



Sioux Empire United Way

SAVE A LIFE INITIATIVE

An athlete collapsing while running down the court, a parent falling to the ground while cheering on their kid's soccer match, a gentleman clutching his chest while scooping snow. **In the Sioux Empire, approximately 400 individuals are victims of Sudden Cardiac arrest yearly,** many of these occurring outside of a hospital. **Each minute defibrillation is delayed, the chance of survival is reduced approximately 10%.**

The only solution for the ventricular fibrillation occurring during these cardiac arrests is the use of a Public Access Defibrillator, or PAD. Seeing a need for this technology throughout the community, **Sioux Empire United Way worked with Sioux Falls Fire & Rescue and Avera Heart Hospital to launch the Save a Life Initiative in 2004.**

"The PAD program has been a lifesaving program in the literal sense. **The program now has almost 1500 PADs and continues to make an impact in our community,**" said Jim Sideras, Fire Chief at SFFR. "It would not have gotten off the ground without the help and support of Sioux Empire United Way."

Sioux Empire United Way continues to offer this grant to non-profits to fund half of the cost of a PAD. Training is provided from Sioux Falls Fire & Rescue on how to operate the device and potentially save a life.

"Lives are actually being saved, at least one every other month, through United Way funded PADs," said Jay Powell, Sioux Empire United Way President. "It's great that United Way identified a specific need and Sioux Falls Fire & Rescue and Avera Heart Hospital stepped forward to address it."



If these signs of cardiac arrest are present:

- Call 9-1-1 and get an PAD (AED), if one is available.
- Check breathing: If the person isn't breathing or is only gasping, give CPR.
- Use an PAD (AED) as soon as it arrives by turning it on and following the prompt.
- Keep pushing until the person starts to breathe or move or someone with more advanced training takes over.

