



## **ST. LOUIS LAUNCHES PROJECT HEARTBEAT PAD PROGRAM**

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The City of St. Louis has initiated a city-wide Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program using life-saving automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and CPR training.

To initiate the program, approximately 90 Powerheart(R) AED G3s were purchased from Cardiac Science. St. Louis' new PAD program makes it the latest major U.S. city to partner with the Irvine, CA-based company, joining San Diego, Minneapolis, Miami and Nashville.

"The St. Louis Project Heartbeat" PAD program is being coordinated by the St. Louis Fire Department, which in addition to planning the deployment of AEDs, is reaching out to private citizens and organizations through a public awareness campaign on the importance of defibrillation therapy and the use of AEDs to treat victims of a massive heart attack, also called sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

In a phone interview, St. Louis Fire Chief Sherman George told St. Louis Front Page that his goal was to put AEDs in every public facility, highly trafficked public places and businesses in the next few years. "When I became chief of the department, we had 3 LEAD advanced life support (ALS) defibrillators and I wanted to do things better and get newer, more advanced units into the ambulances. We didn't have the money to purchase more units, so I went to the Regional Hospital Foundation who provided a grant to purchase 12 LEAD (ALS) defibrillators."

He began researching other products on the market and the track record of PAD program successes in other cities. Four years ago at a conference, he learned first-hand about AEDs from a police chief in Hawaii. "He was also a basketball coach. During a game, he suffered a cardiac arrest. They got the defibrillator out of his car and saved his life."

Inspired by the incident, Chief George asked Doug Randall, EMS training officer for the St. Louis Fire Department, to put the program in motion for St. Louis. A grant of \$986,861 was obtained from the Missouri Foundation for Health to purchase 90 AEDs.