



**CHABAD'S
TERROR
VICTIMS
PROJECT**

www.ctvp.org

ב"ה

**No terror victim will
ever be forgotten.**

**Won't you help rebuild
a shattered life?**



Mar Cheshvan 5768 November 2007

A Project of Tzeirei Agudat Chabad, Israel



Computers Link Terror Victims at Two Israeli Hospitals



Adir Basad and Matan Cohen, two 15 year-olds, were always inseparable.

On a fateful evening last December, they were studying Gemara together. Then, the missile struck, scoring a direct hit on the home in which they were studying.

That's when they were separated. Matan was taken to Schneider Children's Hospital in Petach Tikva, in very serious condition. Four toes were amputated from his right foot, and surgeons were still trying to figure out what to do about the metal fragments in his body. A piece of metal that was lodged against a main artery near his heart.

Adir, also critically wounded, was rushed to Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon, where surgeons removed his spleen and parts of his intestine damaged by the bomb fragments.

"His body was filled with fragments from head to toe," said Rabbi Menachem Kutner of Chabad's Terror Victims Project. "The damage was everywhere: his neck, his blood vessels. There was a very real fear of losing him."

A month later, Matan was transferred to the surgical ward. He was heavily medicated, and his body was filled with metal fragments. Adir, whose doctors refer to him as a medical miracle, was transferred to orthopedics. There, surgeons continued to work on his limbs.

The boys couldn't stand to be separated. When Matan first awoke he asked whether Adir was okay. He was told Adir had survived, but was in a different hospital, 37 miles (60 km) away. Matan was suspect. "What's Adir's condition?" he asked Rabbi Kutner. "Does he have his arms and legs?"

For Rabbi Kutner, it was clear these boys needed to reconnect. Surely it was good for their morale and would hasten their recovery. The rabbi purchased them two laptops.

"They have many months ahead of them in the hospital and in rehabilitation," said Rabbi Kutner, who purchased the computers from Chabad's special Emergency Fund. "With the help of these units, they'll not only be able to talk, but to see one another and learn together."

'Chabad Hasn't Forgotten Us'

On the fateful evening of October 29th 2002, two 14 year-olds Linoy Saroussi Hadas Turgeman, were talking in front of Linoy's house in the community of Hermesh. At approximately 10:30 that evening, a terrorist entered the settlement and began firing.

He first shot the Eshel family, killing 53 year-old Orna Eshel, then wounding her husband. Then he saw the two girls and shot them from close range.

Linoy was killed instantly, and Hadas died later that evening. Linoy's father, Koby, saw her murder with his very eyes. Moments earlier, he had dropped her off in Hermesh with his Jeep. Since then, his life and that of his wife, Anat, has been completely shattered.

It would be only a year later, at Linoy's first yearzeit, before Koby would hear about Chabad's Terror Victims Project. "From that day on, Chabad entered my life and has never left," said Koby, who calls himself a

broken man since his daughter's murder. "They haven't forgotten us. They never forget us."

Six months later, when Koby was in no condition to mark the bar mitzvah of his son, Snir, Chabad stepped in. They arranged for Snir's bar mitzvah at the Kotel.

This week, as Koby and his family marked the fifth anniversary of Linoy's murder, he was again joined by Chabad, which has been funding Linoy's annual memorial that is attended by up to 300 family members and friends.

"Menachem is like a brother," said Koby, referring to Rabbi Menachem Kutner, Director of CTVP. "There is a level of empathy and concern that I have never, ever known before."



Together with his wife, Anat, Koby anxiously awaits the forthcoming birth of their third child in three years. Their three and a half year old daughter, Liam, which in Hebrew is an acronym for "Linoi, you continue with us."

"This is our answer to the terrorists," said Koby, his voice breaking.

**What Does Chabad's
Terror Victims Project Do
Throughout the Year?**

- ➔ Lend an attentive ear ➔ Provide personal consultations ➔ Plan bar mitzvahs for orphans at the Kotel
- ➔ Lead a weekly youth volunteer program at Israel's orphanages ➔ Purchase special medication

Toronto Family Twins Bar Mitzva With Terror Victim



Three years have passed since that terrifying moment, when a mortar shell fired from Gaza landed in Neveh Dekalim in Gush Katif, critically wounding 10 year-old Roni. Roni sustained such serious facial wounds that for an entire year he was forced to wear a facial mask. Following numerous surgeries and medical treatments, even the eviction of his family during Israel's Disengagement in 2006, he recently reached a special milestone.

