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Project ADAM[®]

SAVES LIVES

NEWS



Project ADAM is a not-for-profit program of Herma Heart Center at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

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Summer 2011

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Welcome Project ADAM Texas!

[Cook Children's Health Care System](#), Fort Worth, Texas, is the newest Project ADAM affiliate. Cook Children's is a not-for-profit, nationally recognized pediatric health care organization.



Laura Friend is the Project ADAM program coordinator at Cook Children's. Friend has been an advocate for preventing sudden cardiac arrest in children since the death of her 12-year-old daughter, Sarah, in 2004. Her testimony and advocacy work with legislators, lawyers and doctors contributed to the successful passage of Texas' Senate Bill 7 in 2007. This bill requires AEDs in every Texas public school, incorporates CPR/AED training for all high school graduates, and appropriates \$1 million in funding to a cardiovascular screening pilot program in schools.

"At Cook Children's, we place great emphasis on disease and injury prevention," said Deborah Schutte, MD, medical director of [Cardiology](#) at Cook Children's. "We are proud to be associated with this important program."



Photos: Laura Friend (top) and Dr. Deb Schutte (bottom).

Student gets involved, inspires others

After reading about Project ADAM in her local newspaper, Victoria Hammerstrom, a senior at North Central High School in Spokane, Wash. felt the need to get involved. She dedicated her senior project to raising awareness of sudden cardiac death in an effort to help protect her classmates. As part of her project, Victoria:

- Became certified in CPR and AED use.
- Gained knowledge needed to present an overview of sudden cardiac arrest to a group of underclass students.
- Collected more than \$500 in donations and teamed up with Sacred Heart Medical Center's Project ADAM coordinator in hopes of placing an AED at her school.

Victoria's dedication shows others the unique opportunities students have to be involved with

Project ADAM.

Lord Wedgwood Charity to become fundraising arm of Alabama LifeStart

Annual celebrity golf classic to raise funds for Project ADAM affiliate announced recently.

All schools in Alabama without automated external defibrillators will benefit from a unique partnership of charities, [Children's Hospital of Alabama](#).

Coke Matthews, chief development officer at Children's Hospital of Alabama, announced a partnership with the [Lord Wedgwood Charity](#) and Project ADAM affiliate Alabama LifeStart to coordinate work both organizations have gone about successfully, but separately, for the past several years - to ensure every public school in Alabama is equipped with at least one AED.

To date, all of Alabama's public high schools are equipped with AEDs. All of the state's public junior high and middle schools should be equipped by this summer. Most of the elementary schools and many of the private high schools and middle schools in the state still are without AEDs.

Children's Hospital of Alabama, Lord Wedgwood Charity and Alabama LifeStart will consolidate efforts to help prevent death from sudden cardiac arrest in children and adolescents by raising funds to purchase additional AEDs and to educate school personnel.

"Each year thousands of high school students in the U.S. die from sudden cardiac arrest, so this is an exciting announcement for students and parents across the state," said Yung Lau, MD, a pediatric electrophysiologist at University of Alabama-Birmingham and medical director of Alabama LifeStart. "Thanks to this partnership, we fully expect to take defibrillator placement and training to the next level. Obviously, the next steps are to focus on primary schools and public gathering places."

For more information about the partnership, visit www.chsys.org

Make sure your school's AED doesn't go on vacation this summer

As the school year comes to a close, take time to ensure your school's public access defibrillation program is maintained during the summer and ready to go in the fall.

Consider the following checklist:

1. Who is in charge of the program?

If your school's program coordinator is changing, notify your local [Project ADAM coordinator](#). It is important that the new program coordinator knows when and where to order batteries, pads and other AED supplies.

2. Keep track of expiration dates.

For the safety of anyone who suffers a sudden cardiac arrest at the school, AED batteries and pads should be checked according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Be sure the school administrator, custodian, athletic director or other staff member is responsible for checking the AED regularly during the summer months. Train someone according to your AED manufacturer's guidelines so the unit is ready in an emergency. This also ensures someone is checking for evidence of tampering with the AED.

3. Is the AED well marked?

Post signs reminding people of the AED location(s). Key locations include the main entrance, doors to athletic areas and main office. AED location stickers are available by request from [Project ADAM](#).

4. Are summer staff and coaches aware of your AED policy?

Summer staff and coaches should know where the AED is, what to do in case of an emergency and who is trained.

5. Are you prepared for the new school year?

A new school year may mean new staff. Schedule an AED orientation so any new staff members are aware of the school emergency response plan.

You've got questions, we've got answers

Why do AED pads expire?

Over time, adhesive on the AEDs pads can break down. Age also can cause the conductive wiring to stop working.

What should we do with expired pads?

Expired pads should be replaced. Manufacturers recommend using trainer units and the correct training accessories for drills. If opened during training sessions, expired pads only should be used for illustrative purposes.

SCA Foundation Launches Spring 2011 "You Can Save a Life" Video Contest

The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation has announced the launch of its Spring 2011 ["You Can Save a Life™" Video Contest](#). Students from elementary school through college are invited to create their own short (3-5 minute) videos promoting the importance of recognizing cardiac arrest, calling 9-1-1, giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or chest compressions, and using an automated external defibrillator (AED) to help save a life. The winner in each contest category will receive a CPR Anytime™ Kit. The Grand Prize winner will also receive an AED and a Nintendo Wii gaming system.

Video entries are due Wednesday, May 25. The winners will be announced during National CPR/AED Awareness Week the first week of June.

Project ADAM needs your support

Project ADAM is funded through the generous support of private individuals and organizations. You can help ensure that Project ADAM can continue to provide life-saving assistance to schools by donating today at FirstGiving.com/ProjectADAM

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