

Two Sheriff's Deputies Meet Man Saved by AED Device

On December 29, 2015, Kendall County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the 600 Block of Douglas Street, Oswego, for a report of a male subject that had collapsed.

Kendall County Sheriff's Deputy Zach Tongate was in very close proximity to the residence, and rushed to help. Upon arrival, Deputy Tongate located the male, John Clark, on the floor unresponsive.

Clark had been hosting a bible study group at his residence, and was in a prayer circle when he collapsed, later found to be of cardiac arrest. Fortunately, John's friend, Jeff Miller, immediately began CPR.



Jeff Miller stated, "It was a literal collapse. No sounds, he just fell down." Fortunately Miller, an Eagle Scout, was highly trained in CPR. A retired Aurora Police Officer was also at the bible study group, and immediately called 9-1-1.

Deputy Tongate arrived with Deputy Kailus, and was immediately able to assess the need for an Automated External Defibrillator device (AED), very recently acquired and carried by Patrol Deputies. Having just been trained in the AED use, Deputy Tongate successfully utilized the AED, and continued to perform CPR until Oswego Medics were able to transport Clark to Copley Hospital.

Clark was admitted to Copley into the Intensive Care Unit, where he received a pacemaker. Clark was discharged one week later with no lasting effects of his ordeal.

"He (Clark) was hosting a bible study class the following week", said Miller.

Following the event, Clark felt it was very important to meet the two men who saved his life.

"I spoke with the Commanders at the Sheriff's Office, and wanted to make sure to come meet the two Deputies", said Clark. "I felt it was very important to show the positive outcome of what these men did for me."

Clark got his wish, and came with his friend Jeff Miller to the Sheriff's Office on February 1st, 2017 to meet Deputies Tongate and Kailus.

"God definitely had his hand in the event, there were too many coincidences. Had I had the heart attack minutes later, the prayer group would have been gone. Deputy Tongate also happened to be very close, had just been equipped with an AED, and had received training very recently too. There are just too many coincidences for God to not have had his hand in this incident", Clark added.

Clark also wanted to make sure that Deputies Tongate and Kailus saw the positive side of being a Law Enforcement Officer. "With the recent negative views on Police in the media lately, I felt it was important to show them the positive parts of the job they do".

Sheriff Baird added, "We had just received the AEDs through a grant from Com Ed and within 3 months Deputies Tongate and Kailus we able to save the life of Mr. Clark. I commend the deputies for their quick action and dedication to the citizens of Kendall County."

Clark stated that once he was at the hospital in recovery, he spoke with his Cardiologist. "The Doctor said I was dead before I hit the ground. The Doctor said the only thing that would have, or could have saved my life was an AED."

PHOTO: (left to right) Jeff Miller, Deputy Zack Tongate, John Clark, Deputy Casey Kailus)