



Village of St Catherine

AED Program



What is the program?

We plan to purchase eighteen (18) AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) that will be strategically positioned within our neighborhood to provide the quickest possible response to anyone who experienced a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. More are planned to be purchased to cover the new section. We will also subscribe to ReadyAlert™ which is the system used to contact our volunteer responders. We plan to be 1 of 252 Neighborhood AED Groups. There are over 660 AEDs and over 5,000 volunteer responders in the Neighbor Saving Neighbors Program.

Why do we need an AED?

Our village is approximately 8 minutes from the nearest fire station but we cannot be sure that paramedics will be in the station when the need arises, and they may have to respond from a greater distance of 14 minutes or more. The Villages Fire Dept. responds to more calls every year (almost 27,000 in 2020!), which means they could be responding from even farther distances. ***For every 1-minute delay in starting CPR and using an AED, the chance of survival decreases by 10%.*** AEDs, combined with immediate CPR, have saved numerous lives in The Villages. **We can make a difference!**

How does an AED work?

When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the heart starts to fibrillate or “quiver” but does not pump blood. CPR (chest compressions) makes the heart pump and keeps oxygen flowing to the body, but will not “start” the heart. The AED is a battery operated device that determines whether a heart needs to be defibrillated (shocked) into resuming a normal rhythm. It gives audible commands and is so simple anyone can be taught its use in a few minutes.

How does the program work?

There are currently 1,117 homes in our village with over 2,000 residents. We plan to have at least 100 residents trained as volunteer responders. The Villages Public Safety will provide training free of charge. Each responder household will be connected to the ReadyAlert™ service. When a cardiac arrest occurs, a call is made to 911. The 911 operator, in addition to determining the nature of the emergency and dispatching paramedics, also sends a message via ReadyAlert™ who alerts our group. Responders nearest the home will go start CPR while others bring the AED.



Who would be responsible?

The Villages Public Safety Department oversees the program. They assist in forming, ordering equipment, training the volunteer responders and providing continuing updates on training and equipment. Our volunteers will respond to administer CPR and to apply the AED.

What are the costs?

We are asking for a \$100.00 per household contribution to **fund the program for over 4 years.**

- 18 new AEDs & storage cabinets
- ReadyAlert™ annual service fee.
- AED batteries and pads
- Any maintenance costs that might arise

Checks payable to:

St Catherine AED Program

Mail or drop off checks:

5786 Howard Court
The Villages, FL 32163

Quite a bargain for a life saved and that life may be yours!

Frequently Asked Questions

What if some people don't participate?

Because of liability concerns, **EVERY HOME** in our neighborhood is protected in the case of sudden cardiac arrest regardless of whether or not they contributed.

How long is the CPR/AED training?

New responder training is 3 hours long and free of charge. Mouth-to-mouth is no longer recommended when doing adult CPR.

Why should I participate?

The program needs your participation. It lowers the costs for all of us and increases your chance of survival if you go into cardiac arrest.

Do I have any legal liability?

Florida's Good Samaritan laws protect any lay person who goes to the aid of a person in distress. The AED only "shocks" people who are clinically dead so there is no risk

Do I have to be a volunteer?

Only if you want to, but the more we have the better we can help our neighborhood.

Is the AED difficult to use?

It is virtually foolproof and easy to use.

Would we respond to all emergencies?

ONLY cardiac/respiratory arrests and **ONLY** in our village.

Village of St Catherine AED Coordinator

Paula Love

910-280-9096

paulaleelove@gmail.com



For additional information contact:

The Villages Public Safety Department

Lt. John Longacre

john.lingacre@districtgov.org

or

Public Education Tech Bob Sjogren

robert.sjogren@districtgov.org

352-205-8280