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Ontario Trillium Foundation's Funding Purchases Additional AED devices for Community Care Northumberland

December 7th, 2017 (Cobourg/Northumberland County)

With the help of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Community Care Northumberland has been able to purchase an additional 6 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for their agency vans that operate both its rural and accessible transportation services throughout Northumberland County.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation recently awarded Community Care Northumberland with a \$90,000 grant to purchase and retrofit a new van for its accessible transportation program and the purchase of 1 AED unit for it. Community Care Northumberland was able to cost save on these purchases and was approved to use the balance of this grant to equip each one of their specialized transportation vans with an AED device.

“Along with the purchase of these additional AED devices, we are able to provide training support for our drivers to effectively use these devices until first responders are on site,” said Trish Baird – Executive Director of Community Care Northumberland. “We hope to never have to use the AED but our drivers will be better equipped and prepared in the case of emergency while transporting our clients.”

A leading grantmaker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities.

Photo Attached:

Community Care Northumberland held a defibrillator training session in its Cobourg office for their regional Specialized Transportation Drivers. Pictured (L-R), Front Row: Londa Robinson, George Olak, Mike Gibson, Larry Stoutenburg. Back row: Ron McGrath, Terry Stanley, George Bembich, Jessica Hoskin – Specialized Transportation Coordinator, Ashley Kelly – AED for Life. Missing from photo: Paul Bennett



For more information about Community Care Northumberland’s Specialized Transportation program or to access these services, call **1-866-768-7778**, email ride@commcare.ca or view information on the CCN website’s transportation page: www.commcare.ca/transportation.html.

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Additional Background Information:

“An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a small, lightweight, and portable electronic device that delivers an electric shock through the chest wall of a person whose heart has stopped beating. It is proven to be one of the most important tools in saving the life of someone suffering sudden cardiac arrest, and it’s a piece of equipment that St. John Ambulance recommends for every home and workplace.

What is sudden cardiac arrest? It occurs when heart function ceases abruptly and without warning. The heart is no longer able to pump blood to the rest of the body. Not to be confused with a heart attack, sudden cardiac arrest is an electrical problem that creates an abnormal heart rhythm, preventing the heart from pumping blood to all vital organs.

Sudden cardiac arrest is unpredictable; it can happen anywhere, anytime, at any age, and without any warning. In fact, one occurs every 12 minutes in Canada and, with each passing minute before AED application, the probability of survival declines by 7-10%. Time is of the essence in these situations and using an AED is the only effective intervention.”¹

¹ Information cited from St. John’s Ambulance website: <http://www.sja.ca/English/Safety-Tips-and-Resources/Pages/aed/why-aeds-are-important.aspx>