

San Jacinto schools get heart-felt donation

By VALERIE DEW/The Valley Chronicle

Published: Friday, August 21, 2009 2:31 PM CDT

The San Jacinto Unified School District had two more automated external defibrillators donated to it at its board meeting Tuesday.

An AED is a portable electronic device that diagnoses potentially life-threatening cardiac

arrhythmias in a person and is able to treat them with the application of electrical therapy.

Robert Roy, founder of the Travis R. Roy Sudden Cardiac Arrest Fund, said the two machines were made by Zoll Corp. He won them in a raffle at a conference hosted by Parent Heart Watch, a support network for families who have lost children to sudden cardiac arrest.

Roy said his nonprofit was founded in honor of his son, Travis, who died of cardiac arrest when he was in middle school. Travis would have graduated from high school last year.

The Travis R. Roy Sudden Cardiac Arrest Fund gave the district five machines two years ago.

Roy said San Jacinto's superintendent, Shari Fox, was Travis' principal when he was in elementary school in Murrieta.

Because Roy has already given more than 110 AEDs to schools in Temecula and Murrieta, he turned his focus to San Jacinto.

The two machines he won in the raffle were made by the same company that made the AEDs he already donated to San Jacinto. That's why he decided to give the district two more.

Fox said the AEDs are critical to the district, which provides training in the devices yearly.

"It's critical because our personnel changes all of the time," Fox said. "You may train three people in a school but they could move the next year."

Fox said the machines, which are kept at school sites, are checked each summer. She said this summer, a couple were working improperly or had dead batteries. They were fixed.

Roy said being able to supply schools a device that could have saved his son's life has been therapeutic for him.

"Had an AED been available to my son, he would have been alive today," Roy said.

Fox said although it hasn't been decided where the new AEDs will be placed, it is likely they will be put at the San Jacinto High School.



Robert Roy of The Travis R. Roy Sudden Cardiac Arrest Fund donates two Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) to the San Jacinto Unified School District.