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I SCREAMED: "IS ANYONE WOUNDED?" AND THE REPLY DID NOT TAKE LONG IN COMING

Anastasia Bagdelov, an MDA volunteer, found herself giving first aid and help to those wounded in the shooting of the terrorists on bus route 392 which was on its way to Eilat last Thursday.

Last Thursday Aug 18 .2001, when Anastasia got on the Egged bus no. 392 on its way to Eilat, she did not imagine that she will have to put to such good use the knowledge and experience that she had gained as a MDA volunteer over the past few years.

"I got on the bus and was on my way to Eilat" recounts Anastasia. "After about half an hour's journey, close to the Netafim check point, an explosion was heard. In our innocence, we thought that a light bulb had exploded inside the bus. Within seconds the passengers began to shout in the bus: "they are shooting at us, everyone get down" and all the soldiers fell onto the floor as fragments of glass and pieces of metal started flying in all directions and hitting all the passengers on the bus indiscriminately" recalls Anastasia the terrible moments. "One soldier who was sitting behind me pushed my head down, and thanks to him the fragments all flew over me and I was not injured. I called out instinctively: "Is anyone injured?" and the answer was not long in coming".

Anastasia is an MDA volunteer in Eilat, who has volunteered for about five years as a Basic EMT. "The passengers were screaming at the driver not to stop and to continue driving, and he continued to the check point at Netafim. There the doors were opened, and together with two soldiers, we took a severely wounded person off the bus, injured in his lower limbs and having lost a lot of blood. I began treating him whilst the security and rescue forces were arriving. When the ambulances arrived, I recognized some of the medics whom I know from the Eilat station" said Anastasia. "I continued helping the teams and we worked together in full cooperation. Together we transferred the victim to the ambulance and the paramedic told me to open an intravenous line and to bandage him" recalls Anastasia.

"There is no doubt that my experience as a youth volunteer in MDA helped me to save lives. This time, I had the advantage that I could go and life saving treatment to the wounded.

It was amazing that no one hesitated and that everyone ran to help and play his part in stopping bleeding from blood vessels, bandaging or calming down passengers suffering from fear and panic. "I wish all the wounded a speedy recovery and hope that the help we gave them in the field really helped them. I want to say to all the youth volunteers all over the country – you are doing a sacred job. It is impossible to know when you will need this knowledge and when you may save lives by having this knowledge. I wish you all great success in the future" sums up Badedlov.



Rocket bombardment continues in southern Israel:

One person killed and dozens wounded in the Grad rockets attacks in the south
During the entire weekend MDA emergency vehicles repeatedly rushed to various sites throughout the south where rockets landed

Most of the MDA teams were forced to leave their families in protected spaces and go out to the field

At Soroka Hospital, one MDA team member discovered that his family members were injured

MDA teams in the south had their hands full, and most MDA workers and volunteers were forced to leave their loved ones in protected spaces and go out to the field in order to provide life saving treatment to those injured.

MDA received the first call at about 5:40 a.m., when it was reported that a Grad fell in an orchard in Ashdod. MDA forces dispatched to the area intensive care mobile units, ambulances and a ATV which helped the forces deal with the conditions in the field. From the area three Palestinians that were working in the orchard were evacuated, one of them suffering from limbs injuries, a second from a chest injury and the third from a neck injury. The three were evacuated to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot.

A number of people suffering from anxiety were also evacuated from the area. At around 9:00am, MDA received a call regarding another shelling in the city of Be'er Sheba, which left one person lightly injured and another suffering from anxiety. The two were evacuated to the Soroka hospital in the city.

During the day sirens were heard throughout the south, many Grad and Kassam rockets were fired without causing injuries, however the sirens heard during the evening hours proved deadly.

On conclusion of the Sabbath, one of the Grad missiles had a direct hit on a residential house. Many MDA forces were dispatched to the area, and evacuated from the scene five victims, including a two month old baby, a nine year old child, a 20 year old man all suffering from shrapnel injuries, and two additional children suffering from anxiety. The five were taken to Soroka hospital lightly injured.

A short while after, a number of Grad rockets were fired towards the city of Be'er Sheba. A number of them were intercepted using the Kipat Barzel system, one fell near a motor vehicle and hit a house. Many MDA forces were dispatched to the area. They treated one critically injured man who was evacuated to the hospital while performing CPR on him. He was declared dead in the hospital. MDA teams also treated three severely wounded people, two moderately wounded and 16 people suffering from anxiety.

