



# JOHN TAYLOR BABBITT FOUNDATION

*Dedicated to preventing Sudden Cardiac Death*

NEWSLETTER 2012

## Governor praises Babbitt Foundation for supporting 'Good Samaritan' bill

In New Jersey, Good Samaritans who use automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to save the lives of people having cardiac incidents will no longer have to be exposed to civil penalties.

Gov. Chris Christie in May signed a bill into law that provides immunity from civil liability for untrained individuals using defibrillators in a medical emergency. New Jersey becomes the 44th state to have such a law.

"I believe that individuals who use AEDs in an attempt to save someone in a medical emergency should not be penalized for their actions," said the governor. "Accessibility to AEDs can help prevent death from cardiac arrest in certain cases."

JoAnne Babbitt, vice president of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation, said her organization and its supporters worked tirelessly for bi-partisan support of this bill. "This law is a direct response to the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation's mission to increase access and availability of AEDs in all places of public assembly," said Babbitt, whose 16-year-old son, John, died from sudden cardiac arrest seven years ago while playing youth league basketball.

Babbitt testified before the New Jersey Senate and Assembly Health and Human Services Committees along with Corinne Orlando, director of government relations for the American Heart Association.

Legislation sponsors were Senators Joseph F. Vitale, *Continued on page 3.*



*STUDENTS FROM Benedictine Academy were instrumental in getting NJ Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Cryan (D-Union County) to sponsor the Good Samaritan bill. From left are Marian Joyce and JoAnne Taylor Babbitt of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation, Assemblyman Cryan, Andrea Mendoza and Ariana Taveras of the JTB Heart Club at Benedictine Academy, and Sister Donna Jo Repetti.*

## First Walk With Heart at Fairfield University a success, with 150 participating

For the first time, students from Fairfield University held a Walk With Heart to further the mission of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation. More than 150 young people participated in the two-hour, 2.3-mile walk that took place Sept. 29.

The JTB Heart Club at Fairfield — 30 members strong — organized the event in conjunction with the university's Center for Faith and Public Life, the Office of Student Activities, and the university's Office of Public Safety. What's more, they convinced the university to make the walk an officially sanctioned event for first-year student mandatory community service hours. That brought out dozens of walkers.

All walkers gathered at the lower Barone Campus Center at noon and were met by JTB Heart Club President Cathleen Keating, a senior, and other members of the club. On hand were Dave and JoAnne Babbitt, president and vice president respectively of the JTB Foundation. Dave Babbitt is a 1979 graduate of Fairfield and is active there.

Every walker received a T-shirt and warm thanks for supporting the JTB Foundation.

JoAnne Babbitt called the walk "amazing." She said, "Dave and I were



*FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY students turned out 150 strong in September to support the first Walk With Heart on the beautiful Connecticut campus. See additional photos on Page 4.*

so moved by the number of participants and their enthusiasm. The Center for Faith and Public Life was quite pleased by the effort the Heart Club put into handling the event."

Club members made signs about Sudden Cardiac Arrest and posted them along the walk route. The campus Department of Public Safety had a bike officer lead the march, and squad cars helped students cross intersections. After the walk was completed, the club served lunch and refreshments.

Babbitt was extremely complimentary of the role Fairfield's JTB Heart Club had in the event. "Everything was run by the students," she emphasized. "The walk was a result of their desire to support our mission and purchase additional Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units for

the campus and sponsor CPR/ AED training classes."

She praised club president Cathleen Keating for her effort. "She spent most of the summer planning this," Babbitt noted. "She's on the swim team — a lot of swim team members were there."

The faces may change at JTB Heart Club because of graduations, but everyone is hoping the Walk With Heart or a similar event can be on the calendar for next fall. ♥

## A LETTER FROM THE BABBITT FAMILY

It is hard to believe over six years have passed since our son and brother John collapsed and died from an undiagnosed heart condition while playing basketball with his friends.

Although the Foundation's activities have changed with the times, our mission remains the same — to install defibrillators in places of public assembly, to work with youth in establishing "Heart Clubs," and to support research on genetic cardiac disorders.