Today, Roni's sweet smile melted the hearts of scores of relatives and friends who joined him at the Kotel to celebrate his bar mitzva and that of his "twin," Netanel Belmont of Toronto.

"Today my dream has been realized," said Roni's mother, Mali. "How I wanted to celebrate Ron's bar mitzva at the Kotel. I have no words to thank the Belmont family for their touching gesture.

"Twin" Bar Mitzvahs, a project of Chabad's Terror Victims Project (CTVP), brings together a family from the Diaspora marking a child's coming of age, together with an Israeli family victimized by terror.

At the Kotel, Netanel presented Roni with a beautiful new talit (prayer shawl) and set of tefilin. Families and friends broke into song and dance when the two young men proudly carried the Torahs. Following the prayer service, the families partook in a festive meal.

"After all of the suffering that Roni has undergone, it is a great privilege for us to participate in his simcha," said Netanel's father, Brian. "We thank him and his family for affording us this opportunity."

From Milwaukee With Love



Thanks to the generosity of Rabbi Yoseph Samuels and the Chabad of Downtown in Milwaukee, WI, last summer was bit brighter for seven Israeli families victimized by terrorism.

During his recent visit to Israel, Rabbi Samuels dedicated an entire of his itinerary to a "Journey of Chesed." From dawn until dusk, Rabbi Samuels visited communities throughout the country: from the besieged southern city of Sderot, which is under the constant barrage of rocket attacks; to Israel's central cities and towns; and to Jerusalem.

- ➔ A Sderot boy critically injured by a Kassam rocket and hospitalized for months enjoyed multiple visits from his friends, whose transportation was subsidized.
- ➔ An eight year-old girl whose father was murdered in a terror attack near Ariel was enrolled in a summer camp.
- ➔ A seven year-old child whose mother was murdered in a terror attack in Emmanuel received a new bicycle and a new briefcase, which he now uses as a first grader.

These are but a few of the lives who were touched during Rabbi Samuels' visit.

'Twinning' Big Sisters With Young Terror Victims



Chabad's Terror Victims Project recently feted scores of young women from abroad who served as "Big Sisters" to children in Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv whose parents and siblings were murdered in terrorist attacks.

Every Thursday over the course of a year, the young women the homes of families, taking young orphaned children to play, engaging them in activities and helping them with their homework. The young women, who are members of the "Shoshanat Yerushalayim" seminar, also regularly visited seriously wounded survivors of terror attacks recovering at home or at rehabilitation centers from life-altering injuries.

"I don't know what I would have done without them," said one mother, now forced to tend to her child alone following the murder of her husband. "The girls were sisters to my child. Their presence brought light into our home and into our lives."

CTVP Rushes to Hospitals to Aid Wounded Sderot Residents



Rabbi Joseph I. Aronov, Chairman of Tzeirei Agudat Chabad-Israel, examines the damage to a home in Sderot.

Chabad's Terror Victims Project continues to rush to the hospital bedsides of Sderot residents wounded in the ongoing Kassam rocket barrages over Israel's besieged southern town.

Following one recent barrage of nearly 200 missiles, CTVP officials and volunteers visited the wounded at Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon. Since the onset of the rocket attacks upon Sderot seven years ago, many thousands of residents and their children still suffer from the effects of trauma, crashing rockets, and the constant scream of air raid sirens.

As with all of their visits, the CTVP team conducted emergency needs assessments to determine how they could assist each and every family. There they recognized a Sderot mother who was seriously injured along with her five year-old son. Seeking to comfort her, they gave her a shabbat candlestick.

"You are such wonderful people," she told the rabbi and the volunteers. "You give me so much strength. Thank you for caring."

Emotional Torah Writing Ceremony & Reunion for Victims of Terror in North



More than 100 families of terror victims and survivors of some of the worst terrorist attacks in Israel gathered at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Tiberias, October 8, for a special evening of tribute sponsored by the Department of Rehabilitation of Israel's Bituach Leumi (National Insurance Institute) in cooperation with Chabad's Terror Victims Project (CTVP).