A number of minutes after the wounded arrived at the Soroka Hospital emergency room, an MDA worker arrived after returning from an evacuation and found his sister-in-law in the emergency room lightly injured. He discovered that his brother was in the hospital moderately injured, and his niece who was severely injured was receiving treatment in the hospital.

In addition to the many calls which MDA teams tended to throughout the day, the MDA blood services as well were working around the clock: about 188 blood units and blood components were supplied during the weekend to the Soroka Hospital, in order to help save lives. MDA put out a call to the public to donate blood during the coming week so there will not be a shortage G-d forbid.

MDA asks that the public comply with the instructions of the Home Front Command and the Police, and remain in protected spaces. During a shelling, the public is requested not to leave the protected area, for fear of additional rockets falling in the same area which may cause many casualties. In addition, MDA asks that the public pay attention to signs of panic and anxiety within the household, and call MDA teams when necessary.

MDA Director- General, Eli Bin, instructed all MDA forces to maintain proper means of protection, so they can go out and save lives while protecting themselves. All teams were reminded of the procedures relating to their protection. According to the situation evaluation held this evening at MDA, it was determined that the southern area will remain on the highest alert, in addition all MDA emergency vehicles in the area were manned. Alert level B, which is one level lower than the highest, remains throughout Israel. Review of the MDA situation will be held from time to time.

MDA Director- General, Eli Bin: "MDA teams worked the entire weekend around the clock, and gave treatment and medical care in each scene where rockets fell throughout the south. I salute the MDA teams, that even in the most difficult of moments fulfill their duty. They left their family members and went out to do their jobs – "Save Lives". On behalf of the MDA organization, I send my sincerest condolences to all the grieving family, and wish those recuperating from their injuries in various hospitals a full recovery"



Director General of the Ministry of Homeland Security, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Yaakov Ganot, paid a visit to MDA:

"MDA Is a Key Factor in Maintaining Homeland Security"

As part of the process of enhancing the relations between MDA and the Ministry of Homeland Security, the Ministry's Director- General, Yaakov Ganot, paid a visit to MDA

Yesterday (Sunday, August 14), Director -General of the Ministry of Homeland Security, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Yaakov Ganot, arrived for an official visit to MDA, to enhance the process of tightening relations and cooperation between MDA and the Ministry of Homeland Security during routine times and during emergencies. MDA's Director-General, Eli Bin, and MDA's senior executives accompanied Ganot and the Ministry's executives who arrived along with him. The tour opened with a thorough presentation regarding MDA's different activities by Eli Bin to Ganot.

After the presentation, Ganot went for a tour in MDA's integrated national headquarters (the Mamlam).

Ganot toured MDA's emergency calls' center, the center of on-call paramedics, the medical emergency center and the national headquarters and expressed his great interest in the activities of the different call centers during routine days as well as during major multi-casualties' events.

Later, Ganot was shown MDA's life-saving emergency vehicles, where he was exposed to the different vehicles operated by MDA during routine days as well as during emergency events - such as intensive care ambulances, MDA motorcycles, ambulances etc.

After the tour, Lieutenant General Yaakov Ganot, Director -General of the Ministry of Homeland Security said: "The cooperation between the Ministry of Homeland Security and MDA is inevitable due to the reality here and it is the right way to operate in order to maintain public security of citizens in Israel to the best possible extent. The advanced technology implemented by MDA, the varied abilities and the wide-spread operation of the organization fully joins forces with the abilities of other emergency and life-saving organizations throughout Israel and we will continue acting towards strengthening the cooperation between those entities."

MDA's Director-General, Eli Bin: "For years, MDA organization offers the full set for life-saving in Israel and abroad. It is highly important to bring all the life-saving, rescue and security entities under the responsibility of one office that will know how to operate each of forces that are active in the field accordingly to its operational capability. That way, MDA can operate in full cooperate and in maximal efficiency together with the other security and emergency bodies in Israel accordingly to its abilities, while implementing all the required resources for that purpose."



Caption 1: MDA's Director-General presents to the Director- General of the Ministry of Homeland Security the emergency and life-saving vehicles of MDA during his visit dated August 14, 2011 – Photography: Yoav Montza, MDA Spokesmanship.

