



## **SAVING YOUNG HEARTS, INC.**

An Affiliate of Parent Heart Watch  
A National Voice Protecting Kids from Sudden Cardiac Arrest

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## **STUDENT ATHLETE RAISES AWARENESS ON SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST IN YOUTH**

WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA – Wesley Murray, a 15-year-old athlete and ninth grade student at Foundation Academy had to complete a project for his school science fair. He chose to demonstrate the importance of early defibrillation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation to save lives. It is a cause that has personal meaning to him. His cousin, Joe DiPrete, died suddenly at the age of 14 while running a cross-country race for his high school in Maine.

Wesley utilized a graph to illustrate the sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) survival rate when defibrillation is delivered within 1, 3, or 5 minutes, photos of young SCA victims and database including, age, gender and activity at the time of death. He also used a Cardiac Science automated external defibrillator (AED) trainer unit and a manikin to emphasize the importance of AEDs in schools and public places, how they operate and are easy to use. Saving Young Hearts, Inc. provided the trainer unit and manikin.

Over 450,000 people die each year from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA); thousands are children. Many victims have no prior history of heart disease and are stricken without warning.

“The threat of SCA in our youth, especially athletes, is very real and who better to raise awareness amongst fellow students, teachers and athletic coaches than a young athlete himself” said Andy Anderson, who lost his ten year old son to sudden cardiac arrest in 2004 and is the Director of Saving Young Hearts, (SYH).

SYH is a non-profit organization committed to raising public awareness about SCA in children and young adults, as well as the need for heart screenings for early detection and the importance of placing AEDs in schools and other places where youth regularly congregate.

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