



News

Office of the Fire Chief Timothy M. Butler

100 East Eleventh Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

November 18, 2009

Cardiac Arrest Survivor Gets AED Donated to Saint Peter Claver Church

Contact: Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard
651-315-5689

For Immediate Release

Saint Peter Claver Church, at 375 Oxford St. N. in Saint Paul, will receive a life-saving Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) thanks to the efforts of a cardiac arrest survivor, Natasha Fleischman, **at the church at 375 Oxford St. N. on Monday, November 23 at 10:30 a.m.** The AED was generously donated to Natasha for the church by Defibtech out of Guilford, CT. Saint Peter Claver's Father Kevin McDonough will accept the AED, and Saint Paul Fire Chief Tim Butler will be speaking at this occasion.

On January 24, 2002, at 1:26 in the afternoon, Natasha Fleischman, then a 33-year old mother of two, suffered a cardiac arrest at the Saint Paul School District main offices. Bystanders did CPR until Saint Paul paramedics arrived and restored her pulse. She's alive and well thanks to the first responders and those who were willing to step in until they arrived. She's very active in advocacy for WomenHeart, the National Coalition of Women with Heart Disease (<http://www.womenheart.org/>). At this event, Natasha will meet her rescuers from the Saint Paul Fire Department for the first time since her emergency!

Sudden cardiac arrest kills more than 400,000 people a year. It can strike anyone, anywhere, at any time – and in most cases – without warning. Without treatment, victims only have minutes to live. With a quick response and medical care, this condition is readily treatable with survival rates over 50%.

AEDs are defibrillators designed to be used by ordinary people. They're easy to use. The user turns it on, applies the patches as shown, and the AED reads the heartbeat. The machine talks to you and tells you when to push the button for a life-saving defibrillation. The AED will not shock a beating heart. AEDs are widely found where the public gathers, such as in schools, arenas, theaters, workplaces – and churches. Thanks to Natasha's efforts and Defibtech's donation, there will be a life-saving AED available to the over 1000 parishoners of Saint Peter Claver Church.

For more about the Defibtech AED, see the attachment or go to www.defibtech.com.

For more about the problem of sudden cardiac arrest, and getting an AED for your venue, check out the “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association” at www.suddencardiacarrest.org and see Tom Brokaw’s video.