



Young Hearts for Life

The Young Hearts for Life® Cardiac Screening Program provides free electrocardiograms (ECGs) to high school students to help identify those who may be at risk for sudden cardiac death.

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Greetings!

The Young Hearts for Life Cardiac Screening Program is celebrating the end of the 2009-2010 academic school year, our busiest screening year since the inception of the program in 2006.

A sincere thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers, company sponsors, individual donors, and school planning committees who together made this year possible. We appreciate the continued support that we have received from the local hospitals:

- Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital
- Central DuPage Hospital
- Edward Hospital
- Elmhurst Hospital

16 high schools participated in the program this year. There were 14 local high schools along with 2 high schools in Belvidere, Illinois. Congratulations to Cathy Keith who led the Swedish American Hospital team in Belvidere!

We also want to congratulate the Naperville Education Foundation, District 203, for establishing a new community funding model with Edward Hospital. A special thanks to the Naperville Jaycees, the Gene Drendel Family, and Edward Hospital for their collaborative efforts to financially support this year's District 203 screening.

The YH4L program provided 14,533 free ECGs to high school students. 124 students also received a screening

[Hearts](#)

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echocardiogram (ECHO) specifically geared to ruling out hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). HCM is the leading cause of death in young athletes. 274 families were contacted regarding recommendations that an ECG and/or and ECHO needed further review.

The general interest in the YH4L program has increased in nearby communities as well as across the United States. Visitors travelled from Pennsylvania and Ohio to observe screening events. We received inquiry calls from Texas and California.

Please do not miss the "[Quick Links](#)" and "[Feature Article](#)" that highlight news associated with the YH4L program, other screenings, as well as sudden cardiac death in young adults.

By increasing the awareness of the issue of sudden cardiac death in young adults, we are making a difference!

Donations and YH4L Development...



Midwest Heart Foundation is a 501(c) 3 public charity organization committed to improving cardiovascular health through education, screening, research, and community leadership.

One of our primary initiatives is identifying and preventing the loss of life from Sudden Cardiac Arrest, a leading cause of death in the U.S. Our programs are designed to educate, screen for risks, and help increase survival rates through improved access to life saving resources.

Generous donations we received this past year helped us make improvements to Midwest Heart Foundation's YH4L program. Here are some examples:



YH4L

Abstract
Presentation

**Stratified
Approach to
Screening for
Sudden Cardiac
Death in Young
Adults**

59th Annual
ACC Scientific
Session,
March 14-16,
2010

**Click here to
review:**

[Stratified
Approach to
Screening](#)

Several **new ECG machines** were purchased to replace older models that were becoming more and more difficult to repair. We were also able to add a signal average ECG machine to our inventory which is a special ECG model used for detecting low amplitude cardiac signals that help predict life threatening arrhythmias.

We added additional **moving carts** to help make the transportation of the massage tables and the ECG screening equipment easier for our team.

In January, we were able to enhance our **registration site and database** thanks to Paul Knight and Anthony Nocentino, the IT team, behind the scenes.

Paul, a Director of Information Technology, and Anthony, a Senior Systems Architect, turned a vision into reality with the development of a custom application for the YH4L program. Our system is now more user friendly and remains secure for communications. With the help of technology, the YH4L program has evolved to include more data while maintaining smooth operations.

Since 2006, the Young Hearts for Life Cardiac Screening program has screened over 47,000 students. This equates to over 2 million dollars of medical services if the services were delivered in a hospital or physician office setting. Young Hearts for Life continues to be the largest screening program in the United States.

Shop for YH4L, iGive.com:

[Young Hearts for Life](#)

Make a donation:

[YH4L Donation to Midwest Heart Foundation](#)

Notes from Our Files...

Downers Grove South PTA

The South High Parent-Teacher Association seeks to support programs that provide services and opportunities that might not otherwise be available to our children. We are proud to be able to continue to support your efforts with the Young Hearts for Life screenings (held at DGS) as volunteers, and are equally honored to offer you financial support once again.



Addison Trail High School

My daughter is enrolled at Addison Trail High School, and ECG screenings were done there this week. I just wanted to let you know that she said everyone there was so nice and she felt very comfortable. Thank you so much for doing this for the community and for bringing this important topic to everyone's attention. Thank you again.

Lisle Senior High School

Thank you so much for helping us put together our first Young Hearts for Life Cardiac Screening Program. I have received only positive comments from the volunteers and students regarding our screening day. Both students and staff were impressed with how smoothly the day went. With sincere thanks.

Looking forward...

Upcoming Screening Dates Confirmed, 2010-2011

September

Chicago Hope Academy, 9/9/10

October

Glenbard South, 10/14/10

Glenbard East, 10/22/10 & 10/23/10

November

Proviso West, 11/4/10 & 11/5/10

St. Charles North, 11/18/10

February

Metea Valley, 2/17/10

March

Waubonsie Valley, 3/22/10 & 3/23/10

April

Neuqua Valley, 4/14/10, 4/15/10, & 4/21/10

Associated Events

August

Volunteer Instructor Training Course, 8/26/10

Instructor: Dr. Marek

Location: Downers Grove Office, 7pm-8:30pm

September

Rollout of new school initiative...

We are offering schools the opportunity to borrow AED trainer units for emergency practice drills.

October

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association Meeting, 10/8-10/10/10

January

6th Annual Parent Heart Watch Meeting, 1/14-16,2011

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Young Hearts for Life volunteer team. We have many opportunities that will begin again in the fall.

Sincerely,



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