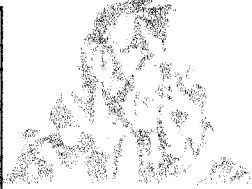




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Middle school staff member saved by school's AED

March 15, 2003

When Dexter Grady, a janitor at East Hampton (Long Island) Middle School, volunteered to get trained to use the school's new Automated External Defibrillator (AED), he never imagined that he would be the recipient of the machine's life-saving capabilities.

On his dinner break yesterday, Dexter, 37, joined some local men who regularly gather in the school gym for pick-up basketball games. Shortly after playing, Grady collapsed in sudden cardiac arrest. Thanks to the quick action of bystanders who called for help and used the AED to defibrillate his heart, Grady is expected to be released from the hospital sometime next week.

The legislation that prompted the middle school to have an AED on site was inspired by the efforts of Karen and John Acompora, of nearby Northport, parents of Louis Acompora, who died from sudden cardiac arrest three years ago, almost to the day. Louis, then 15, had been hit in the chest by a ball during a lacrosse game and an AED was not immediately available.. To prevent other such tragedies, Governor George Pataki signed "Louis's Law" last year, which mandates the placement of AEDs in New York schools.

Judging from Grady's experience, the law seems to be working.

For more information, [click here](#).

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