

Life in Israel, Reimagined



The phones are ringing off the hook. Are you available to answer the call?

Two weeks ago, a family in New York was left reeling with the untimely passing of their father. Three of his children in Eretz Yisroel—two married daughters and one *yeshiva bochur*—were thrown into a whirlwind of booking tickets to ensure they make it to the *levayah* in time. But Suri, the mother of a newborn, realized her baby had no passport.

“I can’t miss my own father’s *levayah!*” she sobbed. “How will I ever forgive myself?”

“Why don’t you reach out to Chaim V’Chessed?” her husband said. “They’ll surely be able to help you.”

“Are you kidding?” Suri retorted. “Everybody knows that obtaining a passport in a matter of hours is impossible. Especially now, during the coronavirus.”

But Chaim V’Chessed, a place where the impossible becomes possible, arranged a passport for the baby that very day. Incidentally, the second daughter, Chavi, had just submitted the baby’s passport to the embassy to extend its validity. With the passport stuck in the embassy, Chaim V’Chessed stepped in again. Two unique cases—and one lifeline.

Life in Israel is far from simple, and since 2015, Chaim V’Chessed has been helping people navigate the system, including medical logistics, hospital navigation, women’s health, special education and children’s therapies, mental health referrals, bureaucracy, death and bereavement, and geriatrics.

“We knew we were blessed with our special needs daughter,” Chaya K. relates, “but with obstacles cropping up every time we applied for care, returning to America seemed like the only feasible way to raise her. That is, until Chaim V’Chessed stepped in.” The experts at Chaim V’Chessed, who value American service yet have their finger on the pulse of the Israeli system, escorted them step-by-step.

Assistance in medical emergencies and Chaim V’Chessed are synonymous. Staffed with experts, seven-hour emergency room waits are cut to a fraction of the time, urgent MRI appointments are expedited, and agreements with insurance claims are ironed out.

When Rivky Samet* experienced a miscarriage just 10 weeks after landing in Israel, she and her husband were at a loss. Medical emergencies and hospital stays are never pleasant, but when you’re navigating language and culture barriers and your closest family is across the ocean, you feel all the more alone.

“The relief when we finally had someone to talk to is indescribable,” Rivky shares. “Not only did they offer emotional support, but in a matter of hours, they arranged medical insurance. Chaim V’Chessed lifts the challenge of being alone.”

Whereas Chaim V’Chessed was previously a critical helpline for people in need of assistance, the coronavirus transformed the organization into a lifeline. New complications sprang up like mushrooms, and Chaim V’Chessed burgeoned into something even greater than before. Their assistance and

guidance were not only for English speakers in Eretz Yisroel—it now extended to Europe and the United States.

It began with the confusion of Israeli border control. Who’s allowed to leave? Who’s allowed to enter? Is the border closing, and when? What’s the process for noncitizens to obtain a permit? What are the quarantine rules? Are there exemptions? And how do you get them? As usual, Chaim V’Chessed was there to clarify the rules, rules which were never clear even in Hebrew.

Death-related complications arose as well. Is it possible to transport a *niftar* to Eretz Yisroel for burial? What about flying abroad for a *levayah*? Yet again, Chaim V’Chessed did not disappoint.

When it came to seminary girls, *yeshiva bochorim* and married couples, Chaim V’Chessed was instrumental in obtaining permission for student visa holders to re-enter the country. Although the Ministry of Interior was closed, Chaim V’Chessed tri-



The Mayor of Yerushalayim, Moshe Leon, presents an award to Paysach Freedman, CEO of Chaim V’Chessed.

umphed.

“We were so confused,” relates Mrs. Jacobowitz*. “We were sending our oldest daughter to seminary, and with the quarantine rules changing every day, we had no clue what was flying. Chaim V’Chessed was there for us every step of the way.”

Mr. and Mrs. Avrumi Reich* express their genuine appreciation. “Having our newly married kids living abroad is concerning, and the pandemic has brought the concerns to new heights. Without Chaim V’Chessed’s guidance, they’d long be back home.”

And when it seemed like grandparents would be deprived of partaking in their grandchildren’s *simchos*, Chaim V’Chessed got involved once again, making it possible for grandparents to attend births and *shep nachas* from grandchildren getting married or delivering *bar mitzvah pshetlach*.

