



Helping us make their wishes a reality

The Wish Ambulance



Eli Bin
Director General

The Wish Ambulance is a unique project in Magen David Adom that has been operating since 2009. It is a project that alleviates pain by giving hope.

The Wish Ambulance allows us at Magen David Adom to do something different with our skills and expertise in emergency pre-hospital care. It is literally a means to healing the soul of patients and their families, who are often heavily burdened by sickness or injuries that make it impossible for them to enjoy meaningful moments in life.

The compassion that comprises this voluntary and completely free service is closely linked to the humanitarian and Jewish values that are the basis of Magen David Adom's activities.

The ambulance team soothes the suffering of the sick, injured or terminally ill and allows them to experience precious moments, joyous family occasions, or visit places they could otherwise not reach.

Over the years, we have made the wishes of hundreds of people a reality. For some, these were their last wishes and for others, a powerful boost in morale to keep fighting on.

Thanks to you, we can answer these requests and wishes, anywhere and at any time, and together heal the souls of patients and their families.

I thank you and wish all our volunteer paramedics, medics and staff, success in carrying out this blessed work.



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Inspired by an existing initiative in the Netherlands, the Wish Ambulance grants the wishes of people with serious illnesses, who are either terminally ill or have permanent loss of mobility. Many of the patients who are terminally ill long to do the most simple of things, such as going to the theatre or a concert, spend an afternoon on the beach, pray at the Western Wall or attend a family occasion.

These once very easy to fulfill wishes, have become impossible due to issues of health and mobility and often require medical supervision that is costly and even dangerous, if done in a non-professional manner.

To solve this, the unique Wish Ambulance is purpose built and fitted out with state of the art equipment. It allows for ease of access and comfort for the patient, allowing them to see their wish fulfilled in the best possible conditions.

In 2008 MDA Director General Eli Bin enthusiastically submitted this project for funding through the MDA Friend Societies around the world and in 2009 the Swedish Friends of Magen David Adom granted the first Wish Ambulance to Israel.

Manned by a professional, volunteer crew of MDA's finest Paramedics and EMTs, and operated completely free as a service to the public since 2009, hundreds of wishes have been granted to men, women and children alike, from all walks of life in Israel, comforting them and for some, giving hope to carry on.



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What's makes the ambulance so unique?

The Wish Ambulance is no ordinary ambulance; it is built on a special chassis to allow for the most terminally ill patient to fulfill their wish in comfort and safety with ample space for care and medical supervision.

Inside the ambulance are advanced medical devices and equipment found on an Intensive Care Unit as well as a special shock absorbent bed specifically made for comfortable transport. A monitor defibrillator for patient monitoring and treatment in case of cardiac emergencies is also installed. Attached to the ceiling of the vehicle is a camera connected to an LED screen allowing the patient to view the way being traveled and a fridge keeping medication chilled throughout the journey.

Additionally a special wheelchair designed for beach excursions and rough terrain is available along with a sound system to maximize the patient's experience.

Who is the service for?

Children, adolescents, adults or the elderly, this service is meant for all who are hospitalized, bedridden and or suffering from illnesses affecting their mobility or requiring special medical supervision. MDA's Wish Ambulance team will do everything possible to fulfill the patient's wish or dream.

Acts of compassion can have amazing benefits to the patient which can often contribute to their recovery or assist in alleviating pain and suffering.

The preparation ahead of each Wish Day is often an opportunity for the patient to experience excitement for the first time in many weeks, months or years of their illness. Fulfilling a wish can be a significant triumph for the individual and provides great emotional support to the family.

The service is offered FREE OF CHARGE to anyone, regardless of ethnicity, religion or gender and is a service to the public courtesy of **Magen David Adom**.

Costs and equipment

1. Mercedes Sprinter, Bluetec 319
2. Donor signage and inscription on the ambulance (Passenger & Driver Doors)
3. MDA Command & Control GPS communications tablet
4. MDA Radio communications system
5. Reverse & dashboard cameras
6. Corpuls monitor defibrillator
7. Electrical shock absorbent patient bed
8. Advanced respiratory ventilation system
9. Intensive Care equipment including medication and oxygen
10. LED Screen
11. Camera mounted on roof of ambulance to allow for patient to see travel route
12. Medication fridge
13. Advanced sound system

AUD\$ 500,000

Completion Time

Approximately 6 months from order date. Once the vehicle is ordered it is sent to Portugal where the it is engineered and planned based on MDA's specific requirements, specifications and high standards. Additional installations are completed along with quality control before the vehicle is shipped to Israel to begin service.

