



MICHAEL VINCENT SAGE DRAGONHEART FOUNDATION

CAMP CLAIRE TO RECEIVE DONATION OF AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR MACHINE

Staff and campers will assemble on Thursday, July 10, to celebrate life-saving addition to facility

OLD LYME, CT: Representatives of the Michael Vincent Sage Dragonheart Foundation, Inc. (MVSDF) will donate a new automated external defibrillator (AED) machine to Camp Claire on Thursday, July 10, at 6:00 p.m. at a group meeting for staff and campers. An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can stop an irregular rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume in a heart that is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the leading cause of cardiac related death in the United States; it strikes without warning, and if not treated within minutes, quickly leads to death. There are 1,900 to 14,200 cases of out-of-hospital SCA in children each year. Early defibrillation with an AED and CPR can more than double chances of survival. The American Heart Association estimates that 20,000 to 100,000 Sudden Cardiac Arrest deaths could be prevented if defibrillation was readily available.

The MVSDF was established in memory of Michael Vincent Sage, who died on February 5, 2010 at the age of 29 from a sudden cardiac arrhythmia (SCA). He was active in sports for most of his life and never exhibited any of the warning signs associated with SCA, such as episodes of dizziness, fainting, or seizures. He arrived at work at the New London offices of Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law on a beautiful February morning, got a cup of coffee with his colleagues, collapsed and died. People on the scene attempted to revive Michael using CPR, but there was no AED available, and by the time the paramedics arrived, Michael could not be saved. In a matter of moments, Michael was gone. The mission of the MVSDF is to raise awareness and support research into the early diagnosis and prevention of sudden cardiac arrest, including bystander awareness education, CPR training, and availability of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in schools, athletic facilities, and other public forums. For more information, visit the Foundation's website at www.defibandlive.org.

Camp Claire, a summer camp for children aged 7-14 located in Old Lyme, CT, applied to the MVSDF for the donation of an AED defibrillator machine and was selected by the Board of Directors to receive the gift.

Organizations must meet various criteria including the required number of CPR-trained employees; the number of persons served and their age groups; current AED status; and overall worthiness/need of the organization. The cost of an AED defibrillator machine ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,500. The MVSDF has donated more than 30 machines to organizations in Connecticut over the last two years.

The mission of Camp Claire is to provide a natural community environment that encourages curiosity and creativity, and increases self-esteem, while providing a lifetime of memories that prepares children for an active place in a multicultural society. The camp began as a conference retreat for members of the First Congregational Church of Meriden in 1916. It incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1954, and relies on the support of alumni and friends to continue its mission of providing children with an enriching and memorable camping experience. To learn more about Camp Claire, visit www.campclaire.org .

Major sponsors of the Michael Vincent Sage Dragonheart Foundation include Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law (New London), Defibtech, Inc. (Guilford, CT), The Survival Group (North Haven, CT), and The Ralph L. Rossi Foundation (Hamden, CT).