

## You Can Help Ezer Mizion

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Bone Marrow Registry. "A simple test can help save a life," says Rabbi Chananya Chollak, founder and international chairman of Ezer Mizion, one of the largest non-profit organizations in Israel, which offers a diverse array of health support services. One of Ezer Mizion's flagship services is its bone marrow registry, founded in 1998 and directed by Dr. Bracha Zisser. Ezer Mizion's registry, with its 300,000 potential bone marrow donors, is the world's largest Jewish registry. It matches people in need of life-saving bone marrow transplants with genetically compatible donors.

Each month the registry receives search requests from transplant centers around the globe for Jewish cancer patients. Because Jews are an underrepresented ethnicity in bone marrow registries throughout the world, Jewish patients often can not find matching donors. Ezer Mizion's registry was established to fill this need and until today has facilitated over 300 transplants that have saved the lives of Jewish patients throughout the world.

One of the many search requests submitted to Ezer Mizion's registry was for a 13-year-old boy, Omri Attiya. Omri lives in Holon in Israel with his parents and two brothers. Omri recently finished seventh grade, but he did not enter eighth grade in September. Instead, he is fighting for his life. Last year, Omri began experiencing severe headaches. A blood test revealed that he had leukemia. The treatments he received did not succeed in conquering the disease. Doctors have now advised that a stem-cell transplant from a genetically compatible donor offers the only chance to save Omri's life. They also said that it must be done very soon... The doctors turned to Ezer Mizion's bone marrow donor registry, but a suitable match has not been found for him anywhere. Expanding Ezer Mizion's registry is the only way to find a potential donor and save Omri's life.

To this end, Ezer Mizion is initiating a nationwide bone marrow donor recruitment drive throughout Israel on November 21. They project that 30,000 registrants will join on that day and they pray that among them there will be one donor suitable for Omri. At his bar mitzvah this past summer, Omri put a note in the Kotel asking for a complete, speedy recovery for Jewish patients everywhere. He added: "A bar mitzvah is supposed to mark a beginning, not an end." The days are flying by. Omri and his parents try to go to sleep at night, not knowing what tomorrow will bring. There are many others like him, living on borrowed time.

The cost of laboratory testing for each potential bone marrow donor that joins the registry is \$60. Sponsor a test. You can save a life. Time is running out! For further information or to sponsor lab testing call 1-866-611-OMRI, visit [www.SaveOmri.com](http://www.SaveOmri.com), or mail to Ezer Mizion, 1281 49th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

Remember Ezer Mizion at Your Simcha. Are you planning a Chanukah party or other simcha and looking for the perfect theme? Do you want to enhance the spirituality of the affair? As your guests partake of the delicious food served, offer them the opportunity to augment the sanctity of your event by joining Ezer Mizion in its efforts to assist many Jews undergoing crises, sending them beautifully prepared food packages via its food distribution program. The cancer patient who is unable to provide regular meals for her family smiles in joy as an Ezer Mizion "angel" brings food daily, providing the much-needed nutritional and emotional support: a hot meal, practical assistance, and a shoulder to cry on.

An elderly parent is suddenly hospitalized with a stroke. The family gathers around their loved one 24/7. They're worn out but don't want to leave. Along comes a sympathetic Ezer Mizion volunteer with hot meals for everyone. They feel rejuvenated and offer their heartfelt blessings to her and those that support the program...like you and those attending your simcha.

Your guests will feel elevated dining on sesame chicken and knowing that their contribution has helped another Jew in his hour of need.

Your seating plan is working fine. Your guests are enjoying themselves. Conversation is flowing nicely. Perhaps you'd like to remind them that there are Jews out there who cannot enjoy the simple pleasure of a talk with a friend. Due to congenital defects or sudden illness, they are unable to speak. But, being warm human beings like all of us, they have so much to say.

In this technological age, there exist state-of-the art machines that allow the speech-impaired to communicate effectively. They are no longer locked in a world of loneliness. They can voice their thoughts and feelings. The machines are expensive and only a limited number are available. You may wish to have two children play a game of charades. Ask your guests to imagine what it would be like to always have to mime their thoughts to express them. As the jokes are passed around the table, invite your guests to contribute to Ezer Mizion's VOCA Division and give a voice to those that cannot speak.

Ezer Mizion can be reached at 1281 49th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219 or at 718-853-8400 or [www.ezermizion.org](http://www.ezermizion.org).

Help create a miracle in this season of miracles!