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The Medical Team

The medical team of the Wish Ambulance consists entirely of VOLUNTEERS.

Each Wish is carefully planned in coordination with the patient's attending physician, accompanied by the highly qualified medical staff.

- An EMT driver specialized in emergency medicine
- Anesthetist nurse certified in Intensive Care
- Paramedic
- If necessary, the patient's doctor

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MDA VOLUNTEERS FULFILLED WISHES IN 2018



The Wish Ambulance is part of the treatment process, allowing patients to immerse themselves once again in society and gain hope and the morale to fight their disease or condition.

The realization of a wish or a dream is an important element in improving the state of mind of a terminally ill patient during their most difficult days and thus allowing them to forget, if only for a moment, their pain and suffering. Most of the wishes are sentimental and very personal in nature: taking part in family smachot such as a child's wedding or graduation; visiting natural and heritage sites; attending sporting or cultural events; meeting relatives or celebrities. Each Wish Ambulance trip is meticulously coordinated in advance by the project team.

The Wish Ambulance team receives daily requests from patients and their families whose dream for their children, parents, brothers or sisters, is to fulfill one last wish.

Yonat Daskal

Wish ambulance project manager

I want to thank all those who contribute to the Wish Ambulance. We have the ability to fulfill the wishes of patients who would otherwise not get this opportunity thanks to your amazing help! I hope that we will continue together to fulfill more wishes and dreams!!

How it works

In order to respond to the many requests and wishes, MDA Israel has set up a toll free number. The team of volunteers handle each of the requests from patients or their families and friends with care.



Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime Minister of the State of Israel

During a Wish Ambulance visit with Shmuel Mordechai

With my wife Sarah, we welcomed Mr. Mordechai Shmuel to our residence. Mordechai has been battling cancer for 12 years. Thanks to MDA, he realized his wish to meet us. The honor of receiving him was even greater for us. We were very moved to meet a wonderful man, a Zionist in his body and soul, who struggles with courage against his illness and who does not lose hope. We pray for his recovery and health, and send our thanks to MDA, which helps save lives, but also souls.

Mordechai Shmuel

Aged 75, he has been fighting cancer for 12 years. To achieve his greatest wish, he needed the help of Magen David Adom. Mordechai's wish was to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sarah. The Wish Ambulance arrived at the Beer Sheva Retreat House where Mordechai is being treated, to take him to the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem where he had the pleasure of sharing a moment with Benjamin and Sarah Netanyahu. After his meeting with the Prime Minister, Mordechai wanted to go to the Kotel, and the MDA Wish Ambulance gladly obliged.



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Our Objective

The Wish Ambulance is truly a magnificent initiative that allows people in extreme distress to be comforted by joy, even for a few hours, through the fulfillment of a wish or an experience that many healthy people take for granted.

The goal is to do a mitzvah for those who are suffering and are unable to realise their wish due to complications with their health and/or logistics.

Your support will enable us to respond to more such dreams and wishes, anywhere, anytime, and thus relieve the pain of patients and their families.

This unique project is provided as a free service to patients in need.

With your help, Magen David Adom Australia intends to raise AUD \$500,000 to purchase a new Wish Ambulance, to allow us satisfy more patients and realize more and more wishes.

Help us make their wishes a reality.

www.magendavidadom.com.au/donate



Yotam Cohen

Yotam is 3 years old and is fighting against Leukemia. He suffers the daily effects of chemotherapy. After his bone marrow transplant, his family wanted to find a way to cheer him up and allow him to fulfill his dream: flying in a helicopter.

The Cohen family approached Magen David Adom and the Wish Ambulance. With the help of MDA, Yotam was able to enjoy a guided tour in an MDA helicopter experiencing a superb 15-minute flight over the city of Beer Sheva.

Mushon Vaknin, a veteran pilot and Director of the Lachish Region and MDA's Air-Evac Unit, explained to Yotam the specifics of a helicopter and offered him MDA's Paramedic's badge.

A FANTASTIC MORNING FOR YOTAM AND HIS FAMILY!

Ravit Cohen

Yotam's Mother



We are so grateful! MDA fulfilled my son's dream. Everything was done with the greatest professionalism. We hope that his renewed joy will be reflected in future medical tests and will help Yotam in his healing process.

