



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 22, 2016
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CPR Challenge Trained Over 3500

Wausau, WI - Since the start of 2016, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) has finally received the attention it deserves in Wisconsin – particularly right here in Central Wisconsin.

Senator Jerry Petrowski launched this awareness in January when he introduced “Senate Bill 412: Providing Lifesaving Skills Instruction to Pupils”. What prompted Senator Petrowski to author this bill were the actions of three teenagers who provided CPR to a gentleman who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while biking in a park in his district. The gentleman survived due to the immediate response by the teenagers in providing lifesaving CPR. Bystander CPR can double or even triple the chance of survival of those who experience sudden cardiac arrest. Success stories of survival, such as this, occur far less than they should.

In February which is designated American Heart Month and March of this year the Wausau Fire Department and Stevens Point Fire Department entered into a challenge focusing upon improving cardiac arrest survival rates. There were several goals set forth in the challenge which would positively impact survival rates and included: training citizens in CPR, placing public access automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and raising funds for local foundations that support the cardiac arrest survival initiative. The results of the challenge were absolutely astounding: 3,575 people were trained in CPR (Wausau Fire – 2,225, Stevens Point – 1,350), three AEDs were placed in Central Wisconsin, and over \$4,300 was raised through donations. The Organizations that supported this challenge included St. Michael’s Foundation and St. Clare’s Foundation – Ministry Health Care, American Heart Association, and American Red Cross. One business that truly championed the cause and supported both departments throughout the challenge was the AED Superstore in Woodruff, Wisconsin. They provided CPR manikins, AED trainers, pocket-masks for distribution and a generous donation of two AEDs.

The signing of the CPR bill along with the success of the CPR challenge will certainly help in the effort of “saving lives”. “The more people that know and initiate CPR and apply an AED when available the more people we will save who suffer from a cardiac arrest,” said EMS Division Chief Scott Habeck

On April 26, 2016, 1:35 P.M. at Wausau West High School Auditorium, 1200 West Wausau Avenue, Wausau, Wisconsin - Wausau Fire Department and Stevens Point Fire Department will thank their respective communities for their support in making the CPR challenge a huge success and also recognize those who have positively impacted the Central Wisconsin CPR initiative. Invitees include Mayor Mielke of Wausau, Mayor Wiza of Stevens Point, and Former Mayor Tipple of Wausau.