

San Jacinto school district given two defibrillators

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By GAIL WESSON
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Two more automated external defibrillators were donated to the San Jacinto Unified School District's trustees from a Temecula resident who lost his son to cardiac arrest in May 2005.

The donation by Robert Roy on behalf of the nonprofit Travis Fund on Tuesday brings the district's total to 22 defibrillators positioned around the district. Defibrillators use electric pulses to shock the heart back into pumping and can help save the lives of heart attack victims.

"We'll have to see where the greatest needs are," Connie Polhemus, coordinator of student and community support for the district, said by phone about where the new defibrillators will be placed. They may be taken on the road by athletic teams. More staff members will be trained in their use, in coordination with cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, she said.

The district purchased 15 units in 2007 and Roy, through the fund, donated five more.

Roy has promoted CPR training and acquisition of the devices by school districts in central and southwest Riverside County ever since his 14-year-old son, Travis, died in May 2005 of sudden cardiac arrest.

Other districts with the devices include Temecula Valley and Murrieta Valley unified school districts.

Hemet and Corona-Norco school districts have previously decided not to purchase defibrillators for reasons including cost. The devices cost about \$1,900, Roy said.

Information: www.thetravisfund.org

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