Caption 2: Yaakov Ganot, Director- General of the Ministry of Homeland Security, on a meeting with MDA's Director-General during his visit to MDA dated August 14, 2011– Photography: Yoav Montza, MDA Spokesmanship.

Caption 3: MDA's special staff with the Director- General of the Ministry of Homeland Security during his visit to MDA dated August 14, 2011 – Photography: Yoav Montza, MDA Spokesmanship.

Director -General of the Ministry of Homeland Security receives a thorough presentation by MDA's Director-General's assistant during his visit to MDA dated August 14, 2011 – Photography: Yoav Montza, MDA spokesmanship.

Director- General of the Ministry of Homeland Security receives a thorough presentation by MDA's Director-General's assistant during his visit to MDA's integrated national headquarters (the Mamlam).dated August 14, 2011 – Photography: Yoav Montza, MDA spokesmanship.



President Shimon Peres celebrated his 88th birthday in Kfar Tavor, where the residents of the community were celebrating their 110th birthday

Amongst those present at the event were also MDA workers and volunteers who were involved in the security of the event and chose to carry out a spontaneous gesture to show their appreciation to the President of Israel.

Four members from MDA, presented the President with a MDA flag and congratulated him on his birthday. President Peres accepted the gift, and thanked them for their warm words.

In the picture: The senior medic, Nati Liani, youth volunteer Yael Chananya, youth volunteer Lihi Karkash and the paramedic Amir Elisha presenting the gift to President Shimon Peres.



INSTRUCTION IN GIVING FIRST AID FOR TOURISTS FROM FRANCE AND BELGIUM

Within the framework of the summer activities of Magen David Adom, the volunteers of the French Desk were to be found on the beaches of Netanya and Tel Aviv calling on tourists from France and Belgium to take a CPR course.

Within the framework of the activities, which took place close up to the lifeguard station, the tourists learnt the basic principles of CPR and when to call for help.



The volunteers of the project for overseas volunteers also took part in the activities and described to the tourists the experiences they are having in Magen David Adom.

Lucien Levy from Antwerp, who is on holiday on Israel, explained the importance of learning First Aid and thanked the Magen David Adom teams for the enjoyable experience.

Kevin Shuraki, who is a volunteer on the French Desk, says that this is the third year running that this activity is being carried out and that there is great interest in it.



As a result of the great interest it was decided on the French Desk to also continue with this activity next week.



Ambulance Dedicated in honor of two Mt. Sinai Doctors

The deep-rooted and enduring connection between local Jews and the State of Israel was accentuated during the dedication of a fully equipped lifesaving ambulance at the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City.

Donor Donna Fried Calcaterra, Founder of the 613 Foundation, had the opportunity to show guests firsthand the importance of tzedakah and the mitzvah of saving lives.

Citing the exceptional medical care Calcaterra received, she noted that, "Drs. Lewis Lipsey and Joshua Tannenbaum literally saved my life. It is only fitting that an ambulance bearing their names saves countless lives in Israel. I am thrilled to be able to do it." This is the sixth emergency vehicle that Calcaterra has donated to American Friends of Magen David Adom.

Caption: (l-r) Gary Perl, AFMDA Northeast Regional Director; Karen Berger, AFMDA Associate Northeast Regional Director; Dr. Lewis Lipsey, Mt. Sinai hematologist; Dr. Joshua Tannenbaum, Mt. Sinai endocrinologist; Barbara Tannenbaum; and Donna Fried Calcaterra, donor.



Ari Fisher – First left

My name is Ari Fisher and I'm from Melbourne, Australia

The past 6 months, I have been on a Bnei Akiva program called Limmud and for the last 3 weeks, I have been volunteering for MDA in the Lod-Ramla station.

Like I said, I have been volunteering for the past three weeks and they have been the most meaningful and amazing experiences of my life. I believe that just helping strangers, holding their hands in the ambulance or just being with them has been fulfilling. I had an elderly woman who had trouble breathing and was becoming weak by the minute. As we transferred her to the hospital beds, with very little energy left, she thanked us with shallow and fragile breaths, for all we have done. Another call we had was to a woman in her 70s who had fallen over, as we were attending to her, she kept offering us water and food. She cared more about us than she did for herself. Working for MDA has given me the chance to give of myself to others, this has been very rewarding. I am very proud to say that I have gained a lot more than I ever gave because now I feel confident to go up to any stranger and offer help if it is ever needed. We've had calls to car accidents, breathing problems, falls, injuries and plenty more and I am proud to say that I am loving every minute I volunteer for Magen David Adom.

