

### FOUNDATION SPONSORS SUCCESSFUL: DEFIBRILLATOR AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE CHATHAMS

The JTB Foundation Defibrillator/Training program has gotten off to a great start right here in the Chathams. The Foundation has donated funds towards the purchase and installation of 12 defibrillators in 9 fields in the Borough and Township, along with weather-proof cabinets, sturdy poles, and signage. In addition to installing AEDs at the playing fields where our young – and not so young – folks play, our program places equal emphasis on supporting and expanding local training programs in CPR/AED. Over 100 residents have been trained in foundation supported classes. We are one of few charitable foundations in the U.S. that provide financial support not only for the purchase of AEDs, but also for CPR/AED training. It is the combination of available AEDs and trained individuals that has the most impact in saving lives!



Kate Donovan, Mayor Nelson Vaughan, Joanne Babbitt, Maryanne Villone, Bill Nauta

After meeting with the Chatham Township and Borough Committees, as well as the joint recreation departments of the two towns and with **Mayors Tubbs** and **Vaughan**, we received enthusiastic support for launching this initiative. **Carol Nauta** and **Tom Denning** of our joint recreation departments were in charge of site assessment, unit placement, and troubleshooting. **Maryann Villone RN**, Coordinator and Sales Manager of Atlantic Heartsmart, AED Program attended the committee meetings to address the technical, medical, and operational issues involved.

Since Atlantic Heartsmart already successfully provides medical oversight on over 35 AED units in the Chathams, expanding their support to the new field-based defibrillators provides a consistent framework. **Carol Nauta** and **Bill Nauta** of the Office of Emergency Management undertook the task of coordinating the training classes. Bill and Carol, who are both EMTs, donated their time and along with fellow local respondents, held three training sessions which trained over 100 Coaches and coaching assistants in the Chathams. The foundation also plans to continue to attend town meetings and assess needs as they arise.

We would like to give special thanks to everyone in the Chathams who made this defibrillator and training initiative possible, particularly our Mayors, the joint recreation departments, the EMTs who donated their time training, the public works employees who worked to get the AEDs on the fields, and all our donors and supporters.

We are looking forward to extending this successful program in other communities. If you would like more information or are interested in finding out how the JTB Foundation can help you install AEDs in your community, please contact us!



Back row: Andrew Babbitt, Mayor Kevin Tubbs, Bill O'Connor, John Paceli.  
Front row: Nicole Hagner, Joanne Babbitt, Maryann Villone, Kate Donovan, John Paton.

## John Taylor Babbitt Foundation

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

*The John Taylor Babbitt Foundation is a nonprofit 501©-3 organization founded in John's memory and dedicated to preventing sudden cardiac death. The specific goals of the foundation are to:*

- Install **defibrillators** in schools, athletic venues, and public gathering places.
- Establish **JTB Heart Clubs** in high schools and universities to raise awareness and save lives.
- Support **research** on genetic cardiac disorders that increase risk of sudden cardiac death.

#### **Defibrillators:**

- Proposing legislation and lobbying for state-level laws on defibrillators
- Working on municipal policies and procedures to support the purchase and maintenance of defibrillators
- Sponsoring local training programs in CPR/AED

#### **JTB Heart Clubs:**

- Establishing campus JTB Clubs at high schools and universities
- Club activities are focused on: Advocacy, Education, Defibrillators and Fund Raising

#### **Research:**

- Supporting research on genetic cardiac disorders, including Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and other diseases, that increase the risk of sudden cardiac death
- Research focus areas include improving the accuracy and cost effectiveness of screening programs and investigating promising treatments.

## A NOTE FROM THE BABBITT FAMILY

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is not length of life, but the depth of life." Although John's life was far too short, it was full of laughter, love and happiness. And we know he would be honored and humbled by the initiatives we are doing in his memory and by the love and support so many of you have provided over the past three years.

With each passing day we hear more and more about tragic sudden cardiac deaths...especially among young athletes. We also hear more about communities implementing comprehensive automated defibrillator programs... about the benefits of cardiac screening in young athletes...and about advances in the field of genetic research.

This issue shares the stories of some of our successes...especially in the area of defibrillator awareness and education. We are proud of the AED program we helped develop in Chatham, NJ and we are also proud to provide funding to the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association, which has been so instrumental in supporting our mission and advocating for more comprehensive automated defibrillator legislation.

As we look forward to the coming months and year, we plan to focus our activities on working with more communities to develop automated defibrillator programs which include the strategic placement of AED's as well as AED/CPR training. We will also continue our work at high schools and universities to expand the availability of AED's and raise awareness of the importance of immediate bystander action, students and staff. Finally, we will continue our efforts to lobby for more comprehensive defibrillator legislation in addition to continuing to research the issues surrounding the very public debate about cardiac screening of young athletes.