This past year has been one of enormous growth highlighted by many new and exciting initiatives and success stories. We are proud to have played such a critical role in the passing of New Jersey's Good Samaritan Law. Working with the "youth" is a key objective, and we are so excited our campus "heart clubs" continue to grow in number of clubs as well as members. We even tried to mix it up a bit by introducing a new fundraising event during "Heart Month" in February of this year. "Dance With Heart" was an amazing success and an event we hope to replicate in the near future.

Looking back, we are truly humbled by the number of lives we have touched and how many lives have touched us in return. Thank you for all your love and support. Your strength, inspiration, and kindness keep us focused on our journey to help eradicate the risk of sudden cardiac death.

Enjoy reading the stories!

With much gratitude, Dave, JoAnne and Andrew. ♥



*Babbitt Family (from left): David, JoAnne, and Andrew.*

## John Taylor Babbitt Foundation goals and objectives

The John Taylor Babbitt Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in John's memory and dedicated to preventing Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD). 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.
- Advising focus of club activities on Advocacy, Education, Defibrillators, and Fundraising.

### Research:

- Supporting research on genetic cardiac disorders, including Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and other diseases that increase the risk of Sudden Cardiac Death.
- Improving the accuracy and cost effectiveness of screening programs and investigating promising treatments. ♥

*The John Taylor Babbitt Foundation newsletter is published annually. For more information about our efforts to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD), please visit our website at: [www.jtbfoundation.org](http://www.jtbfoundation.org) or write: John Taylor Babbitt Foundation, P.O. Box 698, Chatham, NJ 07928.*

## Making a difference: JTB Foundation and AEDs

It is the firm belief of the Foundation that the combination of available AEDs and trained individuals has the largest impact on saving lives. Soon after placing defibrillators on the playing fields in Chatham, NJ, we developed a comprehensive guide for other communities and organizations to use should they choose to implement a similar program.

Over the past few years the JTB Foundation has responded to requests from numerous communities, businesses, schools, and sports organizations for assistance in implementing their own programs. Our work involves recommending the appropriate types of AEDs to purchase, conducting site assessments, addressing safety

and security concerns, recommending medical oversight solutions, and explaining legal issues.

None of this work would have been possible without the support of Atlantic Health Systems, which in many cases donated time and provided valuable advice to help us.

In addition to assisting communities create their own "heart safe" environments, we are pleased to report that over the past three years we have donated 23 AEDs to various organizations in need and have funded over 16 AED/CPR training classes. We look forward to continuing our efforts to ensure all places of public assembly have AEDs readily available and accessible! ♥

## Bill is under study by U.S. Congress to identify youth at risk

Congressional committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (Bill S2124) are studying a new bill that would identify young people who are at risk for Sudden Cardiac Arrest by asking parents to get answers about their children's heart health.

Bill S2124 in the Senate was introduced in February by Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and sent to committee. The House of Representatives bill, H.R. 3625, was introduced by Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ6) in December.

Under the bill, called the Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Risk Assessment, and Training in the Schools (HEARTS) Act of 2012, the questionnaires would reach every schoolchild in America through materials prepared by the Centers for Disease Control.

The questions are based on American Heart Association factors for risk.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) strikes 7,000 children a year, and only 5 percent survive. It is the leading cause of death on school property, with one student athlete falling victim to SCA every three to four days. Most children who suffer SCA have an undetected heart disease such as cardiomyopathy. An estimated 30,000 children in the United States are living with this chronic heart condition.

The bill is designed to find children with undiagnosed heart conditions that could cause SCA. The bill would also encourage schools to create Emergency Action Drills for cardiac emergencies, much like drills for fire or gunfire.

These drills would rehearse the locations of automated emergency defibrillators in schools and where and how to seek help promptly.

One of the organizations that the JTB Foundation partners with often, the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) in Tenafly, worked hard to get the bill introduced. "I am extremely pleased that CCF has contributed to moving this legislation forward," said Lisa Yue, president and founding executive director of CCF. Yue lost two infant sons to cardiomyopathy.

"Cardiomyopathy is difficult to detect without symptoms, and the consequences can be devastating for those not diagnosed," she said. "By providing educational materials on cardiomyopathy to families and schools, this legislation has the potential to save the lives of many children at risk of Sudden Cardiac Death."

