbi whispered. “Michoel, you need to get strong and healthy. We pray for your full recovery”. Over and over again the rabbi repeated the same words.

Suddenly, Michoel’s eyes began to flutter. He slowly turned his head toward Rabbi Butman and asked, “You love me?”

“Yes,” the rabbi assured him. “We want you to be well” Michoel gazed at him, then put his arms around the rabbi and hugged him. Everyone in the room began to cry. Tears flowed from Michoel’s eyes. The doctors had no words to explain what they had just seen.”

Neighbor Helping Neighbor



Four-year old David (left) lost both of his parents when the Hilton Hotel at which they were staying in Egypt was struck by a suicide bomber on October 7, 2004. Twenty-nine people were killed in the blast. Chabad gives financial support to David’s grandparents, who are now raising him. Visiting David on his birthday is Rabbi Aaron Prus of Tzeirei Agudat Chabad.

Below, 12-year-old Anna recovers from burns she suffered in a suicide bombing June 11, 2003 that killed 17 Israelis riding Egged bus #14A on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem. Her mother, Svetlana, sustained critical head wounds in the blast and is still recovering. Her father (center), who spent many weeks shuttling between his wife and daughter’s hospital rooms, continues to receive financial support from Chabad. At left is Rabbi Menachem Kutter, Director of Activities.



Healing & Recovery

The effects of a terror attack can last for years or a lifetime. Physical disability, trauma, emotional and spiritual crisis continue well past the initial event. This is exacerbated by the victims' feeling that the world has forgotten them.

Long Term Response & Community Intervention



- **Chabad has not and will not forget them.** Our local representative forges a bond with the family and visits them regularly in their homes to help ease their pain.
- During Jewish holidays-when the loss of a loved one is especially pronounced-the shaliach visits with families and invites them for meals, services and celebrations.
- Family simchas: Chabad initiates, plans, and when necessary, even pays for birthdays, bar mitzvahs and weddings, helping to restore life and happiness to the family.
- Organize "getaways" through Shabbatons, trips and excursions for victims and their families.
- Coordinate professionally-led support groups for each person affected by a terror attack: the surviving victim, parents of the deceased, widows and widowers, orphans and siblings.

Matan (right) was only two-years-old when his father was murdered as two bombs exploded at the Beit Lid junction on Jan 22, 1995. Twenty Israelis were killed. "Shortly after Matan was born, his father expressed the hope that his son's bar mitzvah would one day be celebrated at the Kotel," said Rabbi Menachem Kutner (left), Director of Activities. "Chabad wanted to fulfill his wish"



Optimism

In an emotional dance, 20-year-old Kfir participates in a Chabad-led celebration. Kfir nearly lost his life during a mortar attack in Gaza in 2002. He has since undergone major reconstructive surgery on his face and will remain disfigured for the rest of his life.

(CENTER) A father who survived the Holocaust witnessed the tragic end of his family line with the murder of his unmarried son in a suicide attack. He chooses to pray with the tefillin, insisting upon perpetuating his son's daily morning ritual.

(RIGHT) Four-year-old Shira nearly lost an eye in a terror attack aboard a Jerusalem bus. To this day she has not fully regained sight in her left eye. A Chabad volunteer regularly takes her out to play.



Faith & Love



Trust

Financial & Material Support



When a family is stricken by a terror attack, especially one that kills or maims the breadwinner of the family, Chabad's Terror Victims Project steps in to provide victims and their families with the financial and material support which the Israeli government cannot.

Not only does this ease life's burden, but it acts as a tangible demonstration to the family that the world continues to care about them and that they are safe and not alone.

Israel's National Health Insurance and the local social worker pass along their recommendations to Chabad to provide the complementary aid and assistance beyond that which the Israeli government can give.