There have been times in my life where I've seen first-hand how important an emergency ambulance service can be. For me, volunteering in MDA was about repaying a favour to society. Perhaps it will also turn out to be the basic training that I needed to be able to do more good work as a paramedic either in Israel or back in Australia. All I know is that I'm glad I chose to volunteer here. It's truly a life-changing experience.

On behalf of all the people from MDA Chul 106, I would like to thank our teachers, Josh, Danel, Ilan and Kapach for their time and effort to help us through the training course in Ein Gedi. I think that without their help, most of us wouldn't be here. I would also like to thank Tehilla and Reut for making sure that everything was in order, looking after us and just being there when we needed them. We hope that you have enjoyed having us here as much as we've enjoyed being here with you.



Interning on ambulances... and Tel Aviv beaches in my spare time

By Jake Feeny, Pre-med senior at the University of Illinois; Internship in Tel Aviv in the medical field with Magen David Adom, Israeli National Ambulance Service.

My summer in Israel could not have been more amazing- I experienced many incredible moments and met some amazing people. After I came to Israel on Birthright last summer, I knew that I had to come back, so I signed up for the Career Israel Summer Internship Program in Tel Aviv. I interned with Magen David Adom (MDA) National Ambulance Service at the Ramat Gan station. Doing this internship through Career Israel allowed me to have a three-month MDA experience (instead of the 6 week programs that MDA offers), and enabled me to meet people from around the world.

I want to start out by saying how much I truly love the MDA organization. Being a part of this program has been one of the best experiences of my life. I began the summer training as a Chul (overseas) 60 hour First Responder course. This is the basic volunteer training that the organization offers. It was very interesting, and I learned a lot from it. I rode on ambulances and saw a variety of cases such as transporting an elderly person with a pulmonary edema and helping at the scene of major car accidents. The Israeli workers from the Ramat Gan station could not have been more helpful, friendly, or hospitable. The paramedics, medics, and youth volunteers were a huge part of my trip and I enjoyed every minute working at the station. The station became a second home for me.

After the first month, I opted to take part in the Shlav Bet (88 hour training course), which gave me the skills to be more involved on the ambulance and to help with the more intense and "fun" cases. During this course I learned how to administer an IV, deliver babies, use an EKG monitor, among other skills. Upon completion I was involved in multiple CPR cases, severe trauma incidents, and even helped deliver a baby on the ambulance! The experience exposed me in-depth to the medical field, and gave me hands on experience in trauma. This internship opportunity will for sure help me in my medical career.

After my summer in Tel Aviv, I know that I will come back to Israel to volunteer with Magen David Adom. Israel really became a home for me, and I have my experiences from my summer internship in Tel Aviv on Career Israel to thank for that.

Reuben Goldberg

I am currently studying Biomedical Science at the University of Ottawa. At the end of my freshman year, I was looking for an internship in the medical field. Also, I thought that there would be no better place to spend my summer than in Israel. Magen David Adom was the perfect fit.

I came to Israel on May 18, 2011 and almost immediately began my internship at the Magen David Adom headquarters in Tel Aviv. I worked closely with Eli Jaffe, the Division Director and Vicki Angel, Director of Resource Development, among many notable others in the international office. In total, I spent six weeks working in the office, and I

enjoyed every second of it. From the actual office work to learning about MDA to the social atmosphere of the office, there was hardly a dull moment. I believe I gained a lot of positive experience from my time there, and I am proud to have contributed in a substantial way to the organizational side of MDA.

The second half of my amazing summer with MDA was spent as part of the Yochai Porat Overseas Volunteers Program. This is an amazing program in which anybody overseas (above 18) can come and take a 60-hour course, become a certified First Aid Responder and spend over a month doing shifts on ambulances around the country. I was a proud member of MDA 106, a group that finished its training in early August, 2011. I then spent the rest of my time in Israel volunteering on the ambulances in Ramat Gan, a suburb of Tel Aviv. The few weeks that I was able to spend on the ambulances were some of the greatest weeks of my life. Every day was exciting and held the promise of interesting cases and lives to save.

I would seriously recommend and encourage that all young Jewish people around the world above 18 spend a summer in Israel with Magen David Adom. I can guarantee that it will be a unique and fulfilling experience, and one that you'll want to recommend to all of your friends in the future.