She urged citizens to work with their Congressional officials to get the bill reported out of committee and passed. ♥



## The Foundation is a member of national coalition against Sudden Cardiac Arrest

The John Taylor Babbitt Foundation is a member of the national Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition, which is comprised of more than 50 organizations passionate about preventing Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) deaths.

The Coalition works cooperatively on a national level to achieve results with Congress, the Obama administration, other policy makers, the media, health care providers, and the public.

The group pushes for legislative initiatives that lead to greater public awareness, research, and access to life-saving therapies. Last year it hosted "Take a Stand Against Sudden Cardiac Arrest," a two-hour event on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC that taught the basics of hands-only CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

Members of the Babbitt Foundation attended the event, which took place at the Rayburn House Office Building. During "Take a Stand," Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tennessee) was recognized for his heroic actions in helping to save the life of a 52-year-old father of three.

Benjamin Abella, MD, of the Center for Resuscitation Science at the University of Pennsylvania, discussed the latest medical developments in the field. The event culminated with testimonials from several Sudden Cardiac Arrest survivors.

The group has spent the year pushing for the HEARTS Act of 2012 (please see related story on Page 2), and will begin other initiatives after the first of the year. ♥



*HOW TO DO CPR was one activity at an event in Washington, DC last year sponsored by the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition, of which the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation is a member. Here, Billy Fritz, an EMT on the staff of George Washington University, shows legislators, their staffs, and event participants how to perform life-saving therapy.*

## Babbitt Foundation puts strength behind passage of Good Samaritan bill

*Continued from page 1.* Bob Gordon, and Raymond J. Lesniak and Assemblyman Joseph Cryan and Assemblywoman Annette Quijano.

"We owe organizations such as the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation and its Heart Clubs a debt of gratitude for their leadership on this issue," the state senators said in a news statement. "Their hard work may be saving the life of someone you love."

JTB Board Member Marian Joyce was instrumental in the push to get the legislation passed. She attended all the meetings and hearings with senators and assembly members locally and traveled to Trenton four times for committee hearings and the final votes on the floor.

A graduate of Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, Joyce teamed with the school faculty and administration to obtain the first meeting with Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Cryan (D-Union County), who agreed to sponsor the bill (please see sidebar story).

JTB strongly supported another critical piece of legislation that was passed this fall, "Janet's Law," which is named for Janet Zilinski, an 11-year-old from Warren who collapsed and died in 2006 due to a sudden cardiac arrest during cheerleading practice.

It requires all New Jersey public and non-public schools to be equipped with an AED.

Furthermore, the bill establishes emergency action plans for responding to sudden cardiac events. Under the new legislation, school officials and coaches would have to learn how to

operate an AED. Gov. Christie signed Janet's Law on Sept. 21.

"Janet's Law is consistent with our objectives of ensuring AEDs are in all places of public assembly," said Babbitt.

One of the reasons JTB worked so hard for the Good Samaritan Bill, she stressed, was that in New Jersey fear of getting sued kept most schools and community facilities from young athletes from getting AEDs. Up until now, law required that only a person holding current certification could use a defibrillator during an emergency.

Babbitt learned firsthand about the wide-

spread reluctance when her foundation ran into difficulty getting schools, municipalities, and churches to accept its AED donations. "We literally couldn't give these things away," Babbitt said.

Foundation supporters had to show lawmakers that defibrillators are the most critical step for survival of sudden cardiac arrest and that they do not injure those who undergo their use.

"New AEDs speak the instructions step-by-step and will only recommend a shock if there is no heartbeat," she explained. "You cannot hurt someone with this device." ♥

### Students of Elizabeth school aid in lobbying for Good Samaritan bill

The JTB Heart Club at Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth has a serious purpose: to save young lives.

But the members also have another strong interest, politics. Putting those two passions together, they lobbied successfully this winter and spring for passage of the NJ Good Samaritan law that absolves from civil liability those who use automated external defibrillators at schools, churches, and athletic playing fields to save lives of young athletes stricken with sudden cardiac arrest.

"One of our classmate's brothers died a few years ago at a high school gym because precious time was lost before help could be obtained," said Andrea Mendoza, president of the Benedictine JTB Heart Club.

In lobbying Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Cryan (D-Union County), Andrea said Benedictine Academy recently acquired a device with a grant from the foundation and that staff and students had been trained to use it.

