

Parish Health Ministry

PHM Partnering Churches Distribute Yellow Dot Community Wide

The Yellow Dot program is designed to quickly communicate current and crucial medical conditions to fire, police and paramedics responding to an automobile accident. Its purpose is to relay this vital information to rescuers in the crucial “golden hour,” the first 60 minutes after a serious accident, where such information can be the difference between life and death. Following successful distributions of the ERH Parish Health Ministry (PHM) Yellow Dot program in their respective churches, the health cabinets at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Washington Court House and Community United Methodist Church in Circleville, two partnering churches of PHM, have taken the next step by distributing approximately 1400 program kits community-wide.

St. Andrew’s met with local authorities, the Chief of Police, the Fire Department, Fayette County Sheriff Stanforth, the director of the local Emergency Medical Service and the local hospital. “Everyone was quite enthusiastic about the program and thought the Yellow Dot would greatly benefit their first responders,” stated Liz Rea, Education and Spiritual Growth Coordinator at St. Andrew’s.



When Washington Court House Police Chief Hottenger suggested corporate sponsorship of the program to defray the cost of additional kits, Liz contacted local car dealerships and was met with a positive response. With donations from those car dealerships and additional funding from St. Andrew’s, 600 kits were purchased from ERH Parish Health Ministry (PHM). To reach the community, St. Andrew’s added the Yellow Dot kits to their

table at this year’s Fayette County Health Fair, where the church annually passes out bookmarks and takes prayer requests. Volunteers from St. Andrew’s also actively worked the crowd at the health fair. Through all its volunteers’ efforts at the fair, St. Andrew’s passed out almost all of the 600 kits on hand.

Following the success at the Health Fair, Sheriff Stanforth contacted Liz requesting St. Andrew’s share the Sheriff’s Booth at the Fayette County Fair to pass out Yellow Dot kits. Again, with

monies from private donations and St. Andrew's, an additional 500 kits were purchased from PHM and distributed at the fair. "We have had nothing but positive feedback from the community" stated Liz. "People from neighboring counties are interested, and I refer them to ERH Parish Health Ministry."

Likewise, Community United Methodist of Circleville met with local authorities. Connie Kelly, the PHM lead at the church, met with the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the City of Circleville Safety Office. Again, local authorities were very willing to implement the Yellow Dot program and train their EMS to recognize the Yellow Dot. Community United Methodist applied for a grant through the local hospital, Berger Health Systems Foundation, to purchase 1000 Yellow Dot kits. Receiving funding from that grant for 75% of the cost of the kits, the church funded the rest.

The local newspaper, the *Circleville Herald*, featured the Yellow Dot program in a front page article in April. Yellow Dots are currently being distributed at the local fire and police stations. To date 250-300 kits have been distributed through the efforts of Community United Methodist. In an effort to increase distribution even further, Connie is organizing a meeting with the local Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT), a council dedicated to senior safety, to present the Yellow Dot Program and how best to distribute additional kits to seniors. Through the efforts of both St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Washington Court House and Community United Methodist Church in Circleville, many individuals in Ohio have vital information readily available to first responders in case they are in a car accident, thus ensuring the best possible care during that crucial "golden" hour.

For more information about the Yellow Dot program or to kick off the program for your church and/or community, contact Jeanne Palcic at (513) 272-5555 ext. 4223.