

Saves with AEDs from Foundation:

On October 24, 2007, an AED donated by the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation to Davison High School was used to save the life of 17 year old student Ashley Palmer.

Ashley had been diagnosed 18 months earlier with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), the same condition that caused Kimberly's cardiac arrest. Luckily for Ashley, the school had a defibrillator donated by the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation. Staff members reached Ashley within just minutes of her collapse and found her not breathing and without a pulse. Acting on the training they received earlier that year, the four staff members quickly hooked Ashley up to the AED and used the defibrillator and CPR to restart her heart and breathing.

Lori Ayers, Ashley's mother, said a Hurley Medical Center doctor credited the quick work and defibrillator for saving her daughter's life October 24th outside the school.

"If the defibrillator had not been there, she would have been gone", Ayers told the School Board. "I want to thank you all so much. I hope all the schools have it. Thank you so much for saving my daughter."

(Excerpt taken from the Flint Journal, November 6, 2007, James L. Smith)

On April 22, 2009, 67 year old Larry Ratkowski of the Hamilton area suffered a cardiac arrest between baseball games at a freshman double-header between Holland and Hamilton high schools. Bystanders performed CPR and restarted his heart with the school's defibrillator.

His son, Mike Ratkowski, said a doctor at Holland Hospital was convinced that the quick action had saved Larry's life. "He made a special point to say that if it wasn't for the CPR and the defibrillator, my dad wouldn't be here today," Mike said. His father is known in the Hamilton community as one of the men who marks first downs at the high school football games.

(HollandSentinel.com; April 25, 2009)

The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation donated the AED to Hamilton High School in February of 2006 with funds raised from a charity raffle held during the 2005 Michigan State Championships of Cowboy Action Shooting in Port Huron over Labor Day weekend.

We were encouraged to find out that since the incident, the Hamilton school district has decided to purchase 3 additional AEDs to place in strategic locations throughout the

district. They have also purchased an AED training device and currently have a certified trainer on staff that will assist with the training.

"On June 10, 2013, just a day prior to the end of our school year, a student at Traverse City Central High School went into cardiac arrest and collapsed. Central High School has an Automated External Defibrillator that was given to us by your generous foundation.

With the AED and heroic efforts by staff and our police liaison officer the student was revived and his prognosis is good!

We are so fortunate and thankful to have the AED! We are aware that when you suffered the terrible loss of your daughter Kimberly Anne, you chose to take action to help ensure that other parents don't have to feel the same pain. This family has their son due in large part to your actions and donation of the AED!

We cannot thank you enough!

Sincerely,
Rick Vandermolen, Principal"

On Tuesday, January 20, 2015 Hamilton High school had another unfortunate incident that required the use of an AED. During the Freshman/JV Basketball contest a spectator collapsed. It was apparent he was in cardiac trouble. Fortunately, their athletic trainer and a first responder were close at hand, as was the AED. Thanks to quick thinking and a working AED, the gentleman was stabilized and taken to the hospital.

Several years ago, Wixom Christian School received an AED from the Kimberly Ann Gillary Foundation, and it has since been used regularly in training of school and daycare staff, but never for an emergency...until March 21, 2015. Wixom Christian School operates as part of the First Baptist Church of Wixom, which was hosting a men's basketball tournament, starting at 10:00 AM on that day. One of the first teams to play included a 57 year old man that was in apparently good health. After his first game, he went to the bleachers to rest and shortly thereafter slumped over to the side, unconscious. His son, a doctor who was playing with his dad's team, immediately began to attempt to revive his dad. The man's wife yelled for the pastor of the church to come help.

While the initial symptoms indicated stroke, his breathing and pulse rapidly deteriorated consistent with a heart attack. Immediately, men throughout the gymnasium began to pray and ask God to intervene. Within a few seconds, both pulse and breathing had completely stopped. CPR was begun, and the AED was retrieved and connected. It began analyzing the victim and

quickly advised a shock which was subsequently administered. Immediately, pulse was detected and breathing began to improve. By the time EMS arrived, the patient was regaining consciousness and trying to talk.

The next day, the patient underwent 5-bypass surgery, and began his recovery. Today, he is back to full strength and doing great!

Thank you for supplying the AED that saved this life!

Brad Stille, pastor at First Baptist Church of Wixom