Andrea told Cryan that "the technology has advanced to the point that the use of an AED, according to recent studies, can safely be used even by an untrained sixth grader." For every minute that an AED is not used on a victim of sudden cardiac arrest, she pointed out, "that person's chance of survival goes down by 7 to 10 percent."

The initial meeting between the girls of the JTB Heart Club and Cryan resulted in Cryan agreeing to sponsor the bill. Cryan asked the girls to testify in Trenton before the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee along with JoAnne Babbitt, vice president of JTB, and Corinne Orlando of the American Heart Association. That took place in January.

They were overjoyed when the bill passed both legislative bodies. "There is no reason in good faith that this should not be done," noted Benedictine Academy Campus Minister Linda Michalski. "It is an opportunity to save a life."



# News updates from JTB Heart Clubs — empowering our youth to make a difference and save lives

## Fairfield University students rally for First Walk With Heart in Connecticut Photos continued from page 1 story.



CAMARADERIE OF Fairfield students was evident as they walked to support the mission of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation.



JTB HEART CLUB President Cathleen Keating (right), a senior, gets congratulations from John Taylor Babbitt Foundation President David Babbitt for the superb planning she did for Fairfield University's first Walk With Heart.



HEARTY SANDWICHES were served for lunch following the two-hour walk.

### JTB Heart Clubs in high schools, colleges

Sudden Cardiac Arrest has touched the lives of many high school and college students in the Northeast, and some of them have flocked to the JTB Heart Clubs on their campuses to create awareness.

The high schools and college clubs are founded, organized and run by students. They contribute to the Foundation mission by focusing on three goals: *Advocacy, Education and Defibrillators (AED)*.

*Advocacy* is the promotion of laws, regulations and policies designed to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death. *Education* involves raising public awareness regarding Sudden Cardiac Death. *Defibrillators* are essential to decrease the risk of death due to sudden cardiac arrest, and clubs work to ensure their campuses

have defibrillators and emergency response plans.

The newest local school to start a club is Kent Place in Summit. Fairfield University has an active club and just had a successful fundraiser.

Chatham High School's club is very involved. It focuses on the Education component, working with the Foundation by setting up SCA informational kiosks at local farmers markets, the annual Chatham Fishawack festival, and during the holidays at Barnes and Noble in Livingston Mall.

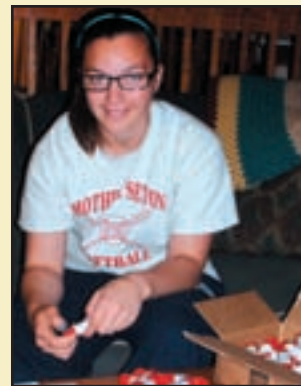
Last October, the club worked with the CHS Athletic Department to obtain permissions, then purchase red shoelaces, which they distribute to all sports teams to wear. ♥

### Clark teen Katelin Barone raises money for cardiac awareness in many ways

Teenagers love to wear symbols. Teenagers who support the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation like to wear a special symbol: red laces in their sneakers.

Katelin Barone, a 17-year-old senior at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark and a leader of the school's very active JTB Heart Club, promotes the sale of red laces as a way to support the Foundation mission.

She and the club received a grant from the Foundation to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) for Mother Seton. Last spring she organized a bake sale that raised \$300 toward the purchase of another machine



RED SHOE-LACES are sold, \$2 a piece, by Katelin Barone and fellow members of the JTB Heart Club at their school, Mother Seton Regional in Clark, to promote the Foundation's mission.

and has continued her fund raising activities so that the club can complete its purchase next month.

As an athlete (Katelin swims and plays volleyball), she says she is acutely aware of the need for AEDs in schools. As a summer lifeguard, she learned how to operate an AED and now teaches Mother Seton students how to do CPR and operate an AED.

She is grateful to JoAnne Babbitt, vice president of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation, for supplying her and her club with information. "I'm arranging for Mrs. Babbitt to come to school to speak later this fall," she stated. ♥

## On a bright May Sunday Pingry School Walk With Heart attracts 375

More than 375 people of all ages put on their sneakers and trekked two miles through The Pingry School campus in Bernards Township in the school JTB Heart Club's annual fundraising event for the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation on Sunday, May 20.