YOCHAI PORAT. Z"l, The show just goes on

Emily Nash

When Reut, coordinator of the Yochai Porat Overseas Volunteer Program, asked me to speak today, I debated whether I should talk about the CPR I had on my very first call, or the suicide, or the stabbing, or the guy that fell through a rod at a construction site, but instead, I've decided to share two other calls which I found to be more unique.

Wednesday, July 6th. After picking up a patient complaining of chest pain, I sat in the back of the Intensive Care Ambulance (ICA) observing the paramedic as he hooked up the patient to the monitor and analyzed medical records. He asked the patient several questions, most of which I only understood every other word of. After the patient was stabilized, the paramedic sat near the front filling out paperwork and I sat in the back with the patient in silence as we drove to the hospital. Knowing only basic conversational Hebrew limits my ability to communicate with the patient, which I have often found to be stifling and frustrating. All of a sudden the patient asked, in perfect English with very little accent, "So, where are you from?" I responded with confusion, shocked by the sound of English coming from a patient's mouth. "Umm, America?" "Obviously, but where?" After a few minutes of the routine general small talk, he began to tell me about his life, how he had made Aliyah in 1973 from Argentina, how amazing it was that there is a Jewish state, and how he loves living in Israel. I asked him if he thought I should make Aliyah. He responded, "Life here is not easy. There are a lot of problems, and a lot of pressures that we deal with on a daily basis. But if you believe in the Jewish state, and feel that every Jew should come here and contribute to that state, then yes, you should." His answer was so simple that it almost made me question why I had asked in the first place. Our conversation about Israel, America, his life, my life, and making Aliyah lasted the rest of the drive, and by the time we got to the hospital, I felt as if I had known this patient for years. In the mere 10 minutes to the hospital, it had seemed like we had talked for hours, and he had passed down years of wisdom. I felt more connected to this patient than to some people I've known for years.

Tuesday, July 19th. The driver, the medic, and I walked into the bedroom where the old lady was lying down in a bed that looked like the ones from the hospital. Her knees were pulled toward her chest and her arms crossed and shaking, a position that resembled one of a sick child. Her eyes were only slightly open. She was clearly breathing, but her only responses were slight coughs and moans when we moved her to the ambulance bed. I glanced at the bedroom wall behind me, and noticed several pictures - one specifically struck me - a wedding picture. She was clearly the bride in the picture, but didn't look anything like she had looked then, which was most likely at least 50 years ago. Her face was bright and smiling and happy in the picture. Her face now looked scared, frail, and lost. It was only when we finally got the patient into the ambulance and were on our way to the hospital that the medic told me the woman suffered from Alzheimer's. I sat next to the woman in the ambulance as we drove to the hospital. The medic told me to watch her to make sure she was still conscious. Conscious? She was "conscious" by the technical definition. But not by any measure we would consider "responsive." I could tell that on the inside her brain



was withering away. The disease had taken over her life. She was not the same woman that stood next to her husband in the wedding picture. She wasn't able to process and respond to surroundings, and she most likely didn't know that the younger couple who she lived with and who took care of her were her family. She might not have even recognized that the wedding picture that hung on her wall. All I kept thinking was "this is no way to live." She had become her disease. We are made up of memories, and the disease had slowly stripped these away from her. You could tell from the outside that inside her brain was withering away, and the memories, along with all of their emotions - good and bad - were withering away too. As her brain deteriorated, so was a piece of her identity. As we brought the patient into the emergency room, I noticed the stark contrast between her and most of the other patients in beds next to her. Many conditions that bring people to the ER are fixable, at least to some extent. Most will return home healed and live normal lives again. Not her. She will not return home healed. She will return at best in the same condition. Whatever had caused her overheating (the initial condition that had prompted the call) might be fixed, but while the rest of her body might return to normal, her brain will not.

As we drove back to the hospital, I thought back to the other call, the patient from two weeks before who had told me about his journey making Aliyah from Argentina. The experience was such a stark contrast. From a mere conversation about making Aliyah I was able to connect with the patient so easily, but I wasn't even able to communicate with the woman who suffered from Alzheimer's. From the outside, the patients were similar, both being transported to the hospital on an ambulance for a medical complaint, yet below the surface one was able to relay wisdom and experience and emotion and the other had no capability to do so. The contrast between the two patients was a clear illustration of the value of being able to connect to patients as people. The woman with Alzheimer's had clearly lost this ability years ago, and it became clear to me that without such a capability, a huge part of her life was missing. If nothing else, my interaction with these patients reinforced my passion for the study of the mind. What was going on in her brain that made communicating to the outside world so impossible? More than that, it emphasized the importance of connection to patients as people in the field of medicine. Whether you treat on an ambulance, in the emergency room, or in a small doctor's office, each patient is an individual story, and connecting to the patients is crucial to understanding their story. Understanding their story is crucial to treatment, of both the body and the mind.

