

CHABAD'S CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL

CCOC Celebrates Two Chernobyl Weddings

Ilona and Mendy

Born in Kiev, Ilona and her older sister, Svetta, were raised by their grandmother. Their father passed away soon after the Chernobyl explosion, and their mother was very sick and unable to care for them. Svetta was 12 years old when she was rescued on CCOC's 51st flight. After four months in CCOC's care, she



Ilona at her wedding (above) and rescued by CCOC at the age of six (right).

begged to be with her younger sister, Ilona. It was at that point that six year old Ilona was rescued on CCOC's 52nd flight, reuniting the two sisters.

The two girls have had very minimal contact with their mother, as she resisted all communication with them. As a result, Ilona felt a sense of abandonment and required psychological counseling to assist her in rebuilding her self-esteem. With professional help, and with CCOC's loving care, she learned to cope with her situation

and has become stronger. We are proud to say that Ilona has blossomed into a confident young woman. After graduating high school with Honors, Ilona studied to become a makeup artist and has established a career in this field. In addition, she has become an Executive Assistant.

Ilona recently wed Mendy, who is studying to become an electrical engineer. Mazel tov Ilona and Mendy on this very special occasion.

Paulina and Tiran

Paulina was rescued on CCOC's 39th rescue mission at the very young age of 12. Paulina's father passed away when she was an infant, and her mother died 10 days after Paulina was rescued. Paulina's mother realized her fragile state of health and

wanted to ensure that her only child would be cared for properly, just as any mother would want.



Paulina was diagnosed with debilitating growths on her jaw which doctors attributed to her exposure to the radiation in Chernobyl. Paulina has had five surgeries since she was rescued by CCOC. Today, we are happy to say that these medical issues have been treated.

CCOC's devoted staff took special care of young Paulina to help her grow into a mature, capable and happy young adult. She graduated with Honors and went on to serve in the Israeli army. Today, Paulina is a working professional in a tech company.

CCOC helped Paulina achieve and fulfill her dreams; in fact, she recently married the love of her life, Tiran, to start a family of their own. Tiran was born and raised in Israel and also works in successful high tech company there.

We wish Paulina and Tiran many more happy occasions together!

Jacob & Co. Designs and Donates Wedding Rings to Chernobyl Brides



Jacob and Angela Arabo, of Jacob & Co., recently hosted a charity evening at which a percentage of sales went to CCOC. At the event, Angela heard the stories of the two new Chernobyl brides, Ilona and Paulina; tears came to her eyes, and she immediately insisted on custom-designing and donating their wedding rings. These two young girls came to CCOC with only a bag of clothing— now they have grown up to be successful young women. Thanks to Jacob & Co., they have more than they could have ever imagined!

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CCOC Raises \$2M Despite Hurricane Sandy



Children at Heart Annual Benefit Gala Blows Away Storm

CCOC's *Children at Heart Gala Dinner and Celebrity Fantasy Auction* took place on Monday, November 19, 2012 at the Grand Hyatt NYC. This year's honorees included: Lawrence B. Benenson (Benenson Capital Partners, LLC), Gale Epstein (President, Hanky Panky) and Lida Orzeck (CEO, Hanky Panky), and Debby Tabacnic Aqua. Jon Voight was the Master of Ceremonies and NBC's Lead Sports Anchor, Bruce Beck, led the live auction. Despite the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, this year's event was a great success.

Fundraising efforts from the event go towards rescuing the children affected by the nuclear explosion, as well as supporting more than 200 children who are living and thriving in their new home with CCOC. The majority of these children combat the radiation-related ailments and are able to live normal and productive lives. Since CCOC's inception, a total of 2,835 children have been rescued on 98 rescue flights... and counting!



Michael Douglas Restores CCOC Playground in Israel

The children were unable to play outdoors in Chernobyl, but with the help of Michael Douglas, they can now enjoy the safe, clean surroundings in Israel. The Hollywood actor and CCOC honoree surprised his father, Kirk, by restoring the playground at the CCOC girls' campus. This recent, magnificent renovation is in honor of both Anne and Kirk Douglas.