This year's Walk With Heart raised more than \$50,000.

Students, their friends, parents, and neighbors walked, snacked under a tent, listened to music and speakers, and sponsored a raffle to raise money for awareness of sudden cardiac arrest. John Taylor Babbitt was 16 years old and a junior at Pingry when he collapsed and died from an undiagnosed heart condition while playing basketball in his Youth Ministry league. He was a 2003 graduate of St. Patrick's School in Chatham. Beside playing basketball, John, an avid sports fan, played football, soccer and baseball.

Since John's death, a community service club formed at the school to keep his memory alive and raise money to help to support the goals of the Foundation. There are 70 members now in the club from all four high school grades, each doing his or her part to encourage participation from many quarters and raise

funds, including bake sales.

In addition to the myriads of Pingry students who walk, dozens of relatives, high school and college friends of JTB Foundation members travel from Connecticut, Maryland, and from as far away as South Carolina to attend. There is also a large Chatham contingent that makes an effort to come.

Many of John's Pingry classmates, now living in NYC, also attend the event. "The event is something we look forward to continuing in the future," said JTB Foundation Vice President JoAnne Babbitt.

Some of Pingry's seniors take on leadership of the Walk as part of the school's required Independent Senior Project. The JTB Foundation traditionally selects three to four students to lead the Walk each year to fulfill their project. This year's seniors who ran the event were Will Kelly, Ashley Hough, Matt Lipper and Annie Vreeland.

To create excitement for the Walk, the JTB Heart Club reaches out to the student body. Leaders went to Pingry's Lower School in Short Hills to ask for participation of the younger kids.



BALLOONS ABOVE Pingry School as the Walk With Heart kicked off in May. Organizers were (from left) Will Kelly, Ashley Hough, Matt Lipper, and Annie Vreeland of the school's JTB Heart Club.



GORGEOUS MAY DAY for the Walk With Heart brought out exercise-lovers... and their exercise-loving pets.

### Gift wrapping in Dec. at Barnes and Noble

Hands that have wrapped hundreds of Christmas gifts will wrap yours when local high school JTB Heart Clubs and members of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation participate in a gift wrap to raise funds this Christmas season.

Friday, Dec. 14 from 5 to 10 p.m. is when foundation supporters will gift wrap at Barnes and Noble in the Livingston Mall. Stop in and buy your holiday books, cards, and reading devices and have them wrapped expertly. ♥



T-SHIRTS that said "2012 Walk With Heart" graced every walker and volunteer.



EVEN THE TODDLER SET got involved. This is Pingry history instructor Michael Webster with his twins.





*MEDICAL RESEARCH team from Tufts University working on the genetics of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) includes (from left) Jenna Calvino, research assistant, Betty Shum, a second-year Tufts medical student, Marina Freytsis, a Tufts graduate student in genetics, and team leader Dr. Gordon Huggins.*

## Foundation research grant to Tufts results in powerful findings so far

**H**ow do genetics and genetic mutations lead to defects in the heart?

That is the focus of research at the Molecular Cardiology Research Institute at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, research that is partly funded by the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation.

Last year the Foundation gave a grant to the institute's Dr. Gordon Huggins to study genetic modifiers for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM), a disease of the heart that can cause Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Current medical therapies — beta-blocking drugs and calcium channel blockers — decrease symptoms of heart failure from HCM but do not prevent it or alter the natural history of the disease, according to Huggins.

In a report to the Foundation in June, he said his institute was able to make "tremendous accomplishments" this year in HCM research.

Huggins looked specifically at a gene called FHOD3 to determine its role in the disease. He informed the Foundation that his genetic studies indicated that those people with HCM are more likely to carry a form of the FHOD3 gene with a different amino acid sequence than those who don't have the disease.

He speculated that this may have a deleterious effect on the function of the proteins that heart muscle cells use to generate contraction. Huggins said the research is exciting and on its way to publication in several medical journals.

Huggins also reported that because of Foundation support he and his team were able to fund the work of Tufts medical student-trainees in the lab and collect and purify DNA from patients treated in the Tufts Medical Center HCM Clinic.