Families came from as far north as Safed, Kiryat Shemona and Ma'a lot, to participate in what was the evening's highlight: a letter inscription ceremony for a new Sefer Torah being commissioned by Chabad on their behalf, for those still recovering, and in memory of the murder victims.

There were bereaved families from terrorist actions of the last several years, as well as from the Second Lebanon War of 2006. There were even family members and survivors of the terrorist attack in Ma'a lot, when 22 school children were murdered on May 15, 1974.

"So many of us have wanted to dedicate a Sefer Torah in memory of our loved ones, but couldn't," said Ms. Daniella Knapf, a bereaved mother, whose son Claude was murdered on the Wadi Ara road in 2001. "Chabad has made this possible."

The special Torah being commissioned has reached terror victims in more than a dozen Israeli cities. It will be brought to every community throughout Israel, before being dedicated at the Kotel. The Torah project has been made possible through the generosity of the Rittri family of Switzerland.

Did You Know?

We issue monetary support only after receiving a comprehensive report and needs assessment from Israel's National Insurance Institute and the government-assigned social worker. The Israeli government turns to us in instances where families have been hit particularly hard and require levels of assistance that the government can not provide.

Amid Raining Rockets, 1,500 Challahs and Food Packages for Sderot Residents



Volunteers from Chabad's Terror Victims Project, shown going out into the streets following a rocket barrage and distributing food packages for Shabbat to 1,500 residents.

CHABAD'S TERROR VICTIMS PROJECT

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What Does Chabad's Terror Victims Project Do Throughout the Year?

- ➔ Maintain regular contact with social workers from Israel's National Insurance Institute and Ministry of Social Welfare ➔ Provide monetary support for needy families ➔ Deliver portable computers to the wounded in long-term rehabilitation ➔ Attain private medical care, when necessary ➔ Hold summer camps for children ➔ Visit families' homes and distribute gifts at Rosh Hashanah and Chanukah ➔ Purchase advanced medical equipment ➔ Food packages for Rosh Hashana ➔

A Katyusha Victim Gives Thanks to Chabad



During the Second Lebanon War, Michael Fuks was critically wounded during a Katyusha rocket attack in Safed. His hand was severed, and he nearly bled to death.

Today, Fuks says he has no memories of the event.

"It's a miracle that I don't remember," he says. "My physical wounds could have also been accompanied by the very deep emotional wounds of the memory of being hit by the rocket."

Nearly a year and a half and numerous surgeries later, Fuks' life is forever changed. "It is hard for me to sleep at night from the wounds in my arm. I cannot work or drive anymore," says Fuks.

At times, Fuks is homebound from extreme pain, but still he wanted to return to the site of the attack to thank those who saved his life that day. Even that, however, proved difficult until he turned to Rabbi Menachem Kutner of Chabad's Terror Victims Project, who has been coordinating assistance to the family for the past year.

After Fuks' release from the hospital, Kutner received a call from the rehabilitation division of Israel's National Insurance Institute.

"They told me that a father stopped working because of his wounds, that the mother left her teaching job to take care of the family, and that they would not be able to assist them," says Kutner. "They asked us to take care of them." Immediately, Kutner set out to raise funds and anything else that the family needed.

"My wife wanted to purchase the necessary items for the new school year," says Fuks. "Menachem called us and he gave us money. All of a sudden we knew that there was someone who cared about us."

"He fell to us from heaven," adds Ronit Fuks. "He gave us money, bought a computer for the children, comes to visit. What does he not do for us?" she continues. "Menachem cares for us as if we are the only ones he is worried about."



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**Visit our new
web site!**

*Throughout the year,
Chabad's Terror Victims
Project reaches out to more
than 2,600 families.*

Want Our Weekly Newsletter?

✉ Send an e-mail to
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Rabbi Joseph I. Aronov
Chairman



**On Your Next Visit
to Israel...**

**Traveling to Israel for this
winter or next spring?**

Be sure to include **Chabad's Terror Victims Project** in your itinerary. Our team in Israel stands ready to escort you and your delegation on your visit with Israeli victims of terror. You will also see first-hand how your support can impact these families' lives. Please write or call us to discuss your next visit.

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- ➔ Plan holiday celebrations at Rosh Hashana, Chanukah and Purim ➔ Visit the wounded at hospitals and rehabilitation wards
- ➔ Comfort and guide grieving families in planning funeral, shiva and yahrzeits ➔ Send food packages and clothing to needy families