Mushon Vaknin

Director:MDA Lachish Region & MDA Helicopter Air-Evac Unit

MDA helicopters act as a flying emergency room. We fight for the lives of patients who are often between life and death. This is the first time the helicopter has experienced pure and innocent joy, as seen by Yotam's smile and joy. This young man is a hero! It was a privilege and an honor to fulfill his wish with this helicopter flight.

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Rina

Rina has been teaching for 25 years and fighting cancer. Her wish was to attend the graduation party for her students.

The Wish Ambulance brought Rina to the ceremony for a very moving meeting with her students.

Tomer Bar Levi

MDA volunteer

When we arrived, we were charmed by Rina's personality and strength.

She had not left home for more than six months.

In such moments, we understand again and again what this special project means. It is a privilege to allow suffering people to see their dreams and wishes become a reality.

Orit & Mani Hadi

Seriously injured in a car accident in Holon, transported in serious condition and hospitalized at the Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, the doctors said they would remain in the hospital for a long time.

But thanks to the Wish Ambulance, this couple was able to attend the wedding of their only son.

Adi Ben-Aharon

The paramedic who rushed them to the hospital, was aware of their son's imminent marriage:

I had been told that the Wish Ambulance would fulfill their wish, and take them to the wedding. When they offered me to lead them and join them, I was overcome with joy, I feel that we have come full circle.

Dor Tziziashvili

Dor is 16 and fighting Cancer. For the past 2 years his condition has required close medical supervision. A fan of superheroes, "Larger than Life", a volunteer organization that helps Dor and his family in their daily lives, turned to MDA so that the young man could realize his dream and

see the latest Wonder Woman film.

The Wish Ambulance team took Dor to the movies. During the trip, he shared his knowledge of the superheroes with the medical staff and then watched the film! He sat in the first row in a movie theater open just for him, Dor was delighted to admire the great powers of Wonder Woman ... played by renowned Israeli actress Gal Gadot. The energy passed on to Dor who fights like a hero to fight the disease!

Dvora Balwa

March 2017, Dvora was looking forward to the Wish Ambulance. Hospitalized in Hadassah Mt. Scopus Hospital for several months, she is connected 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to an oxygen tank that gives her 10 liters of life every hour. She hardly ever leaves her bed. Although she does not have much air in her lungs, Dvora keeps her spirits up. She always has dreams like seeing the place she loves the most in Israel, the place where she was born: the Kinneret at Lake Tiberias.

Uri and Benny were the MDA medics and her two companions for the whole day.

On a screen inside the ambulance the landscape is shown, filmed by the camera installed on the roof of the ambulance.

Uri, her guardian angel coordinates the oxygen reserves that Dvora needs. No stress today - everything is under control! If the oxygen bottles require attention at any moment, they will not dictate the program of the day; today it is Dvora who decides.

The journey along the valley reminds Dvora of her memories and emotions. At the crossroads of Zemach Junction, she is on the verge of tears. She did not believe it could happen: to see the Kinneret one more time.

Another stop to prepare the oxygen reserves at the MDA Tiberias station and go to the beach.

The Kinneret is clear and soothing; the rescuers keep oxygen close to

Dvora and gently tilt it into the lake. How joyous is the feeling of floating in the water. The day continues with a delicious meal, planned by MDA. The whole family is gathered around Dvora.

It is already five o'clock in the afternoon, time to say goodbye to friends and family. This is not a goodbye; Dvora is in such a good mood that it illuminates all the sad faces.

The story of this day could have ended in the calm of the Wish Ambulance driving home but things did not unfold as well. On the way back, the team witnessed a pileup at the Kfar Adumim Junction. Three vehicles were involved in this dramatic accident. Several wounded needed to be treated, many of whom were in serious condition. They had to act quickly.

Uri and Benny, both experienced paramedics in the field immediately provided first aid pending the arrival of other MDA ambulances.

The victims were separated by our two rescuers according to the severity of their condition.

The first ambulances arrived, a woman had to be taken away urgently. The decision was made to transport her with the Wish Ambulance to the nearest hospital. The siren sounds.

The same vehicle now carried a woman who had just realized her dearest wish and a woman whose most cherished wish is to stay alive. Uri treated her and provided painkillers. A race against the clock had begun.

The end of the story? Happy! The victim did not suffer sustaining injuries from her accident. Arriving at Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem, she was taken care of by the Emergency Room staff. Our rescuers gave their best to save her. It was then time for Uri, Benny and Dvora to say goodbye. What a day! What intense emotions experienced by each and what an adventure! This day gave Dvora courage and strength to face her illness. It will remain forever in the memories of Dvora and her relatives.



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