Now, he said, his group has 340 purified DNA samples. "Recognizing that qualified academic partners could make important discoveries using these precious samples, we considered several research partnerships," stated Huggins. "Currently the samples are supporting research performed at the Mayo Clinic and the Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston."

According to Huggins, his lab has also begun a rigorous program for collection of muscle tissue taken from HCM patients at the time of surgery for heart failure.

In continuing the grant to Huggins for 2012-2013, the Foundation is hoping the geneticist can build on his current FHOD3 gene research. Support for the coming year will go toward additional experiments that may be required for the research to appear in the American Heart Association journal *Circulation* and other scientific publications.

One aspect Huggins will look into is how a protein found in cells, transforming growth factor beta (TGF- $\beta$ ), might be the suspect in HCM. This protein controls cell proliferation and is a factor in cancer as well as heart disease.

Testing on mouse models has shown that stimulation of the TGF- $\beta$  in cardiac fibroblast cells may prevent development of HCM. But this has to translate to human cells, Huggins emphasized.

"We propose important early experiments using HCM tissue samples we have collected to ask whether TGF- $\beta$  is active in human HCM tissue," he said. "If this result is positive, then there may be a role for drugs that target the TGF- $\beta$  pathway as a treatment for HCM."

Drugs such as losartan, used to control high blood pressure, will be part of the protocol, Huggins reported.

Where is the research going? Future steps could involve testing new therapies on patients, Huggins stated.

"Achieving this experimental goal will help determine whether drugs that target TGF- $\beta$  should be tested in patients that have HCM," he noted.

One day, results of research funded by the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation could produce drugs that prevent HCM in genetically susceptible individuals as well as modify disease progression in patients with established HCM.

"We gratefully appreciate the support of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation toward our entire HCM research program," Huggins stated. ♥

## Babbitt speaks at national medical meeting

**J**oAnne Babbitt, vice president of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation, was a featured speaker at a special "community" event before the opening of the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association (HCMA) annual meeting in June in Florham Park.

The Foundation, for the past three years, has awarded the HCMA a \$10,000 grant to support the work it does to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death.

The pre-meeting symposium, entitled "Sudden Cardiac Arrest in the Young — A Call to Action," was targeted to school nurses, athletic directors, coaches and other medical personnel who work with young adults/athletes. It was free.

Babbitt spoke on real-life solutions to the problem of implementing an automated external defibrillator (AED) program in New Jersey schools, on athletic fields, and at community facilities. "There have been some barriers," noted Babbitt, including the 1999 New Jersey Public Access Defibrillation Law states that only those individuals who hold a certification in CPR/AED training can be granted immunity from civil liability when using an AED.

"Perhaps this made sense back in the 1990s when AEDs were more complicated to use," explained Babbitt, "but studies have shown that a sixth-grade student can successfully use an AED."

She told the audience she wished she had a dollar for every meeting she had in places where the units are locked away in a desk or cabinet because of liability concerns. "I wouldn't be rich, but I certainly would be able to have a very nice dinner accompanied with some fine wine," noted Babbitt wryly.

Other barriers, she continued, are public funding for AEDs and some concern on the part of schools and municipalities that AED units could be vandalized. "Actually this was a show-stopper in one community with large, open parks," she said.

This was HCMA's 15th annual meeting. Babbitt Foundation Board Member Frances Chester manned the Foundation's Sudden Cardiac Arrest literature table in the lobby. For more information about HCMA, its website is [www.4hcm.org](http://www.4hcm.org). ♥

## Hoboken is the 'scene'

**M**ore than 200 young adults packed the Green Rock Tap & Grill on Hudson Street in Hoboken in January for a fundraiser for the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation.

Post-college age professionals paid \$40 for a night of mingling and open bar. "It was a fantastic night," said John Taylor Babbitt Foundation Board Member LeeAnne Lan.

Lan mentioned that so many of the young men and women at the fundraiser had known John through ties to Pingry, Chatham, where he lived, and youth sports.

You can see lots of photos from the event on Facebook. Look for another young adult event this winter. ♥



*AT A 5K RUN sponsored by St. Patrick Church in Chatham last year, the JTB Foundation hosted an information booth. In photo at left, then-Mayor Nelson Vaughn of Chatham (left) chatted with JTB Foundation vice president JoAnne Babbitt (center) and president David Babbitt.*

## JoAnne Babbitt nominated as New Jersey Hero

The New Jersey Heroes Program nominated JoAnne Babbitt, vice president of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation, to be a New Jersey Hero for 2011.

