

Community Outreach Education Saves a Life

During May 2008, Baptist LifeFlight Outreach Education trained approximately 270 Escambia County school district teachers, coaches and nurses how to use life-saving automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). That training paid off in December, saving a life.

Just before Christmas, the school's band director suffered sudden cardiac arrest while running at school. Someone nearby ran to get the school nurse. The nurse had attended one of the classes last spring and applied her training using the AED to resuscitate the teacher. Soon after, emergency medical service transported the teacher to the hospital where he had emergency open heart surgery and survived.

"Saving this life is a direct result of the training we had the privilege of providing our community," said Patty Trent, training coordinator, Baptist LifeFlight Outreach Education. "This is what community service is all about."

An AED is a small computerized medical device that checks heart rhythm when in cardiac arrest. The device also recognizes when electrical shock (defibrillation) is required to save a life. Each minute that passes without defibrillation reduces a person's chance of surviving cardiac arrest by 7 to 10 percent.

The Escambia County School Board plans to develop an internal training video using this teacher as an example emphasizing the importance of trained AED-users in schools.

"Having our outreach education pay off by saving a life is the best Christmas present anyone could possibly receive or give," said Trent.

For more information about Baptist LifeFlight Outreach Education, call 434-4641, or visit eBaptistHealthCare.org/BaptistLifeFlight/ and select outreach education.

Notes:

a small computerized medical device used to check the heart rhythm when in cardiac arrest. Using voice prompts, lights and text messages, an AED recognizes when a heart rhythm requires an electrical shock and provides rescuers at the scene step-by-step directions in using the equipment. Each minute that passes without defibrillation reduces a person's chance of cardiac arrest survival by 7 - 10 percent.

Instructors who taught with us last Spring @ The Escambia County School Board.---I had a call from Manny Harageones, my contact for the HS AED courses we taught at the school board back in April.

The band director @ Brown Bardge, who was also working as a jogging coach, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while running @ school last week. Someone ran to get the school nurse, who was in one of our classes, and retrieved the school's AED. The school nurse delivered a shock, EMS arrived and transported him to SHH where he had emergency open heart surgery and SURVIVED.

Guys, this is a direct result of the training we had the privilege of providing to these folks. This is what it is all about!! How awesome is this?? And right at the Christmas season too!

The folks at the school board plan on making a training CD with this scenario of the man whose life was saved, to show at training sessions. Also, a press release is being planning sometime after the holidays. I think that this is the best Christmas present that anyone could possibly receive. Congratulations to everyone who participated in this training. You guys made all the difference in the world!!

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