



# The Villages®

## PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

# AED Program in the Heart of Your Community

## WHAT IS AN AED COMMUNITY AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Community is a group of residents in a specific community or village that want to assist their neighbors in the case of a cardiac arrest. Responders within the AED Community provide life-saving care until emergency crews arrive. It is a way to stop the clock and enhance the survival rate of the patient.

## CPR Buys Time. The AED Buys Life!

### WHAT DOES THE AED UNIT DO?

When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the heart starts to fibrillate but not enough to pump blood. CPR (chest compression) makes the heart pump and keeps oxygen flowing to the body, but will not “start” the heart. The AED is a battery operated device that diagnoses whether a heart needs to be defibrillated (shocked) into resuming a normal rhythm. It gives audible/visual commands and most users can be taught in a few minutes.

### HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

The number of AEDs in each community is dependent upon the number of homes within The Villages®. The goal is to have at least 10-15 volunteers trained as “responders.” The Villages Public Safety Department will provide CPR training free of charge. The more “responders” trained, the better your community will be able to handle an emergency situation. Each responder household is listed with the alerting service and is notified via the emergency dispatch center when a cardiac arrest has occurred within their AED Community. Each AED unit is stored in a locked cabinet strategically placed and is readily available to responders, all of which have a key.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

The Villages® Public Safety Department oversees and manages the program. After the AED Community has collected the necessary funds, we order the equipment and provide all necessary training.

Responder volunteers are responsible for picking up the AED when responding to an emergency and administering CPR.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Q. Is the AED difficult to use?**  
A. All necessary training will be provided by The Villages Public Safety Department. The system gives audible/visual commands and will not engage unless the patient is in cardiac arrest. Most users can be taught in a few minutes.
- **Q. Do I have any legal liability?**  
A. Florida's Good Samaritan laws protect any lay person who goes to the aid of a person in distress. Since the AED "shocks" only people who are clinically dead (i.e. not breathing) there is no risk of hurting someone.
- **Q. What about mouth-to-mouth?**  
A. Mouth-to-mouth is no longer recommended.
- **Q. Would residents respond to all emergencies?**  
A. No, just cardiac/respiratory arrests.
- **Q. What about people on other neighborhood streets?**  
A. The Villages Public Safety Department encourages neighboring streets to establish a separate AED program.

For additional information on this program, please contact us at 352-205-8280.

