

West Jefferson Youth, Inc.

Office of the President | PO Box 305 West Jefferson, OH 43162 | 614-940-9521 | westjeffyouth.org | jastanleyjr@sbcglobal.net

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FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

West Jefferson Youth Announces Lifesaving Defibrillation Program (at Jack Rock McDowell Athletic Complex West Jefferson, Ohio) — Starting May 11th, 2019; Youth, volunteers, members and friend of West Jefferson Youth will have a better chance of surviving a cardiac arrest because of newly purchased automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

We are grateful for the donations which allowed us to purchase 1 AED machine. The donors are The Ohio Machine Lacrosse Fund of The Columbus Foundation & Amy Conner's, Employer CenturyLink Clark M Williams Foundation, both paid the bill for this machine with their generous donations. Each were a benefactor in purchasing the AED Machine. Our prayers are we can purchase two (2) other machines, one for West Wood and another one to be placed in our Savings Bank Youth Complex. Later it would be nice to supply one for our travel teams as well.

The AED is now part of the West Jefferson Youth's safety initiative defibrillation program, which trains WJY volunteers to recognize a cardiac emergency and use the device to shock the heart into a regular rhythm. "We want to be sure we can effectively respond to any medical emergency that happens while we have a youth event," says John Stanley, President West Jefferson Youth.

Every year about 220,000 people suffer cardiac arrest and only about 5 percent of them survive. Cardiac arrest is a condition in which abnormal heart rhythms called arrhythmias cause the heart's electrical impulses to suddenly become chaotic. When this happens, the heart stops abruptly, and the victim collapses and quickly loses consciousness. Death usually follows unless a normal heart rhythm is restored within a few minutes. Defibrillation, which means delivering an electric shock to the heart, is the only known treatment to restore the normal rhythm. For every minute defibrillation is delayed, the victim's chances of survival go down 7–10 percent. According to a John Stanley, the concern about being able to ensure quick defibrillation caused them to set up the need for defibrillation program with AEDs. "We have a large youth population and expanding quickly, trained coaches and executive board members at that complex we can get started while Jefferson Township Fire Department is in route.

John Koehler and Jerry Fitzpatrick set up our program," said John Stanley. AEDs now on the market are safe and easy to use, making it possible for non-medical personnel to be trained to provide rapid defibrillation. More and more companies are taking this step since legislation providing limited liability for non-medical AED users was passed in the state recently.

The American Heart Association recommends that any facility in which large groups of people congregate consider establishing a defibrillation program. This is especially true in high-security companies, high-rise buildings, gated communities, sprawling manufacturing plants and remote sites or ball fields. It is estimated that establishing these defibrillation programs could help save as many as 40,000 lives per year.

Many Thanks

JOHN STANLEY, Jr

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West Jefferson Youth

President/CEO



West Jefferson Youth, Inc

Attitude Effort Teamwork