AED/CPR FACT SHEET

- Cardiac arrest claims about 330,000 lives each year – or 900 per day - nationwide.

- In Florida, approximately 10,000 people suffer a cardiac arrest each year and 95 percent of them die before reaching the hospital.

- The AHA goal is to increase the survival rate from 5 percent to 20 percent.

- If every community could achieve a 20 percent sudden cardiac arrest survival rate, between 45,000 and 50,000 people would be saved each year.

- For every minute a cardiac arrest victim is not defibrillated, his or her chances of survival declines 7-10 percent.

- About 80 percent of all sudden cardiac arrests happen at home, so being trained to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can mean the difference between life and death for a loved one.

- Cardiac arrest is caused by a life-threatening abnormal heart rhythm that can result from heart attack, respiratory arrest, electrocution, drowning, choking or trauma, or it can have no known cause.

- When cardiac arrest occurs, the victim collapses and loses consciousness, stops normal breathing and loses blood pressure.

- Brain death starts to occur in just four to six minutes after someone experiences sudden cardiac arrest.

- If defibrillation can be performed within the first 1-3 minutes, there is a 70-80 percent chance of survival.

- The use of effective bystander CPR nearly doubles a victim’s chance for surviving sudden cardiac arrest.

- CPR is not a substitute for defibrillation. CPR helps maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain until defibrillation can be administered.

- Although automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were invented in the 1980s, technological advances have led to the development of more compact, portable versions.
AEDs are safe for trained lay rescuers to treat sudden cardiac arrest because the devices automatically analyze the heart rhythm and only allow an electric shock when necessary. AEDs are easy to use, compact, battery-operated, lightweight and durable.

Florida has a Good Samaritan law that protects people who provide emergency care – including CPR and AEDs - in good faith. Good Samaritan immunity generally prevails when a citizen responds to an emergency and acts as a reasonable and prudent person would under the same conditions.