Throughout the pandemic, Chaim V’Chessed has been inundated with calls for assistance, and they remain at the forefront, assisting and advocating for the community. Due to Covid-19, their usual avenues of fundraising are unavailable, and funds are needed to cover operational expenses. So now they are reaching out to you, as a member of the English-speaking community they service. On December 6 and 7, enable Chaim V’Chessed to help you and your loved ones.

Visit www.chaimvchessed.com to participate.

Eastern Union is Hiring Brokers Who Will Earn a \$1,000-Per-Week Draw After 90 Days

Eastern Union’s Commissions are the Highest in the Industry

Eastern Union, one of the country’s largest commercial real estate finance firms, is hiring mortgage brokers who will earn a \$1,000-per-week draw after 90 days on the job.

The company’s brokers also earn commissions that step up to 75 percent, the highest commissions paid in the commercial real estate world.

Eastern Union’s willingness to compensate new brokers at this high level reflects the firm’s confidence in its unique, 90-day, “boot camp”-style broker training program for new hires.

In addition to the training syllabus, new brokers benefit from ample access to C-suite company executives for professional guidance, including training directly provided by company founder and president Ira Zlotowitz on almost a daily basis.

“Our tested training system for incoming brokers has a proven record of success,” said Mr. Zlotowitz. “Eastern Union is making this substantial financial commitment to

our broker recruits because we know how well our training infrastructure will prepare them for real-world success.

“We encourage you to consider a career in commercial mortgage brokerage,” he said. “Eastern Union provides every recruit with a well-structured support system. We’ll give you all the preparation you need to be a high-performing mortgage broker.”

Eastern Union says that many brokers are able to earn annual incomes ranging from \$150,000 to \$500,000 within a few years of starting their careers with the company. The company’s top brokers achieve annual earnings at the seven-digit level.

Brokers are supplied with promising leads. They also have the choice of working from offices in New York, New Jersey or Maryland -- and can work remotely with flexible hours.

Interested parties can visit hiring.easternunion.com.

Oorah Nachas Files

The Power in a Name

Oorah runs an extensive, multifaceted tuition program. This program exists to aid the transition from public school to a *frum* school, both financially and emotionally. This shift is transformative, and needs to be handled carefully so that it can have the proper positive effect and the family and child in question feel happy and comfortable.

When little Becca first started attending a Hebrew day school, it was a bit overwhelming, but with the warm and welcoming atmosphere the school boasted, she soon felt right at home.

About a week into the school year, one of her new friends innocently inquired, “Becca, what’s your Hebrew name?”

“I don’t know what you mean,” she answered slowly, confused. “My name is Becca.”

“No, that’s an English name. Everyone who’s Jewish also has a Hebrew name, even if that’s not what you’re called at home. That’s why my name is Hannah, but I’m also sometimes called Chana. I’m sure you have one, too.”

“I’ll find out what my Hebrew name is,” Becca said, confident in Chana’s reassurance that every Jewish person had one.

When she got home, she immediately relayed the conversation to her mother and waited in anticipation to hear her very own special Jewish name.

“Oh, honey, in our family, we don’t really give Hebrew names,” her mother explained. Becca gasped in dismay at the news. “But all Jewish people have one! Can we please get one for me?”

Her mother realized that in her current environment, a Hebrew name would help Becca feel comfortable and part of things. Understanding that it was essential to her growth, she reached out to a rabbi she’d been put in touch with since becoming more *frum*, and Becca soon became Rivka.

Remembering the moment when she first heard her new name, Rivka can still feel the lightness that filled and lifted her heart, making her feel like she finally belonged.

“That’s the moment I got a new name for my new life,” she realizes. “And then, I felt good to go.”

That Hebrew day school was the first stop on the road that would eventually bring her across the ocean to a seminary in Eretz Yisroel where she would continue to grow and strengthen her relationship with Hashem.

As one woman recently said when one of Oorah’s TorahMates coordinators asked her how her sons were enjoying their new school, “Well, they do have one complaint: ‘Why didn’t we switch schools before this?’”