Once again, thank you for partnering with us on this journey. We are grateful for your inspiration and dedication in helping us to prevent cardiac death. Most importantly, thank you for all your prayers and support!

With much love and appreciation,  
Dave, JoAnne and Andrew

## WITH MUCH APPRECIATION...

As the JTB Foundation continues to grow and make an impact in preventing sudden cardiac death, we can only do so through the generous help of hundreds, if not thousands of friends and supporters. This we have experienced over the past three years through the JTB "Walk with Heart," which has been the foundation's primary way of raising funds. This will continue to be our signature event and we thank all involved for their efforts and great generosity.

We have also seen significant funds raised through the unselfish thoughtfulness of a number of individuals and families. In particular, we would like to thank the family of **Nicholas Babbitt**, great uncle to John. When "Uncle Nick" passed away his family requested that donations be made to the foundation in memory of "Uncle Nick." This was a touching gesture that honored both John and "Uncle Nick" and helps the foundation in achieving its mission.

The Babbitt Family and the Foundation Board are very deeply touched by the generosity and support that all these people and organizations have shown. This truly honors John's memory as well as helping the foundation in achieving its mission. If anyone would like to consider doing the same by celebrating a birthday, honoring an individual or acknowledging a special event, please reach out to any of the board members. No gesture is too small and all efforts are very greatly appreciated.

## ...AND ADDITIONAL ACTS OF KIND SUPPORT....

- **Christin Campbell**, who when celebrating her Sweet 16 asked that all her friends and family donate to the foundation in lieu of gifts. Over \$8500.00 was raised through her generous act of kindness.
- A close Babbitt family friend, **Diane Lucas** requested that her family and friends donate funds in honor of her "very special" birthday.
- **Ryan Zimmerman** raised funds to complete his Eagle Scout project. He presented a \$1000.00 check to the foundation which represented the excess proceeds he raised.
- Entrance fees charged by the **Pingry School Arts Department** for their annual Cabaret Night and Drama Fest were graciously donated by the students who hosted the event.
- The **Chatham Middle School Student Council** graciously donated a portion of the proceeds of their T-Shirt sales to the foundation.
- Over the past three years, proceeds of the "businesses" run by **Ms. Leslie Wolfson's Economic classes** have benefitted the foundation. The students designed and sold everything from glasses and towels...to car magnets... as part of their marketing plan which fulfills their course requirement. Proceeds have exceeded over \$3000.00.

## "FRIENDS, GEMS AND PEARLS" .....SHOPPING FOR A CAUSE!

SAVE THE DATE...SEPTEMBER 24TH AND 25TH.

Back by popular demand, we will once again hold a "jewelry shopping event" with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the JTB Foundation. Initially held for just one evening this past April, we will be extending the event to last over two days...and early enough for holiday shopping!

Many thanks to **Kathy Connolly**, **Cheri Dowdall** and **Tina Flaherty** for spending countless hours in making this such a popular event. Their hard work and dedication helped raise over \$1600.00 for the foundation.

Check our web-site over the next few weeks ([www.jtbfoundation.org](http://www.jtbfoundation.org)) for more details regarding time and location.



## WALK WITH HEART 2009

Our 3rd annual Walk With Heart Fundraiser was held on Sunday May 17th at the Pingry School in Martinsville, NJ. Over 400 students and families participated and we raised over \$48,000 to support the Foundation with a competitive run, walk and raffle. "We are so grateful for everyone who supported the Walk With Heart this year and every year," said John's mother JoAnne. "We know of no better way to honor John's memory than by working to prevent sudden cardiac death and this event does so much to help achieve that goal."



This year's event was organized by John's brother, **Andrew Babbitt**, and

fellow Pingry classmates **Taylor Demkin**, **Charles Fraites**, **Cameron Lan**, and **Conor Starr** for their Independent Senior Project. The students spent countless hours in the spring planning every aspect of the day from food, beverages, and raffle prizes to designing the



event t-shirts. The Pingry School's administration, teachers, facilities staff and students were so helpful in making the event so successful and run so smoothly. Chatham residents, **Mary and Jeff Vohden**, automated the registration process which made check in very efficient.

The 2.1 mile competitive run was followed by a non-competitive walk which circled the new John Taylor Babbitt '07 Turf Field donated to Pingry by school families and the Classes of '07 and '08. Food, fellowship, and prizes made it a fun day for everyone and this year's grand prize winner took home \$1,000. In addition, representatives from Atlantic Health Systems were present at the Walk to demonstrate the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDS)

We are looking forward to next year's Walk With Heart so mark your calendars for May 16th, 2010.

