



Schools given automated external defibrillators

CARMEL (Feb 28): Kermit Nickerson School in Swanville, Lincolnville Central School, and Albion Elementary School will each receive an automated external defibrillator (AED) donated by a Connecticut-based company.



From left are Kate Miklovich, principal of Kermit Nickerson School; U.S. Sen. Susan Collins; Dr. Glenn Laub, Defibtech CEO; and Ellie Weaver, school nurse.

Defibtech, based in Guilford, Conn., recently donated 25 AEDs to several schools around Maine during a ceremony at Caravel Middle School in Carmel.

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins and Jay Bradshaw, director of Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS), participated in the event and applauded the donations.

“Heart disease is the leading cause of death in both the state of Maine and the U.S.,” said Sen. Collins. “Many of these deaths could be prevented if automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, were more accessible. That is why I coauthored the Rural AED law. I am pleased that this law has made AEDs more accessible to first responders and communities throughout our nation. I commend Defibtech for this generous donation to schools around our state. It truly is a life-saving gift.”

Dr. Glenn Laub, Defibtech’s CEO, presented the AEDs. He commended Sen. Collins and Maine EMS for their outstanding advocacy of programs that are making AEDs more commonplace in Maine and across the nation. “As the number of AEDs increases, so do reports of lives saved from sudden cardiac arrest,” said Dr. Laub, a practicing cardiac surgeon.

Kate Miklovich, principal of Kermit Nickerson School, and Ellie Weaver, school nurse, were present to receive the AED.

Schools chosen to receive the donations also serve as community centers. Many are located far from hospitals or where average EMS response is prolonged due to drive time. Having an AED onsite is important because immediate resuscitation is vital. Studies show more than 70 percent of victims defibrillated within a minute or two after arrest survive. If defibrillation is delayed for more than 10 minutes, only 5 percent live.

Sen. Collins is a leading advocate in the U.S. Senate for increased access to AEDs.

The Rural Access to Emergency Devices (Rural AED) Act that Sen. Collins co-authored with Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) has resulted in AEDs for rural communities across Maine and the nation. Through this program, about 1,000 AEDs have been deployed throughout Maine — to police, fire, and ambulance departments; to medical and dental clinics; and to town halls, schools, colleges, parks, libraries, and museums. This program is continuing with \$1 million in additional funding signed into law in December 2007.

Sens. Collins and Feingold also recently passed a Senate resolution designating the first week of June "National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Awareness Week."

Defibtech has deployed AEDs statewide in Maine, as well as in Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey and New Mexico. Defibtech was recently named the nation’s fastest-growing medical equipment company by Deloitte's prestigious 2007 Technology Fast 500 Program.