

Lois Pope Donates 14th Ambulance to Magen David Adom In Honor of Dear Friend Tova Leidesdorf

AMBULANCES DONATED BY MRS. POPE HAVE SAVED OVER 33,000 LIVES

There's a famous commercial for a legendary rye bread bakery with the tagline, "You Don't Have To Be Jewish To Love Levy's." Well, you also don't have to be Jewish to love Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's national emergency medical service. You just have to love saving people's lives, and that's what philanthropist and humanitarian Lois Pope loves to do. So much so that she has just donated her 14th ambulance to Magen David Adom (MDA). This contribution makes Mrs. Pope the largest non-Jewish funder of mobile medical intensive care units for the State of Israel.

"We call these ambulances *the Lois Pope life-saving fleet*," said Tamura Karu, Palm Beach County Director for the American Friends of Magen David Adom. Through her generosity to Magen David Adom, Mrs. Pope continues to have a meaningful and direct impact on emergency first response care in Israel. The Israeli people are eternally grateful for her commitment."

"At each Bat Mitzvah I've attended, what has truly impressed me is that when the celebrant is giving her speech, she generally talks about not getting gifts but about giving them," said Pope. This giving of their time and energies to try and make a difference in the world is known as "Tee-koon O-lam" – working to repair the world."

Mrs. Pope, a resident of Manalapan, considered her 13th ambulance donation to be her Bat Mitzvah, but unfortunately, due to the pandemic, she was unable to have a celebration. "So, I decided that when I gave a 14th ambulance, I would give my own party and invite some of my closest friends. And just like those young girls did in conjunction with their Bat Mitzvahs, I decided to give a gift, instead of getting one. And that gift is this new ambulance we dedicated in honor of the woman whose very name means "good" in Hebrew – "my dear friend, Tova Leidesdorf." This celebration took place at Mrs. Pope's home on November 19th.

Mrs. Pope went on to explain during the dedication event, "I once heard Tova say that when she gets involved in a cause, it is all the way. 'I give it 110 percent, and I always laugh and tell the people that you own me body and soul.' Mrs. Pope said,



Rt. Gen. Jerry Gershon, Lois Pope and Tova Leidesdorf

"I know this to be true – in fact, it would take hours to list all the philanthropic and humanitarian endeavors with which she is involved, including my own LIFE Foundation."

By donating her 14th ambulance to MDA to help further its work and help save the lives of rocket and terrorist attack victims, heart attack victims, and others in need of emergency care, Mrs. Pope said, "I'm not just helping give the gift of life, I'm getting the same thing in return. I really feel that my life is so much more fulfilled and meaningful because I'm doing this."

Ret. General Jerry Gershon, the guest speaker at the dedication event, shared with guests that the ambulances donated by Mrs. Pope over the years have saved over 33,000 lives and have played a vital role in Israel providing aid and emergency transportation to everyone from victims of rocket and terrorist attacks to victims of heart attacks and auto accidents. They've also served as the birthplace for some of the more than 100 babies born annually in Magen David Adom ambulances en route to the hospital.

MDA's ambulances are on call 24/7, logging nearly 10 million miles and caring for more than 900,000 patients annually. For more information visit afmda.org.

As one of America's leading philanthropists, Lois Pope has positively impacted the lives of individuals at local, national and international levels. She has established three different



Lois Pope and Tova Leidesdorf

organizations dedicated to helping those in need – those who are disadvantaged, marginalized, or forgotten because of disabilities, socio-economic status, neglect, age, abuse, and other barriers. They are the **Lois Pope LIFE Foundation, Leaders in Furthering Education (LIFE)** and the **Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation**.

To learn more visit life-edu.org, call 561.582.8083 or email life@life-edu.org.



FIRST ROW: Tova Leidesdorf, Lois Pope, Rt. Gen. Jerry Gershon and Tammy Karu; Lois Pope and Tova Leidesdorf; Edmund Leidesdorf, Tova Leidesdorf and Robin Leidesdorf; **SECOND ROW:** Bill Porter, Lois Pope and Christine Lynn; Bob and Mary Simses with Eric Yeghian; Denise D'Alessio and Gil Lemar with Amy Mazzolin; **THIRD ROW:** Steven DeLalio and Dr. Robin Ganzert; Gail Worth and Frank Orenstein; Henry and Marsha Laufer; Kevin and Lynsay Bourke; **FOURTH ROW:** Daniel and Sophia Bouaziz; Suzi and Rick Goldsmith; Maude Cook and Helen Karp; Lisa Salomon, Tova Leidesdorf and Lois Pope. PHOTOS: CAPEHART