

## **Yishuv Eli – Emergency Responder Exercise and Security Vest Dedication** **The Shomrei/Eli Partnership - Alive and Well** by Mike Lowenstein

As a result of the outpouring of support from the Shomrei membership, funds were raised to provide 15 vests for the security of Yishuv Eli, our sister community. Our family traveled to Eli to officially dedicate them on Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

When we arrived in Eli, much to our collective surprise, awaiting us were seven of the volunteer emergency responders. Together, they carried out an extensive training exercise in the Yovel neighborhood, where Roi Harel and his family live. It was Roi, who, with a miracle from Hashem, was able to push back the two terrorists and save his life and the lives of his family.



Link to the training exercise video

<https://drive.google.com/a/ohrchadashbaltimore.org/file/d/0BzqjvGQjzgcFQXBnUW96c2NrVEk/view?pref=2&pli=1>

After spending quality time at the Hadar Yosef Talmud Torah, with the Rabbi Shai ben Shalom, principal, and Eliana Passentin, deputy director and long-time friend of Shomrei, we went to the security command center for the dedication ceremony.

Marc Provisor, Director of Security Projects for One Israel Fund, spoke passionately about Shomrei's commitment and continual support for Eli.



Left to Right: Marc Provisor, Lowenstein family wearing the new flexible vests, Amitai Frankel, Eli's RavShatz (Security Chief), Mayor Ido Meushar, and Eliana Passentin

After Marc spoke, I gave a short speech. Here are my closing remarks:

In the first prayer of the Shmonei Esrei, we recite:

מֶלֶךְ עֹזֵר וּמוֹשִׁיעַ וּמַגֵּן. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, מַגֵּן אַבְרָהָם.

“O King, Helper, Savior, and Shield. Blessed are You, Hashem, Shield of Abraham.”

In the Art Scroll siddur, reference is made to Hashem, preserving the spark of Abraham within every Jew. As I now read this prayer, I also think of the shield of Hashem protecting the residents of Eli, through the active participation of the many emergency responders, wearing their new protective security vests.

You see, back in Baltimore, we have the opportunity to think of you and be with you multiple times each day. What a zechut for us! Todah Rabah!



Link to speech at security vest dedication

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLjMPDqQyo0&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLjMPDqQyo0&feature=em-share_video_user)

Eliana, speaking on behalf of the residents of Eli:

“To the wonderful people of Shomrei Emunah:

No one wishes for an emergency situation; but when it happens, many of my friends and neighbors instantly become soldiers. They are in severe danger. One minute they are at home with their families; the next, they are protecting all of us. They become Chayalim. It is our duty to keep them safe, while they are keeping all of us safe.

Thank you for contributing to this and for everything you do for us.”