The program is coordinated by Mary Pat Christie, wife of the New Jersey governor.

New Jersey Heroes highlights ordinary New Jersey citizens doing extraordinary things for their communities.

Heroes do everything from growing fresh food for local food banks and soup kitchens to creating a website where everyday people can grant wishes for those in need.

“Your work is important to those around you and to our state,” Mrs. Christie wrote in a letter to Babbitt. “You are setting an excellent example for others, so please keep up the good work!” ♥

## John Taylor Babbitt Foundation Board of Directors

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Nautilus Solar and the Rice Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Donovan and family ♥

## Task force reports measures against student athlete death

A blue ribbon task force studying the incidence of young athletes who die suddenly while participating in sports in New Jersey has just released its report after two years of study.

The report recommends specific measures to help prevent Sudden Cardiac Arrest in student athletes between the ages of 12 and 19. The report agrees on screening and immediate response strategies to react to potentially fatal life-threatening arrhythmias.

The task force was formed by a New Jersey legislative mandate in 2009. Members included doctors from the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the New Jersey chapter of the American Heart Association, and the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians.

The group developed a three-pronged approach to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest among the young: Prevention, Response and Reporting.

To prevent incidents, all parents have to be educated as to the nature of the problem, the report indicated. Response includes having ready availability of an automated external defibrillator as part of a cardiac emergency plan for athletic and school personnel. There must also be a “robust” reporting and data collection process for incidents, the recommendations said.

Specifically, the report said the current pre-participation history and physical examination form for all student athletes should be replaced and a new form instituted that has more updated guidelines.

There must be continuing education for cardiac assessment in adolescents, the report suggested, and there should be a separate insurance code designated on physical paperwork allowing physicians to focus more specifically on cardiac screening and musculoskeletal examination.

The group also wants parents of student athletes to certify in writing they have reviewed a pamphlet called “Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes,” which was developed by the New Jersey chapters of the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The JTB Foundation has a copy of this pamphlet on its website, [jtbfoundation.org](http://jtbfoundation.org).

Finally, the task force highly recommended that every public and non-public school in New Jersey have one or more AEDs in all school buildings and on school grounds — no more than a one-minute or one and a half-minute walk from any site in the school.

“This is a real start,” said JoAnne Babbitt, vice president of the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation. Funding for the recommendations to be put into place is the next step, she commented. To access a copy of the full report, please contact the foundation at [info@jtbfoundation.org](mailto:info@jtbfoundation.org). ♥





@TheJTBTweet



*DANCING to the great music of the New Dakota Band all night long.*



*DANCE WITH HEART was a night of fun for Pam McHugh (left) and Terri Ballard, both of Chatham.*



*A TOAST to the JTB Foundation is made by (from left) Roberta and Chris Fraites of Westfield and Peggy Starr of Summit.*

## JTB's Dance With Heart successful first time out

In honor of National Heart Month in February, the John Taylor Babbitt Foundation held a rockin' Dance With Heart at Corpus Christi Parish Center on Southern Boulevard in Chatham and raised \$52,872.

The fare was BBQ, the attire was casual, and many came in jeans. There was a wine pull, dancing to the New Dakota Band, and a lively auction for goods and services that included a

stay at Sea Island, Georgia's The Cloister resort, a cruiser-style bicycle, a mink scarf, an iPad, tickets to "The Colbert Report" and "The Rachael Ray Show," golf at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, MD, tickets to sports events, and lots of fun shopping and dining experiences.

But the fun did not belie the seriousness of the fundraiser: to ensure that automated emergency defibrillators are in all places of public

assembly, such as schools, town buildings, and athletic playing fields.

It was the first time that the JTB Foundation held a dance, taking the place of the holiday luncheon in December. "We had many requests to include both men and women at an evening event," said Foundation President Dave Babbitt. "So we decided on a buffet dinner and dance. People loved it."

He said the foundation is deciding whether to alternate the dance one year and the luncheon the next. Stay tuned. ♥