

What does the AED unit do?

When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the heart starts to flutter (fibrillate) but not enough to pump blood. CPR (chest compression) makes the heart pump and keeps oxygen flowing to the body, but will not “start” the heart. The AED is a battery operated device that determines whether a heart needs to be defibrillated (shocked) into resuming a normal rhythm. It gives audible commands and is so simple anyone who understands English can be taught its use in a few minutes.

How would the program work?

There are **176** homes in OUR AED community area of **Soledad Way** . We would like to have at least **30** persons trained as “volunteers.” The Villages Public Safety will provide CPR training free of charge. The more “responders” trained the better our community will be able to handle an emergency situation. In this way, one or more responders could be at home at any time. Each responder household would have ReadyAlert service. When a cardiac arrest occurs, a call is made to 911. The 911 operator, in addition to determining the nature of the emergency and dispatching the medics will see on their screen that the cardiac arrest occurred in OUR “AED Community” and would also send a message via ReadyAlert. While one or more responders would go immediately to the home, others would go to the AED unit and take it where needed. The AED is stored in a locked cabinet located in the neighborhood, all of whom will have keys.

Who would be responsible?

The Villages Public Safety Department oversees and assists the program. They will assist in ordering equipment, train the volunteers and provide continuing updates on training and equipment.

The responder volunteers would respond to administer CPR and/or pick up the AED unit on the way to the emergency.

The ReadyAlert program has an annual service fee. The batteries in the AED's are warranted to last 4 years before they need to be replaced. The AED is warranted for seven years.

There should be a bank account established, an “AED Fund,” in which all contributed funds are deposited and from which all invoices will be paid. The account can be set up where two signatures are required to write a check.

