



September 8, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

Eagle River Fire Protection District has been honored to work closely with Starting Hearts since its inception in 2010. The organization and its volunteers have been instrumental in providing free CPR and AED education to Eagle County citizens of all ages. As a first response agency, Eagle River Fire Protection District has partnered with Starting Hearts for numerous public education events, including Open Houses at our fire stations, Camp 9-1-1, countywide emergency management exercises, local Farmer's Markets information booths and more.

The "Heart Rod," a decommissioned transit bus converted into a CPR/AED classroom, allows Starting Hearts the flexibility to provide their CALL. PUSH. SHOCK.™ (CPS) Certification program anywhere. The 45-minute training empowers the public by providing them the knowledge to recognize the signs and symptoms of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), and the ability to spring into action to save a life. This can save precious seconds which help minimize patient brain damage, and could even preserve the life of the patient until emergency personnel can arrive.

Starting Hearts' programs go far beyond education. The organization has been instrumental in placing AEDs throughout the Vail Valley, substantially increasing the public's accessibility to these potentially life-saving devices. Their Neighbor Saver™ smartphone app also provides a community-wide SCA response system that coordinates 9-1-1 dispatch information to alert nearby citizen responders when their help is needed.

In summary, Starting Hearts is an invaluable resource that helps make our communities safer by increasing access to AEDs and providing individual and group training for youth, adults, businesses, neighborhoods and other organizations wishing to learn how to respond quickly and effectively to SCA events.

Sincerely,

Tracy LeClair
Community Risk Manager
Eagle River Fire Protection District