Margarita Svirsky (left) was burned over 70% of her body in the July 12, 2005 suicide bombing outside the Hasharon Mall in Netanya. She is shown with her three-year-old daughter, Lee-EI, who was also burned in the attack. Margarita's 50-year-old mother, Anya Lifshitz, was murdered along with four others. More than 90 persons were wounded. Young Lee-EI is shown opening the gift she received from Chabad schoolchildren in the Diaspora.

Crisis Intervention



(CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT) On the eve of Passover, Sammy of Jerusalem receives a box of matzo from Chabad shaliach Rabbi Chaim Gotlib. Sammy's 57-year-old wife, Yaffa, was killed instantly aboard Jerusalem Bus no. 14, when a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt on Feb 22, 2004 near Liberty Bell Park.

(CENTER) Nine-year-old Shalev receives a personal computer from Chabad's Rabbi Menachem Kutner and Pardes Chana shaliach Rabbi Yosef Kurant. Shalev's 35-year-old father, Dan, was murdered in a drive-by shooting on June 18, 2001 as he drove between the communities of Homesh and Shavei Shomron, near Nablus.

(BELOW) Three-year-old Yitzchak receives his traditional first haircut at the Kotel. His father, 38-year-old Baruch (Roman), was killed along with ten others in the suicide bombing of Bus no. 19 in Jerusalem.

Continuity

For example:

- A 16-year-old girl from Netanya, burned over 70% of her body, receives from Chabad an air conditioner to help soothe her wounds against the searing summer heat.
- A critically injured mother of four small children from Hadera, forced to remain isolated in her bedroom, receives from Chabad an orthopedic reclining chair for her living room, allowing her to interact with her children.
- A nine year-old orphan from Pardes Chana, whose father was murdered in a terror attack, receives from Chabad the personal computer his mother could not afford to buy.





Chabad's Terror Victims Project

Chabad's Terror Victims Project embodies the spirit of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who personified the principle of love, compassion, optimism, faith and the tireless dedication of one Jew toward another, particularly in crisis.

At the Rebbe's request, Tzeirei Agudat Chabad founded a special division dedicated to assisting the long-term care and needs of widows and orphans, which continues to this day.

Chabad's Terror Victims Project is a vital and integral outgrowth of this division.

In the Spirit
of the Rebbe

(TOP) The Rittri family of Zurich, Switzerland, hosted the "twin" bar mitzvahs of their son, Yedidya, with Amir, whose father was among the 11 diners murdered in the suicide bombing at the Moment Café in Jerusalem on March 9, 2002.

(CENTER) A Chabad volunteer holds four-year-old Rivkah Ben-David, whose mother, Hadassah, was murdered during the Nov. 21, 2002 suicide attack that killed 11 passengers aboard bus # 20 in the Kiryat Menachem neighborhood of Jerusalem. Every week, some 150 orphaned children like Rivkah are visited by young adult seminary students as part of the Big Sister Program of Chabad's Terror Victims Project.

(BOTTOM) Abraham Mamistalov of Or Yehuda marked his bar mitzvah in a unique ceremony at the Kotel. Abraham's father, Yosef, was the bus driver murdered along with six others in the Sept 19, 2002 suicide attack aboard the #4 bus on Tel Aviv's Allenby Street. Young Zachary Finder (far right) of Encino, CA, chose to celebrate his own bar mitzvah together with Abraham as a sign of solidarity with his Israeli peer.



How Can You Help?

Chabad's Terror Victims Project has designed a spectrum of support opportunities for Jewish communities, synagogues, organizations and individuals.

- Adopt-A-Family
- Donate to the Terror Response Emergency Fund
- Support Big Brother/Sister programs
- Twin Your Simcha with a victim's family
- Sponsor a Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Sponsor a wedding
- Sponsor a child's summer camp
- Sponsor a birthday party
- Visit a victim's family on your next Solidarity Mission
- Fund Jewish Holiday celebrations for a victim and family
- Underwrite a trauma training session for volunteers
- Support our General Fund that supports day-to-day needs of victims and their families
- Sponsor a 'Getaway Weekend' for a victim's family



Chabad's Terror Victims Project

www.ctvp.org

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