

“Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE”

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**Bellevue Baptist Church Medical Services Ministry
& City of Memphis, TN - Division of Fire/EMS**

Nashville, TN---Tuesday, May 11th a busload of EMS providers and members of the Bellevue Baptist Church drove to Nashville to be recognized as the state winner at the Star of Life Awards Ceremony presented by Tennessee Emergency Medical Services for Children. They were accompanied by a three year old survivor, William Underwood and his parents. The ceremony presents actual patient scenarios and reunited the EMS caregivers with the individuals they treated from the eight EMS regions across the state.

Region 8 Award Winners - Bellevue Baptist Church Medical Services Ministry & City of Memphis, TN - Division of Fire/EMS
David L. Chadwick, EMT-P, FF Paramedic
Catherine Mills, RN, Volunteer
Holly Irving, Volunteer, Children's Department
Penny Williams, Volunteer, Children's Department
Gwen Kaluzny, Childcare Department Director
Paula Hise, Assistant Director of Childcare
Shari Raynor, Childcare Coordinator
Mark Scott, EMT-P, FF Paramedic
Doug McCollum, EMT-IV, FF Private
Michael Garrett, Firefighting Lieutenant
Lee Wallace, EMT-B, Driver
William Jarrett, EMT-IV, FF Private
Avis Langford-Brannon, EMT-P, FF Paramedic
Toni Armstrong, Dispatcher
Diana Buckingham, Dispatcher

Due to the large size of the congregation at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, it was recommended several years ago that a team of volunteer medical personnel be available to handle a medical emergency should it occur on the church’s campus. Doctors, nurses, paramedics and EMTs quickly responded to the call, and an Emergency Medical Ministry was established with a special room fully equipped with necessary medical supplies. Needless to say, over the years these professional volunteers have handled many emergencies, but none seemed to be as rewarding as the incident that occurred during a Wednesday night service in May 2009.

The pre-school department was full of laughing, happy children when all of a sudden one little toddler who was running, tripped and fell, striking his neck on the edge of a bookshelf. The nursery workers, who had all taken basic first aid and CPR classes, quickly recognized the child's breathing had been severely compromised, and they immediately sprang into action. One worker, Penny Williams, knowing that professional help would be on duty in the Medical Ministry room, picked up the two-year-old and ran to the medical room. Other childcare workers on duty, Holly Irving, Gwen Kaluzny and Paula Hise, called to alert them of the imminent arrival of the injured child. On arrival, Nurse Catherine Mills and Paramedic David Chadwick observed that the child's trachea had been severely traumatized, and breathing was difficult. They immediately placed the child in a supine position to fully open his airway, applied a non-rebreather oxygen mask and called 911. The child's blood flow to his extremities was getting worse, and due to an apparently crushed trachea, inserting a tube to help him breathe seemed out of the question. Knowing that an Albuterol/Xopenex breathing mixture was available, they decided to attempt it in order to help dilate the respiratory system as much as possible to allow the oxygen to be fully utilized. They converted the non-rebreather mask to an aerosol mask and administered the breathing treatment. Almost immediately the child became more pink and less combative. Memphis Fire Department ALS Truck 25C, staffed by Lt. Michael Garrett, First Responder; Driver Lee Wallace, EMT-B; Firefighter Private William Jarrett, EMT-IV; and Firefighter Avis Langford-Brannon, EMT-P and Paramedic Unit 26C, composed of the crew of Firefighter Mark Scott, EMT-P and Firefighter Private Doug McCollum, EMT-IV arrived to assist and then transport the child to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center where a surgical team had been alerted and was standing by to perform an emergency tracheotomy and repair the crushed trachea.

This incident proves that our job is not a "lone ranger" business, and when there is a team effort of lay personnel who recognize a true emergency, trained first aid providers who react instantly, volunteer medical professionals, emergency medical dispatchers, first responders, EMTs, Paramedics and an emergency department personnel alerted and prepared to receive a critical patient, the outcome is tremendous. This save was the result of a fantastic team working together.

Dr. Joe Holley, state EMS medical director, presented the "Certificate of Life" to Master Underwood that reads: "It is hereby certified and solemnly attested that William Underwood survived a life-threatening event on May 13, 2009. This certificate commemorates the first day of the rest of your life."

The Star level sponsors for this year's EMS Star of Life are Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt and Emergency Mobile Healthcare, LLC.

The mission of Tennessee Emergency Medical Services for Children Foundation, the host of the EMS Star of Life, is to ensure that every child in Tennessee receives the best pediatric emergency care in order to eliminate the effects of severe illness and injury.