



Sault Ste. Marie high school students empowered to save lives!

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mannequins donated for ACT High School CPR Program in Sault Ste. Marie

The ACT Foundation is thrilled to announce that Sault Ste. Marie students will continue to be empowered to save lives, thanks to a generous donation from the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore.

On Friday Nov. 21, the ACT Foundation is inviting media to attend a photo opportunity thanking the Kiwanis Club for donating 30 more mannequins to St. Mary's College.

We're also celebrating national CPR Awareness Month.

These mannequins will help local teachers equip 190 students with lifesaving CPR skills each year – a part of the 1,500 grade nine students who are trained in 13 schools across Sault Ste. Marie annually.

"The members of the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore are committed to excellence within our community and are pleased to be able to support this lifesaving program within our school system," says Serge Viau, Treasurer for Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore. "On a day to day basis Kiwanians are helping in many projects around the world and with the knowledge that each individual student will gain from this training, it is our hope that they in turn can help save lives if presented with that situation."

Eight in ten out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home and research indicates that citizen CPR can improve survival rates by almost fourfold.

"We are very excited and thankful for our students to be able to work with their own mannequins provided by the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore," said Shauna Conway, high school physical education teacher at St. Mary's College. "I believe it is so important for our young people to learn lifesaving skills. The ACT High School CPR program has helped facilitate this process for teachers."

The Kiwanis donation builds upon previously established partnerships that played a significant part in bringing the ACT High School CPR program to Sault Ste Marie in 2005.

Other local partners include: Kiwanis Club of Sault Ste. Marie, Keith Spencer Trucking Ltd., Algoma Steel Inc., PUC Services Inc., Viau Financial Group Inc., G-P Flakeboard Company, and McDougall Fuels.

Superior Emergency Services has also come aboard as the teacher-training partner, enabling teachers to train their students.

Provincial partners include Hydro One, Shoppers Drug Mart, The Ontario Trillium

Foundation and the Government of Ontario.

National partners committed to Sault Ste. Marie and other students across the country include AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pfizer and sanofi-aventis.

“We are thrilled with the support of ACT’s partners. Without them, the Sault Ste. Marie program would not be possible,” says ACT Foundation Executive Director Sandra Clarke.

About the ACT Foundation

The ACT Foundation is a national, award-winning charitable organization dedicated to promoting health and empowering Canadians to save lives.

ACT is driving a national campaign to establish CPR as a mandatory program in every Canadian high school.

ACT raises funds for CPR mannequins and guides schools in program set up.

The Foundation has already established the CPR program in over 1,200 high schools and more than 900,000 youth have been trained to date.

The Foundation and its core partners are winners of Imagine’s “New Spirit of Community Partnership” Award.

Core partners are companies in the research-based pharmaceutical industry: AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pfizer and sanofi-aventis.

They provide ACT’s sustaining funding and are committed to the Foundation’s national goal of promoting health and empowering Canadians to save lives.

For more information visit: www.actfoundation.ca.