

## PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

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## SportsSafety.org AED Program Places Two AEDs in Jefferson Co. Parks & Rec. Depts. for Youth Athlete Safety



*Picture 1: Former Alabama Quarterback Tyler Watts (right), Cardiac Solutions, provides AED education to Center Point. Joseph Longoria (left), dir. of advancement National Center for Sports Safety presents Amy Green (center), Center Point Parks & Rec., AED and certificate of recognition.*

*Picture 2: Derrek Smith (center), National Center for Sports Safety, presents Philip Houston (right), Pleasant Grove City Council, AED and certificate of recognition. Pat Tate (Left), Cardiac Solutions, provides AED education.*

**Birmingham, AL: July 29, 2015:** Parks and rec. departments in two Jefferson County Cities, Pleasant Grove and Center Point, were recent recipients of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) from the National Center for Sports Safety's (SportsSafety.org) AED Placement Program. In addition, the cities received medical-grade first aids kits. Both AEDs and first aid kits were fully funded by a grant written by the National Center for Sports Safety, an Alabama-based nonprofit, to the Hill Crest Foundation. The Hill Crest Foundation is active at funding area health advancements.

Celebrating 14 years of sports safety initiatives, the National Center of Sports Safety's AED Placement Program is on its third year of operation and has placed nearly \$100,000 worth of AEDs and medical-grade first aid kits in parks and rec. departments at Alabama cities.

"We are delighted more and more youth athletes as well as spectators in Alabama parks and rec. sports leagues will have access to an AED." "We are thankful to the corporate, foundation and private donors who help make this reality," said the center's Associate Executive Director Derrek Smith.

Smith noted that last month Walker County Parks and Rec. Departments in Jasper and Dora each received AEDs and first aid kits funded by an anonymous donor. In August, the City of Springville Parks and Rec. will receive two AEDs and first aid kits which are funded by the Altec/Styslinger Foundation.

Jon Seale, CEO of Cardiac Solutions and a partner of the AED Placement Program, cited a recent Midwestern case where an AED placed at a parks and rec. was used two hours after placement to save a youth athlete's life. Representatives from Cardiac Solutions provide the cities instruction of the AEDs to show the user friendliness of the unit.

According to the American Heart Association, each year in the U.S., there are approximately 359,400 Emergency Medical Services (EMS)-assessed cardiac arrest episodes outside of a hospital setting. On average, less than 10% of victims survive. Immediate CPR and early defibrillation, with an AED, can more than double a victim's chance of survival.

Nearing 15 years of sports safety initiatives, the National Center for Sports Safety has been a national and local voice for raising awareness of youth sports safety through various sports safety tools, resources and courses. [In a June 2015 press conference](#), the mayors of Homewood, Hoover and Alabaster endorsed the National Center for Sports Safety's Municipality R.E.A.C.H Program which they have enacted in their cities.

### **About the National Center for Sports Safety ([www.SportsSafety.org](http://www.SportsSafety.org))**

The National Center for Sports Safety (NCSS), an Alabama-based nonprofit, was founded in 2001 by renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. Lawrence J. Lemak. NCSS is celebrating 14 years of promoting the importance of injury prevention and safety at all levels of youth and high school sports through education and research. To date, NCSS has educated tens of thousands of coaches across the nation. To learn more about NCSS's programs and tools or to make an online tax deductible donation go to <http://www.SportsSafety.org>.