We imagine ourselves saving lives and impacting all of these patients, but I think in reality the opposite often happens. The people we help often change us more than we change them. These two patients have certainly left a significant imprint on me that will last a very long time.

Volunteering with Magen David Adom began as an opportunity to pursue two passions at once - Israel and medicine - and to experience Israel in a different way than I had before. It's been about much more than medicine though. The experience has brought me the opportunity to connect to different people - patients, medics, other volunteers. To be challenged every day on several levels - being immersed in a foreign language, attempting to treat patients and communicate with medics in broken Hebrew, being independent in a foreign city, thinking on my feet, applying knowledge and practice to real situations, helping to emotionally soothe patients in distress, and the opportunity to learn about the importance of the individual behind the medicine. It's these challenges that make this experience unique from other volunteer opportunities and from other opportunities in Israel.

After a mere four weeks of volunteering, I feel that I'm walking away with knowledge that cannot be taught in a classroom, and a stronger connection to both the field of medicine and the state of Israel. On behalf of all the volunteers, thank you to everyone who had made this experience so amazing.

Graduation Ceremony of Class July – MDA Overseas 106

Last Monday students of the overseas volunteers' program gathered in MDA's Tel Aviv Station for the graduation ceremony of class 106. The ceremony held 40 volunteers who completed the program, visitors from British Friends of MDA and family members of the course's students, who came for a visit in Israel. An open conversation summarizing the volunteering period was held before the ceremony, where the students expressed their feelings regarding their volunteering experience as well as about the activity in MDA during a period of uncertainty on the security level in Southern Israel. During the ceremony, the students heard explanations regarding the activities held for MDA in different countries, as well as regarding MDA's activities during the terror attacks that took place last week and throughout the continuous escalation in Southern Israel.

Yoni Yagodovski, director of the Fundraising Department, arrived to the ceremony with the British, the Canadian and the French desk managers, and presented the students with the activity of MDA and of MDA's friends' associations worldwide. After granting the protégés with their certificates and taking the traditional photo, many students expressed their will to contribute to MDA.





MDA volunteers from abroad enjoying the sites of Israel

Volunteers of Magen David Adom who are at present in Israel set out on a walking tour in Nachal David, near the Dead Sea. The youngsters in the middle of their professional training, went out for a relaxing day. In the morning all the volunteers and their instructors went to the Nature Reserve, heard explanations about the Reserve, the river and the special qualities of the place as one of the nicest and most magical places on earth. They were all enthralled to watch a running competition between a group of mountain goats and hyraxes. In spite of the great heat, the volunteers enjoyed the cold water of the river and the rich and magical trip in this beautiful place in the Land of Israel. We learn from the management of the program how tremendously important it is that the students who come from all over the world get to appreciate, in addition to the professional agenda, the magical scenery of the Land of Israel.

Course 106 – finished the training and started to volunteer on Magen Daid Adom ambulances

Volunteers from abroad participating in the Yochai Porat program z'l finished their training with great results. The course took place in the Ein Gedi Youth Hostel with 46 youngsters from different countries all over the world participating.

The course was given by two instructors from the Teaching Division of the Jerusalem Region, as well as two volunteer instructors who took part in this program a few years ago. Both of them have returned to Israel to teach the program.

Ilan Orzi, a volunteer instructor on the course says "In my opinion there is great educational importance in teaching this program, and as a graduate of the program, feel a bond to Israel and MDA and want to pass on this feeling to all my students"

During the coming weeks until the start of their studies in different universities, the volunteers will work in different MDA stations throughout the country, help treat patients and get to know from close up more about Israeli society. This is the last summer course for the year, with about 400 students volunteering, helping to Save Lives in Israel.

Reut Peled Farkash, coordinator of the program, points out that the students on the present course have invested a lot of time and energy in their studies, and will take back with them to their homes great memories from the land of Israel.