

James M. Hays Lodge helps Milwaukee Public Schools purchase 3 new AEDs



Milwaukee Public Schools has dozens of outdated Automated External Defibrillators that are due for replacement. They were recently enabled to purchase three for Bradley Tech, Vincent and Washington High Schools with funds donated by James M. Hays Lodge, with matching funds from the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation Medical Fund. Presenting the check are Jim Winston, Worshipful Master and Chris Niggemeier Junior Warden of James M. Hays Lodge #331. Receiving the check, from left to right, are Rebecca Neumann-Schwabe, MPS **HeartSafe** Schools AED Nurse, and Aaron Shapiro the Principal of Bradley Technology and Trade High School.

Rebecca Neumann-Schwabe, a School Nurse, was instrumental, 16 years ago, launching Project ADAM at the Milwaukee Public Schools. It's original mission was to make defibrillators available throughout Milwaukee Public Schools after high school athlete, Adam Lemel's sudden cardiac arrest at a sports event. Now, more than 100 MPS schools have lifesaving AEDs. A significant portion of the original funding was provided by local Masonic Lodges with assistance from the Grand Lodge of Masons in Wisconsin.

The program is still being implemented by Childrens Hospital of Wisconsin, and has expanded nation-wide into 10 other states. It has saved well over 100 lives, 29 in Wisconsin.