



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

For Immediate Release:
August 1, 2006

Contacts: Lt. Governor Pat Quinn
(o) 312-814-5220; (c) 312-485-1852
Elizabeth Austin (o) (312) 814-8760

HEARTSAVER TRUST FUND LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By Illinois Lt. Governor Pat Quinn

There is a saying in Scripture: "To save one life is to save the whole world." Today, people across Illinois have an opportunity to save lives by contributing to the Illinois Heartsaver AED Trust Fund.

The Heartsaver AED Trust Fund offers 50% matching grants to help public schools, park districts and colleges buy automated external defibrillators (AEDs). These simple-to-use medical devices make it possible for an ordinary citizen to save someone's life after a sudden cardiac arrest. The American Heart Association estimates that making AEDS readily available in public places nationwide could save the lives of up to 50,000 Americans each year.

Under the Colleen O'Sullivan Law signed by Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2004, AEDs are now required in all health clubs in Illinois. The law further requires public schools, park districts, and public colleges and universities to phase in AED installation over the next three years.

With public support for the Heartsaver AED Trust Fund, these miraculous life-saving devices – with a price tag per unit of about \$1,000 -- will soon be as common as fire extinguishers in school gyms and park district facilities statewide. But we can't meet our goal of installing 7,500 new AEDs throughout Illinois without generous donations from individuals and businesses alike.

Applications for matching grants from the Heartsaver AED Trust Fund opened on Aug. 1, and will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-serve basis by the Illinois Department of Public Health. We expect many colleges, schools and park districts to apply, and we want to make sure the fund can meet the expected demand.

The Heartsaver AED Trust Fund was established through a \$100,000 grant from the State of Illinois. So far, Walgreen's has set an example of corporate good citizenship by donating another \$10,000 to the fund, and many individuals have made donations as well.

Next year, Illinois taxpayers will be able to make a donation to the Heartsaver AED Trust Fund through a check-off on their Illinois income tax returns. But why wait? I encourage everyone in Illinois to consider making a voluntary contribution to the Heartsaver AED Trust Fund right now. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to: Heartsaver AED Fund, c/o Illinois Division of Public Health, EMS, 525 W. Jefferson, Springfield, IL 62761.

Remember: Save one life, and you save the whole world. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn
Lt. Governor

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