

My internet kidney gift

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By **by Jeff Barak** Jerusalem

A MAN is to donate a kidney to an IDF soldier he has never met after reading about his plight online.

After seeing "some very heart-wrenching stories" on the Halachic Organ Donor Society website, "I thought if I could just save a life, that would be marvellous," Yosef Chiger told the *JC*.

The 35-year-old from Pennsylvania will be donating a kidney to 19-year-old Ayelet Katz, from Moshav Be'er Tuvia, forced to leave the IDF because of her illness and now on full-time dialysis.

Mr Chiger came to Israel with his wife and five-year-old daughter to prepare for the operation at the Rabin Medical Centre in Petah Tikvah. Mr Chiger said he was "not really frightened as I have full belief in God that it will go well". After meeting Mr Chiger, Ms Katz said she was "very emotional".

Robby Berman, the founder and director of HODS, told the *JC* that the organisation has already facilitated more than 100 transplants.