



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **FRIENDS OF HEART FUND DONATES TEN AEDS TO BENTON COUNTY**

Friends of Heart, a fund of the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, donated ten automated external defibrillators (AED) to Benton County. This gift was made possible from a donation of the Pat Mann Endowment with the West TN Healthcare Foundation to Friends of Heart for the placement of the AEDs. AEDs have been placed with the Benton county Sheriff Department, the City of Camden, and the City of Big Sandy. These units provide first responders with needed cardiac emergency equipment.

One of the main goals of Friends of Heart is to provide the community with live-saving resources. Law enforcement acts as first responders so this is a crucial need for the community. These devices recalibrate deadly heart rhythms of a person who has gone into cardiac arrest. These actions can mean the difference between life and death, especially in rural areas where it can take EMS longer to arrive. The AEDs are simple to use and can be operated without a medical professional present.

Friends of Heart has now placed 34 AEDs in public rural areas throughout West Tennessee. Friends of Heart partners with the West Tennessee Heart and Vascular Center to meet the needs of heart patients. Our mission is to be a community led and community focused group, ensuring the best heart and vascular care for West Tennesseans'. This effort is designed to keep fundraising dollars local, serving the people of West Tennessee.

Our main Key Initiatives are:

- Increase opportunities for clinical research and technological advancement in West Tennessee
- Develop and fund better community outreach, education, and resource development
- Develop a mechanism for improved staff education and development
- Construct the first integrated heart center within our 18-county region

About the Foundation: The Foundation began in 1984 and is an independent community foundation that provides resources for almost 700 charitable interests. Funds for the staff and general operational expenses come as a gift through West Tennessee Healthcare to encourage charitable giving for good causes. The staff of five provides leadership for three community boards and numerous fundraisers for Foundation-sponsored activities.

For more information about Friends of Heart or to become a member, visit [friendsofheart.org](http://friendsofheart.org). ###