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**2022 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS**


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THE MARYLAND EMS FOR CHILDREN AWARD■ **DR. BRUCE KLEIN**

**THE MARYLAND EMS FOR AWARD** is This award is given to an adult or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the care for children and for promoting Family Centered Care in a Maryland EMS program or hospital. This year, we honor **Dr. Bruce Klein**.

Dr. Klein has dedicated his medical career to improving the care of seriously ill and injured children of all ages and passionately advocating for family-centered care both in the State of Maryland and beyond. Dr. Klein spent 36 of his 43 years in pediatric practice serving children and families in the Baltimore-Washington region, the last 29 of which he also dedicated to pediatric transport. To date, he has mentored more than 100 students and physicians, co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications, review articles, editorials, and book chapters, and given more than 250 invited local, regional, and national talks focusing on pediatric emergency care and transport medicine.

Dr. Klein has provided a unique service to Maryland children and their families through his role in leading two large pediatric transport teams that serve our state at two major pediatric specialty centers. His outstanding contributions are evidenced by his current and past work in the Pediatric Transport Service and the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Children's Cen-



▲ From left: MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge; Dr. Bruce Klein; and Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director of Pediatrics.

ter, as well as the Transport Medicine service and the Division of Emergency Medicine at the Children's National Medical Center. Dr. Klein has worked on programs with the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) including the Gun Violence as a Public Health Epidemic Task Force and has held multiple leadership roles in national professional societies and steering committees focused on improving pediatric emergency care nationwide.

Standing as testament to Dr. Klein's lifelong advocacy for pediatric care is his involvement in several

national committees, including the Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) and co-edited several editions of the AAP's Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals course. Dr. Klein worked with Maryland EMSC on the state PEPP Steering Committee and served as faculty for the Advance Pediatric Life Support course for physicians for many years. He has also taught pediatric emergency care in most Maryland front-line community hospitals bringing feedback from the pediatric transport team to the referring hospitals. ■

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**ONLINE NOMINATIONS FOR 2023 ANNUAL RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS NOW OPEN**


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*Nomination forms for the 2023 Right Care When It Counts awards are open online. Actions taking place between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, are eligible. The deadline is Friday, March 31, 2023. For more information, see page 15, or visit <https://miemss.org/home/ems-providers>.*

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## 2022 Right Care When It Counts Awards

FOR 19 YEARS, the Maryland EMS for Children Program has recognized children and youth from across Maryland who have learned about prevention and how to act when they see someone in need of help. This year, six young heroes received Right Care When It Counts awards for bravely taking action to help someone in need.

### ■ CALEIGH WILSON, OLIVIA FAHLBUSH, AND AMELIA GRANT

**EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD** **Caleigh Wilson**, a lifeguard at Life Time Fitness, was at her lifeguard stand monitoring swimmers in the facility's lap pool when, shortly after 3:00 p.m., she observed a swimmer in distress. The man was swimming erratically as he moved from the shallow end to the deep end, veering into the lap lane. He briefly submerged then resurfaced, and swam to the side of the pool, where he held onto the wall for support.

Caleigh went to investigate, and he explained that he "felt like I was drowning." Suddenly, the swimmer lost consciousness while still in the water. Immediately recognizing that the man was unresponsive, Caleigh grabbed his arm, preventing him from submerging. She quickly called other lifeguards for assistance.

Life Time Fitness Manager Megan Davis assisted Caleigh while two of her fellow lifeguards, 18-year-old **Olivia Fahlbush** and 14-year-old **Amelia Grant**, brought the backboard. Working together, the team successfully removed the patient from the pool. Conducting a primary assessment, the quickly determined that the man was not breathing, nor did he have a pulse. They initiated a call to 9-1-1 and immediately began chest compressions and administered ventilations via bag valve mask. Working together, they applied the AED pads, and the patient was shocked three times prior to the arrival of EMS. They continued chest



▲ From left: Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Director, Maryland EMS for Children Department; MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge; Amelia Grant; Caleigh Wilson; Olivia Fahlbush; and Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director of Pediatrics.

compressions and providing ventilations until Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) personnel arrived on scene.

MCFRS crews assumed patient care from the staff, and very soon determined the patient was experiencing ventricular tachycardia. After three more defibrillations, return of spontaneous circulation was achieved, and the patient was moved to the EMS unit for transport to the hospital. En route to the hospital, the patient began to wake up; by the time the ambulance arrived at the emergency room, the patient was awake and talking to the EMS crew. During his stay at the hospital, the

patient received a pacemaker before being discharged, neurologically intact. He has since returned to Life Time Fitness, where he has resumed swimming laps on a regular basis.

