



Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association donates AED to School

Cardiac Arrest Association launched locally
HeartSine samaritan PAD

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WASHINGTON –

From left, Val Terra presents an automated external defibrillator to Mulcahey School Principal Christel Torres that she do...



WASHINGTON – The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association (SCAA) announced recently that it has launched a Southeastern Massachusetts chapter as it builds a network of local organizations to help carry out its mission of preventing sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

The Southeastern Massachusetts chapter is led by Muriel “Rusty” Watterson of Taunton, who with friends and family founded the organization “Operation Defibrillator,” which has been working to expand the deployment of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), provide CPR training and educate the public about sudden cardiac arrest.

“We are excited about our new affiliation with the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association,” Watterson said. “As part of a national organization, we will have broader visibility and be able to make a bigger impact across our region and to ultimately save more lives. We want to expand the presence of AEDs in our communities and also make people more aware of the risks of sudden cardiac arrest so that they can be better informed about their health care.”

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading killer in the U.S., striking more than 350,000 annually, with a survival rate of only about five percent. The death rate for SCA exceeds the combined death rate of breast cancer, lung cancer, stroke and HIV/AIDS. SCA is triggered by an electrical problem with the heart that causes the heart to stop beating, and is often confused with a heart attack. SCA victims can often be revived with CPR and quick access to defibrillation to shock the heart back into rhythm. While there are more AEDs in public facilities and more patients implanted with Internal Cardiac Defibrillators (ICDs), broader AED deployment and better patient understanding of the condition is critical to improving the odds of survival.

SCAA today announced its first 13 chapters and affiliates and expects to have at least 25 in place by this spring. SCAA chapters and affiliates bring together sudden cardiac arrest survivors, patients, medical and emergency professionals and community leaders to carry out public education and advocacy programs and activities. Programs and projects will include broader deployment of AEDs and CPR training, better public/patient awareness of sudden cardiac arrest, and improved screening and access to medical care for individuals who may be at risk.

“We have identified a committed group of volunteers and local community leaders like Rusty Watterson who have enthusiastically responded to our plans for a national network of local chapters and affiliates,” Chris Chiames, SCAA’s executive director, said.



Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association donates AED to School *continued*

“People from all walks of life and all kinds of interests have been touched by sudden cardiac arrest and we are heartened by their response to help. They know that our organization can make a difference in saving lives through better public response and better public education. While we work to expand our national presence and influence, we are going to rely on our local chapters and affiliates to make the real impact in their communities through education and advocacy.”

Along with the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter, the first set of local SCAA chapters and affiliates include: Austin, Texas; Cape Cod and the Islands, Massachusetts; Kansas City (Kansas and Missouri); Iowa; Long Island, New York; Lubbock, Texas; Minnesota (Minneapolis-St. Paul/Rochester); Northwestern Minnesota; Queens, New York; South Florida; Southwest Connecticut; Western Maine.

SCAA is based in Washington, DC and is singularly focused on the issue of sudden cardiac arrest. It co-chairs the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition with the Heart Rhythm Society, a professional association for electrophysiology and heart rhythm physician specialists. SCAA provides its local chapters and affiliates with a broad program of projects and activities that can be tailored to the interests and needs of the local community. For more information on SCAA, visit <http://www.suddencardiacarrest.org>. The Southeastern Massachusetts chapter's Web site is <http://www.operationdefibrillator.org>.

Heartsine Technologies, Inc., a world leader in personal and public access automatic external defibrillators, is celebrating its 10th anniversary of bringing lifesaving defibrillation therapy to non-traditional areas of care.

For more information on Heartsine defibrillators, visit heartsine.com.

