



NEWS RELEASE

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AnMed Health donates AEDs to community organizations

(Dec. 11, 2012 – Anderson, S.C.) – With the donation of two automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), the staffs at Meals on Wheels and Special Population Recreation are better equipped to respond to sudden cardiac arrest, one of the leading causes of death in the United States.

During sudden cardiac arrest, the electrical impulses in the heart become rapid or chaotic or both, which causes the heart to suddenly stop beating. According to the American Heart Association, sudden cardiac arrest takes as many as 460,000 lives each year.

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time. It affects the young and old, the healthy and the sick. Placing AEDs in public spaces can save lives in case of sudden cardiac arrest. AEDs administer an electric shock to the heart and restore the heart's normal rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest. If the heart can be shocked quickly with an AED, a normal heart rhythm may be restored.

Using an AED within the first 8 to 10 minutes is the only effective way to restore a regular heart beat during sudden cardiac arrest. For each minute defibrillation is delayed, the chance of survival is reduced by approximately 10 percent.

“There was time when defibrillators were complicated and cumbersome, but today’s AEDs are automatic, portable and easy to use,” said Dr. Joseph Manfredi, of AnMed Health Arrhythmia Specialists. “By placing AEDs in the community, we can potentially help save thousands of lives.”

AnMed Health’s donation is part of an ongoing effort by AnMed Health and the Anderson County Heart and Stroke Safe Community Initiative to improve sudden cardiac arrest survival rates by donating advanced AEDs to local organizations.

The Heart and Stroke Safe Community Initiative started in 2008 with a mission to reduce suffering and death from heart, stroke and blood vessel disease. The initiative includes representatives from AnMed Health, Anderson County, the city of Anderson, local emergency services agencies and the business community. Some of the Heart and Safe Community Initiative’s other projects include increasing public awareness about the signs and symptoms of a heart attack or stroke, improving the speed of care in the case of a heart attack or stroke and educating the community about the importance of calling 9-1-1.

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