Chernobyl Survivor Visits Father for First Time Since Childhood

Yehudit had not seen her father since she was a young girl living in the Ukraine. She had little to do with him over the years, but had plenty of childhood memories to remind her of him. Yehudit recently visited with her father in his current hometown in California where the two had the opportunity to reconnect and bond. They toured around Los Angeles and even stopped off for lunch one day to visit Leah Adler at her restaurant, The Milky Way!



Dining for a Cause

Donors Dine with Celebrities in Support of CCOC at The Milky Way in Los Angeles



Carly Berg and a friend enjoyed lunch with actress Elle Fanning after winning the experience in last year's Children at Heart benefit auction.

Tammi and Bennett Schachter and children spend time with Steven Spielberg's mother, Leah Adler, at her restaurant The Milky Way in Los Angeles.



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New Leadership Attracts Following, Raises Funds

CCOC's enthusiastic group of young professionals, New Leadership, has hosted many successful events over the past year, many of which have become annual events.

One creative new event which the New Leadership Board members conceptualized was a rooftop auction.

This summertime soiree was such a hit that it will now become an annual event. About 15 young professionals volunteered their time to be "auctioned off" at the event to raise mon-

ey for CCOC. Various restaurants and venues

donated the "dates" and guests were able to bid on their favorite matches.

The turnout was overwhelming—the number of guests in attendance was much higher than anticipated—as over 300 people young leaders bid for a cause.

Another incredibly popular New Leadership event took place on Thursday, February 21st at Providence NYC; CCOC's Sixth Annual Purim Benefit Bash attracted a crowd of about 500 young professionals and raised over \$30,000. It was a true success and CCOC's best Purim event yet! Simon Swerdlow, rescued as a child on CCOC's first rescue flight, donated photo chocolate lollipops from his company Tasty Image. Guests had a great time taking pictures in their Purim costumes and taking home the edible images.

In addition, CCOC's New Leadership group has spearheaded a Super Bowl pool over the past several years which has helped raise additional funds in a fairly simple way. Realizing that most people participate in more than one Super Bowl pool, they piggybacked on this clever concept for charity.

This ambitious group has many more exciting fundraisers planned over the coming year... stay tuned! *(If you or someone you know would like to get involved, please contact Rachel at rfertel@ccoc.net.)*



CCOC's New Leadership division hosted the Sixth Annual Purim Benefit Bash on Thursday, February 21st in NYC. 500 young professionals attended (all in costumes) to celebrate for a cause, and as a result, enough funds were raised to rescue two children and provide the necessary living expenses (housing, medical care, food, clothing, etc.) for a year.



CCOC at High School, College Campuses

CCOC has expanded its presence amongst various high schools and college campuses. The organization's New Leadership division has begun educating these students about the Chernobyl disaster and the ongoing effects on the children living in the surrounding areas today.

In addition to teaching them about a part of history which they were not around to witness firsthand, CCOC strongly believes in cultivating these unique and passionate students to be-

come our next generation of leaders.

Ramaz student Avihai Hackmon and his classmates hosted a Purim fundraiser at their school, and Eve Herman at Brandeis University tabled on campus for CCOC raising over \$12,000!

CCOC plans to connect with more high schools and universities over the coming semester and academic year. If you know anyone in high school or college who is interested in getting involved, please have them contact Rachel at rfertel@ccoc.net or (212) 681-7800.

Other Recent News

Special thanks to Mickey Penzer for raising money on her birthday for CCOC!

Congratulations to the winners of CCOC's 2013 Super Bowl pool!

1st Quarter : Naftali Nathan, \$150
(Ravens 7, 49ers 3)

2nd Quarter (Halftime): David Badner, \$250
(Ravens 21, 49ers 6)

3rd Quarter: Darren Bryk, \$150
(Ravens 28, 49ers 23)

4th Quarter (Final Score): Jonathan Cohen, \$350
(Ravens 34, 49ers 31)

To contribute and save a child: call (888) 888-1999 or visit www.ccoc.net

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