

LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and everyday make us a little more... human.

December 21, 2021

The Gift of LIFE Edition



Dear Friends,

There's a famous commercial for a legendary rye bread bakery with the tagline, "You Don't Have To Be Jewish To Love Levy's." Well, you also don't have to be Jewish to love Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical service. You just have to love saving people's lives, and as it turns out, that's what I love to do. So much so that I just donated my 14th ambulance to Magen David Adom (MDA). This contribution makes me the largest non-Jewish funder of mobile medical intensive care units for the State of Israel.

At each Bat Mitzvah I've attended, what has truly impressed me is that when the celebrant is giving her speech, she generally talks not about getting gifts but about giving them. This giving of their time and energies to try and make a difference in the world is known as "Tee-Koon O-lam" – working to repair the world.

I considered my 13th ambulance donation to be my Bat Mitzvah, but unfortunately, I was unable to have a celebration due to the pandemic. So, I decided that when I gave the 14th ambulance, I would give my own party and invite some of my closest friends. And just like those young girls did in conjunction with their Bat Mitzvahs, I decided to give a gift instead of getting one. And that gift is this new ambulance we dedicated in honor of the woman whose very name means "good" in Hebrew – my dear friend, Tova Leidesdorf.

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I once heard Tova say that when she gets involved in a cause, it is all the way. 'I give it 110 percent, and I always laugh and tell the people that you own me body and soul.' I know this to be true – in fact, it would take hours to list all the philanthropic and humanitarian endeavors with which she is involved, including my own LIFE Foundation.

By donating my 14th ambulance to MDA to help further its work and help save the lives of rocket and terrorist attack victims, heart attack victims, and others in need of emergency care, I'm not just helping give the gift of life; I'm getting the same thing in return. I really feel that my life is so much more fulfilled and meaningful because I'm doing this.

Ret. General Jerry Gershon, the guest speaker at the dedication event, shared with us that the ambulances I have donated over the years have saved more than 33,000 lives and have played a vital role in Israel providing aid and emergency transportation to everyone from victims of rocket and terrorist attacks to victims of heart attacks and auto accidents. They've also served as the birthplace for some of the more than 100 babies born annually in Magen David Adom ambulances en route to the hospital.

Those are some humbling numbers, and, on this occasion of my very own Bat Mitzvah celebration, I believe it's a pretty great start at working to repair the world.

With all my very best,

Lois



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To learn more or to donate,
visit www.life-edu.org or call 561-582-8083.



LIFE's 28th Annual Lady in Red Gala

Starring Dionne Warwick with Rita Rudner and Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis, Jr.

Sunday, January 7, 2022

The Breakers ★ Palm Beach

For more information, visit www.life-edu.org or call 561-582-8083.