

# CHABAD'S CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL

## The Candy Man Can: CCOC's Very Own Simon Swerdlow

C H A B A D ' S  
CHILDREN  
CHERNOBYL



Chabad's Children of Chernobyl (CCOC) has its very own candy man. Since founding Chocology, a patented technology which enables photos to be printed on to chocolate, cookies and cakes, Simon Swerdlow has helped make the lives of thousands of people much sweeter. But Simon has not forgotten where he came from.

Simon was only 13 years old when CCOC rescued him from Gomel, Belarus on the very first rescue mission in August 1990. After high school, Simon went on to receive two masters degrees. Now living in Florida, Simon and his beautiful wife Natasha have a 4-year-old daughter Mimi.

Simon has used his success to help others. He is a contributor to a Chabad House in the Ukraine and dreams of building a yeshiva in Russia for those less fortunate than him. Simon has also given back to CCOC by donating both his time and resources, sharing his story and stressing the importance of CCOC's mission.

"I do not think that I will ever be able to pay you the price for the rescue of me and, inherently, my family. What you do with your team is, perhaps, more meaningful than what Oscar Schindler did. You help the helpless kids (like me 19 years ago) to fight an invisible enemy, which is way more dangerous than the real one. It is not only 2,710 kids, it is their families and their future kids (of those that are lucky to be rescued by CCOC).

But there is more: it does not stop at physical rescue, there is a mental one which comes with the right education that we got in Kfar Chabad, a set of real values, goals, opportunities, and the desire to live a fully meaningful life. I am afraid to say that even you underestimate the value of the project that you and your people are running. Your commitment is truly contagious and I am not surprised that you attract so many people from different walks of life and geographical locations to support the cause." -Simon Swerdlow



Simon Swerdlow was rescued by CCOC on the very first rescue mission in August 1990. Today, he has a family of his own, wife Natasha and daughter Mimi (pictured above). Simon is a successful businessman and does all he can to give back to CCOC and other causes.

### Thank You

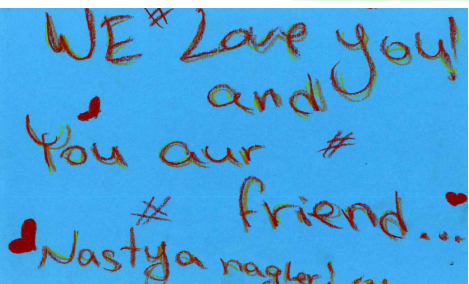
Children recently rescued by CCOC express their gratitude to everyone who has helped save them from the devastated region of Chernobyl. These children are currently living safely in Israel, receiving the best medical attention, housing, education and all of their vital needs. Thank you for your generosity and support!



### Know the Facts...

- **55 million people**— including over **1 million children**— currently live in the contaminated region of Chernobyl.
- **30,000 children** in Belarus are orphans as a result of extreme poverty caused by the Chernobyl disaster.
- **800 - 1,000 newborns** are added to the heart transplant list each year in Belarus. **6,000 children** are in need of critical heart surgery. Many of them will die within 3-5 years.
- The World Health Organization predicts that in the city of Gomel, Belarus, **50,000 children** will develop thyroid cancer in their lifetime.
- In Belarus, **500,000 children** live in heavily contaminated radioactive zones— **85% of them are sick.**

... Save a Life



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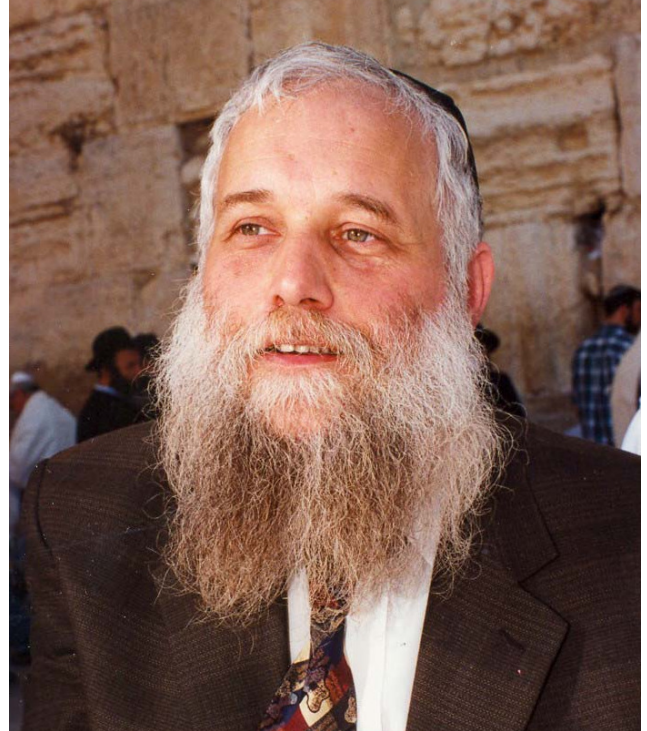
**In Memoriam: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning” (Psalms 30:6)**

## Keeping the Spirit of Rabbi Yossie Raichik, z”l, Alive

This August 31st (21st of Elul) marked two years since the passing of our beloved and respected leader, Rabbi Yossie Raichik, of blessed memory. Yossie led CCOC with love and a fierce determination as he cared for every child as if they were his own. He made it his mission to ensure that those suffering as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster would be given new beginnings.

A spirited and wise leader, teacher, husband, father and friend, Yossie had the unique ability to make everyone he spoke to feel truly special, whether it was a shy child or a world renowned businessman. He treated everyone he met as a member of his own family, making them feel instantly at ease. Yossie only wanted to make other’s lives easier—to improve their situation, to make them happy with a smile, a laugh or a joke.

Though we miss his presence daily, it is important to bear in mind that his spirit lives on. Yossie had thousands of children—each child rescued from Chernobyl was his child. As Yossie’s ‘children’ go on to lead happy, fulfilled lives, there are still so many more who remain without the basic necessities of life. As we commemorate Yossie’s passing, it is time to reflect on his life and help carry on his legacy. May his spirit empower us to continue our work, gently encourage us to move forward, and enable us to save more children than ever before.



## CCOC Commemorates One Year Since the Passing of Alta Shula Swerdlov, z”l



A year ago, Alta Shula Swerdlov, a bright and precocious three-year-old living in Jerusalem, was tragically taken from us. The daughter of CCOC’s beloved International Director, Yossi Swerdlov, and his wife Hindel, Shula was loved by many and her passing was mourned by thousands around the world.

In Psalm (30:6) it is written, “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” In Jewish law, it is customary to mark the occasion of the first anniversary of a child’s passing with special celebrations, acknowledging the soul’s ascent into higher realms. It is also an opportune time to increase acts of goodness and kindness in memory of the departed. For this reason, Shula’s family commissioned a scribe to begin the painstaking work of writing a Torah scroll in her memory, which was completed on the first anniversary of her passing, which recently took place in Jerusalem. The newly written Torah was greeted with much joy, singing and dancing.

As we continue our work at CCOC, we will carry on Shula’s legacy, reaching out to other children in need. May Shula’s memory live on in the lives of thousands of other children in need, to whom we reach out with love, care and compassion.



**CCOC Remembers...**

**To contribute and save a child: call (888) 888-1999 or visit [www.ccoc.net](http://www.ccoc.net)**

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