## WHAT IS SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST (SCA)?

"The cause of sudden cardiac arrest is not well understood. Many victims have no history of heart disease, or if heart disease is present, it has not functionally impaired them. Unlike a heart attack, which is the death of muscle tissue from loss of blood supply, many victims of SCA have no prior symptoms. SCA can strike anyone, at anytime, anywhere."

Source: *The American Heart Association*

## DID YOU KNOW.....?

- Each year an estimated 325,000 Americans die from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).
- SCA is a leading cause of death, each year killing more than breast cancer, lung cancer and HIV/AIDS combined.
- The average SCA survival rate in the U.S. is 7%, but in some settings survival rates are as high as 50%.
- Many deaths from SCA can be prevented by fast action and treatment.
- Each minute that defibrillation is delayed reduces the victim's chance of survival by about 10%.
- Learning to use an AED is simple and intuitive.

.....ATTEND CPR/AED TRAINING TODAY!!!

## 2009 AED LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Foundation tracks progress in AED legislation nationwide. Here are some updates!

Bill 1380, "Josh Miller's HEART Act", was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on June 2 of this year. The legislation is named for a Ohio boy who died from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) while playing high school football. H.R. 1380 would establish a federal grant program for AEDs in elementary and secondary schools. The bill stipulates that schools receiving grants must have five or more trained adults at the school and they must also coordinate with local emergency personnel to ensure those suffering from SCA receive fast access to care. This bill is endorsed by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the Heart Rhythm

Society, and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association and its passage from the House coincided with National CPR and AED Awareness Week. The bill is now under consideration in the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

A comprehensive school AED law was passed in Connecticut requiring that at least one AED and trained personnel be available during school hours and after hours at school sponsored events. Schools must comply by July 1, 2010. Additionally, schools and athletic departments must develop emergency action plans to respond to cardiac emergencies. The bill does not provide state funding, but allows schools to accept donations and raise funds. In May Connecticut also passed a bill which closes a loophole in the Good Samaritan law by providing immunity not only to individuals who use an AED, but also to organizations providing AEDs.

In our home state of New Jersey, bill S2146 was signed in to law on April 23. This law extends to assisted living facilities the AED and staff training requirements that currently apply to nursing homes.. While welcome, this law is but a small step towards the comprehensive legislation needed. There are currently over 15 pieces of legislation in committee in New Jersey. One of these, H.R. 238, is called Janet's law and named in honor of a local girl who passed away from SCD. Janet's Law, in combination with proposed amendments to New Jersey's Good Samaritan law, would be an outstanding step forward in protecting our citizens from sudden cardiac death.

## SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH INITIATIVES ... JTB HEART CLUB

*Last year our Board introduced the concept of "JTB Heart Clubs" at schools and colleges in order to help raise awareness and prevent sudden cardiac death within young adult communities. JTB Heart Clubs are founded, organized and run by students on a high school or college campus. Each club contributes to the foundation mission by focusing on four goals: Advocacy, Education, Defibrillators, and Fundraising. In the following article, **Cameron Lan**, who, with **Andrew Babbitt**, was co-president of the JTB Heart Club at The Pingry School, shares her experiences from this past school year.*

The year after John passed away, Andrew and I decided to start a club to help raise money for the Walk With Heart. Although there are many clubs at Pingry, there was no student run organization that focused on raising awareness about the prevalence of sudden cardiac arrest, especially among student athletes. A "club fair" is held at the beginning of

each academic year and once we discussed our ideas with the Community Service Advisor, we received a green light to host a booth at the fair. We were amazed when over 100 students signed up to join the club! Our club held bake sales during the school year and donated the funds to the senior group running the Walk With Heart. This was the beginning of what became the "JTB Heart Club." We have now had the club on campus for two years and have had so much success.

This past year the club focused on educating students about sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) as well as fundraising. Mrs. Babbitt, Andrew and I spoke at Community Service assemblies at Pingry and discussed why we started the club and what it means to us. Sudden Cardiac Arrest materials were made readily available by the foundation and used at various

events, such as the St. Patrick Church Hypertension Screening event ...which was staffed by members of the club. The club held bake sales throughout the school year, all of which were quite successful. In addition, the club sponsored sales of retired athletic clothing ...and "spirit wear" .... to the student community which were extremely popular. Many thanks and appreciation to the students, faculty and staff for supporting us in our efforts which raised over \$2500.00 this past year!

Looking towards the future, we're excited that **Kelly Kurylak** and **Eric Schoenback** will be co-chairing the club this coming school year. We know they will continue the work we started and also advocate for more comprehensive screening of young athletes as well as helping to support changes to current AED legislation.

### JTB Foundation Board of Directors

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**To learn more about the  
JTB Foundation and our efforts to  
prevent sudden cardiac death contact:**

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