



Ezer Mizion: A Hand in the Dark A Newborn Meets His Mommy

Were you ever in a quandary, not knowing where to turn? Did you automatically feel a need to turn to Mommy even though you are a Mommy yourself now and maybe even a grandmother? Of course, you did. A mother seems all-knowing, all-powerful. She can fix anything - or so it seemed in memories of childhood. And how did she obtain such powers? Through one source only: her great love and caring.

And so, perhaps that is why hundreds of thousands turn to Ezer Mizion no matter what they need. It begins from above, from Rav Chananya Chollak, the founder of Ezer Mizion, and permeates to each staff member and volunteer...that tremendous love and sensitivity, that outpouring of respect and caring. It forms the very fabric of Ezer Mizion.

And so the phone rang.

This time, it was from a community leader to Ezer Mizion's Yerushalayim branch director. "I don't know if you have any resources for this problem, but I thought I would give it a try. You see, a baby was just born to one of the community mothers. It's their first child and, like any young couple, they had such dreams. Now those dreams are shattered. The baby was born

with a defect. The mother is devastated. She can't handle it. She hasn't stopped crying. She is hysterical. I'm worried about the mother's mental state and I'm worried about the baby. The mother refuses to even see - let alone bond with and hold - the baby. Nursing is out of the question. The baby has not experienced an ounce of tender motherly care since its birth. Do you have any ideas?"

Ezer Mizion has 700,000 volunteers, each with her own expertise. The calls began and it was not long before Mrs. L was located. Mrs. L is a woman who knows the right words of encouragement. The Ezer Mizion Linked to Life network arranged transportation for Mrs. L to the hospital. Other Ezer Mizion divisions swung into action to provide loving support in varied ways so that the new parents would not feel that they are alone in their crisis. And miracles began to happen. At 3 a.m., a message was received at the Ezer Mizion office: the mother had requested to hold her baby.

It will be a slow process. Slow and painful. But supported by the loving arms of Ezer Mizion, they'll make it.

Things are buzzing at Ezer Mizion, with its

many departments in 57 cities covering a variety of needs. Let's take a peek at the charts in the Kiryat Sefer branch for one department: Meals for Families experiencing medical crises.



A logistic pyramid - a work of art - was set up

in order to accommodate and provide nourishing and wholesome meals in a systematic way. Close your eyes and try to picture it. There are 40 coordinators who have each rallied 25 women to cook once every 5 weeks a protein for 6-8 people. That's 1,000 special ladies who are committed volunteers, on call and part of this huge operation. In the Ezer Mizion kitchen, a similarly sized team of volunteers prepares the starch to go along with the main protein together with a vegetable.

Every week, between 50 and 60 families receive meals: On Monday for Monday and Tuesday, on Wednesday for Wednesday and Thursday. And *Shabbos*? For *Shabbos* there are 80 coordinators. Each one is responsible for three *Shabbos* meals from beginning to end - not an easy task. The gourmet food just pours in. The number 16,000 per month doesn't do justice to the myriad logistics involved in caring for those who depend on the caring volunteers who deliver a basket of food for the body together with smiles and encouragement - nutrition for the soul.

For further info, call 718. 853.8400 or visit www.ezermizion.org.

Letters from Home

My name is Ana Gugle. I came to Eretz Yisroel from the Ukraine many years ago with my mother, father, and younger brother. My parents are not religious, but they sent me to the Shuvu school in Chadera as they heard of its wonderful reputation.

I very much enjoyed attending the Shuvu school, where I was introduced to Torah and *mitzvos*.

After completing elementary school, Shuvu's education director, Mrs. Brocha Weinberger, spoke to my parents about the new high school Shuvu was opening in Yerushalayim. Through an open miracle, my parents agreed to let me continue my education at Shuvu for high school for four years.

As you may imagine, after spending years at Shuvu and experiencing the beauty of Torah, *Shabbos*, and many other *mitzvos*, I wanted to take the next step in becoming more religious upon graduating high school. I wanted to become a true *bas Yisroel* as I started my life as an 18-year-

old adult. My parents were not very enthusiastic about my decision, particularly my father, who was very upset. However, I met a fine boy, Itamar, who was a *baal teshuvah*, and we both agreed that we wanted to build a house of Torah and *mitzvos*. We set a date for the wedding, but my parents were adamant about not attending my wedding due to my decision to build a religious home. Once again, Mrs. Weinberger got involved and convinced my parents not to sever our relationship.

Shuvu arranged a hall for the wedding and helped with all aspects of setting up our new home. The wedding was beautiful, and my parents ended up attending. What was most beautiful is that I was able to start a new Torah home with my husband Itamar, who is now learning in a Belzer *kollel* for *baalei teshuvah*. Our family continues to grow, *boruch Hashem*, and we consider Mrs. Weinberger and the Shuvu staff to be part of that family.

Thank you, Shuvu!
Chana (previously Ana)



Winners Chosen for the Tnuva "The Milky Way" Coloring & Activity Book Raffle

Children from all over the New York/New Jersey area, but also from as far away as Baltimore, Detroit, Chicago, and Minneapolis, sent in their entries for the Tnuva USA raffle, included in *The Milky Way* coloring and activity book.

The Milky Way is a full-size coloring book featuring delightful characters Reuvi and Shimmy. Readers accompany the boys as they learn about *cholov Yisroel* and how Tnuva's high-quality, kosher-for-*Pesach* dairy products are made.

In addition to a recipe for Chocolate Balls that can be suited for *Pesach* or all

year round, there were also activities, including a Color By Number and a Word Search. Readers who submitted the page filled in correctly entered a raffle for great prizes. Tnuva was flooded with entries, and the two lucky winners are the Moskowitz family from Lakewood and E. Frank from Spring Valley.

Tnuva sends congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who took the time and effort to send in their work. They also are grateful to all who sent in kind words about how much they love Tnuva. Stay tuned for the next contest.