The Chain of Survival begins with recognition of an emergency. From quickly identifying the emergency and removing the patient from the water to their early administration of high-quality CPR and defibrillation, the swift, decisive actions of Caleigh Wilson, Olivia Fahlbush, and Amelia Grant played an integral part in this positive patient outcome. In recognition of their efforts, we are pleased to recognize them with these 2022 Right Care When It Counts awards. ■



## 2022 RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS

## ■ AVA BAUER AND ALAYNA OERTEL

**THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD** Ava Bauer was traveling with her father, Jonathan Bauer, across the Route 90 bridge in Ocean City on May 2, 2021, when their car was involved in a multi-vehicle collision that left one of the other cars dangling over the side of the bridge. After confirming Ava's wellbeing, Jonathan instructed her to remain with their car while he went to check on other accident victims.

Ava immediately dialed 9-1-1 and took it upon herself to begin checking on the welfare and needs of other drivers and passengers in her vicinity. In the process, she provided valuable intel to the 9-1-1 caller while also assisting in the care of those who were injured prior to the arrival of Ocean City Fire and EMS personnel. Meanwhile, Jonathan learned that a small child in a car seat had been ejected from the car that now dangled from the side of the bridge and into the waters of Assawoman Bay. Without hesitation, he removed his shoes, told Ava to stay near their car and, despite his fear of heights and the water's relatively shallow depth, jumped from the bridge in an effort to rescue the child.

Ava helped direct her father as he made his way to the child, who by now was floating face-down. Jonathan swam toward her and, pulling her from the water, tapped her back several times until the unresponsive child coughed up water and opened her eyes.

Fortunately, an eagle-eyed 14-year-old named **Alayna Oertel** had observed both Jonathan and the child in the water from the nearby



▲ From left: Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director of Pediatrics; Ava Bauer; Alayna Oertel; MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge; and State EMS Board Chair Clay B. Stamp.

pontoon boat her family was operating and directed her father toward them. Alayna immediately directed her father to steer the boat towards the man and child in order to help them out of the water and get them safely to shore. Once alongside the boat, Jonathan handed the child up to the Oertel family before climbing aboard himself. Alayna and her family then transported them to a nearby boat ramp, where OCFD Paramedics were waiting to administer treatment. The child was subsequently flown via MSP Medevac Trooper 4 to an area trauma center for further care.

Governor Larry Hogan subsequently recognized Jonathan's selfless efforts with a Governor's Citation in person on May 28. He was

also designated a 2022 Congressional Medal of Honor Citizen Honors Award Honoree "due to his conspicuous and selfless courage in service to his fellow Americans by going above and beyond the call of duty in aid to others."

For her own instrumental role in placing the 9-1-1 call, helping to identify injured victims on the bridge, and assisting her father in his plan to rescue himself and the young child from the water, we honor Ava Bauer with this 2022 Right Care When It Counts award. For her sharp observational skills and quick, decisive action leading to the successful rescue of the small child from Assawoman Bay, we honor Alayna Oertel with this 2022 Right Care When It Counts award. ■

## 2022 RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS

## ■ BREELLEN SISLER

**NINE-YEAR-OLD BreEllen Sisler** staying overnight with her grandmother, Donna, when, at approximately 7:00 a.m., Bree heard a loud noise upstairs. When she went to investigate, she found her grandmother on the floor of her bedroom and in extreme pain. Bree immediately informed her grandfather of the incident and initiated a 9-1-1 call.

Turning the phone over to her grandfather, she returned to be by her grandmother's side. Bree comforted her grandmother and helped her to remain calm and still, keeping her awake and ensuring she did not move before help arrived. This proved especially vital as, upon their arrival, EMS clinicians determined that Donna had suffered a broken hip, which any movement could have easily exacerbated. Donna was transported to Garrett Regional Hospital, where she underwent orthopedic surgery for her injuries.



▲ From left: MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director of Pediatrics; BreEllen Sisler; and Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Director, Maryland EMS for Children Department.

Since then, Donna has made a full recovery and is doing well thanks to the quick thinking and immediate actions of her grand-

daughter, BreEllen Sisler, whose efforts we are pleased to recognize with this Right Care When It Counts award. ■

**MIEMSS IS PLEASED TO** announce the launch of the “EMS Naloxone Leave-Behind Course” on the MIEMSS Online Training Center. This brief course covers the fundamentals of the optional protocol, which is now available in most of Maryland’s counties and cities. The continuing education module was developed with our partners at the Maryland Department of Health – Center for Harm Reduction Services.

Please take a few moments to login to the online training center ([www.emsonlinetraining.org](http://www.emsonlinetraining.org)) and learn how the naloxone leave-behind protocol makes a lifesaving impact for our patients.

