

2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM AWARD■ **JOHNS HOPKINS PEDIATRIC TRANSPORT**

▲ Members of the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport Team received the Outstanding EMS Program Award.

THE OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM AWARD recognizes a program affiliated with an EMS system component such as a hospital, educational facility, rescue squad, or EMS organization that offers an innovative approach to reducing death and disability. This year's recipient is **Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport**.

For nearly 30 years, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport has been serving Maryland's children and families (as well as its front-line community hospitals) by delivering the highest quality, compassionate care to our region's sickest and most severely injured young patients, while prioritizing their safety during the most vulnerable time in their medical journey, the transport to a quaternary care pediatric center.

Established in 1992, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport has grown from a unit-based team staffed by nurses working PICU shifts that retrieved fewer than 50 children/year to a large dedicated team transporting approximately 3,000 children, adolescents, and young adults annually from more than 60 regional healthcare facilities, as well as from other

national and international medical centers. Since its inception, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport has transported more than 50,000 children in need of specialty pediatric care, including children in cardiac arrest, trauma and burn victims, and children with life-threatening neurosurgical or cardiac emergencies.

Today, its core team consists of a dedicated group of highly trained EMTs, paramedics, and Johns Hopkins PICU nurses, in addition to respiratory therapists and pediatric critical care fellows for the transport of critically ill children, and pediatric critical care physicians. Its pediatric transport team has experience with ground, helicopter, and fixed-wing transports of children who require advanced modes of respiratory and/or extensive hemodynamic support. At the heart of its mission are continuous quality improvement, staff education, research, and innovation to ensure maximal safety during transport and to improve outcomes of its most critically ill and injured patients.

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THE MARYLAND EMS FOR CHILDREN AWARD

■ CAPTAIN LAURA MURDOCK



▲ From left: Clay B. Stamp, State EMS Board Chair; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Captain Laura Murdock; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein; Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director; and MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.

THE MARYLAND EMS FOR CHILDREN AWARD is given for 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's recipient is Captain Laura Murdock.

Captain Murdock has dedicated herself to advocacy for the prehospital emergency care of children in Montgomery County. The mother of four serves as the MIEMSS Pediatric EMS Champion for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS). Captain Murdock also serves on the county's Child Fatality Review (CFR) team, providing valuable EMS care perspective in both case review and prevention; recently, she coordinated the distribution of safety flyers to the public on SIDS prevention and the dangers of co-sleeping.

As MCFRS liaison to Montgomery County Public Schools, Captain Murdock works regularly with County Health and Human Services, ensuring coordination, communication, and education with clinicians about school

EMS emergencies, playing a vital role for the EMS system. As a member of the Montgomery County Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition, she maintains data on MCFRS EMS responses to pediatric behavioral emergencies and works to prevent youth suicidal intentions. Captain Murdock also trains MCFRS EMS clinicians on special-needs children, teaching them how to connect, react, treat, and transport this population.

As MCFRS' full-time Quality Assurance Officer, Captain Murdock regularly serves as lead remediation educator for case reviews. In this role, she reviews EMS reports of virtually all pediatric EMS incidents, identifies trends, and serves as a change agent for MCFRS. When she notified MCFRS' prevention of a recent spike in cycling injuries, it responded by distributing safety information that included an offer for free bike helmets to those in need. In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Captain Murdock worked tirelessly to find enough pediatric surgical masks for MCFRS EMS units to provide protection for patients of all ages.

The 2021 Right Care When It Counts Awards

FOR 18 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, nine young heroes received Right Care When It Counts awards for bravely taking action to help someone in need.

■ CORTLYNN GRAHAM

ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 29, 2020, Cortlynn Graham was performing her safety patrol duties in the busy parent “drop off” loop at Strawberry Knoll Elementary School in Gaithersburg, Maryland, when she noticed a toddler dash ahead of her mother, who was exiting the building. Noting that the little girl was about to run into the road, and the imminent danger, Cortlynn quickly grabbed the child, preventing her from darting into the path of an oncoming Dodge pickup truck. The driver was unaware of the near-catastrophic situation unfolding.

Through her quick thinking and immediate action, Cortlynn exemplified situational awareness, calm demeanor, and leadership required of school patrols in the performance of their critical safety roles.



▲ From left: Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Cortlynn Graham; and MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.

■ SAVANNAH DESTINY WROBLESKI-SMITH

CARROLL COUNTY RESIDENT Savannah Destiny Wroblewski-Smith was one of seven ambassadors nominated to the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association program in 2019. Since then, she has continued to deliver programs in support of fire prevention and life safety.

After witnessing some children behaving badly in a nearby park, Savannah created several video skits promoting safety and prevention in matter ranging from dryer safety to open fire pits, which her parents have shared on social media. In addition, Savannah has also shared her timely and important messages through the Hampstead Volunteer Fire Department, as well as through other local and state channels.



▲ From left: Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMSC Department Director; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Savannah Destiny Wroblewski-Smith; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Teresa Ann Crisman, Chair of the MSA Fire and Life Safety Committee; and Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director.

2021 RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS

■ SEAN BUSICK

A MAN WAS FISHING AT A LOCAL BRIDGE on February 3, 2020, when, for unknown reasons, he fell into the water. Seventeen-year-old **Sean Busick**, who was also fishing at the same location, took notice and, with the assistance of Phillip Lewis of Washington, D.C., quickly hauled the man from the water.

Having pulled him to safety, Sean and Mr. Lewis took note that the patient, who had been face-down in the water, was not breathing. Sean immediately initiated CPR, which he had learned in high school. After a few minutes of CPR, the patient regained consciousness and was flown to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, where he was placed in the ICU due to multiple injuries. Sean will graduate from high school this spring and will attend VMI in the fall. His swift actions in rescuing the man from the water and initiating CPR played an integral role in saving the patient's life.



▲ From left: Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Sean Busick; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Clay B. Stamp, State EMS Board Chair; Dr. Thomas Chiccone, MIEMSS Region IV Medical Director; MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson; and Lt. Jen Andrews, NRP, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services.

■ BRIANA AND OLIVIA TRUITT

IN THE COURSE OF WORKING ON A public service project, Girl Scouts **Briana and Olivia Truitt** determined that many EMS personnel were not adequately prepared to communicate with and treat patients with sensory disorders, such as autism. Both girls set about conducting interviews to determine how frequently EMS personnel encounter such individuals, the manner in which they respond to and treat those individuals, and to identify what tools could potentially make it easier for everyone involved.

Their first step was to create a t-shirt to promote Sensory Disorder Awareness, as well as to raise money to buy supplies for assembling Sensory Disorder Kits for Fire and EMS agencies. These special kits contain handmade blankets, dry erase boards, sunglasses, toys for fidgeting or occupying patients' hands, noise-dampening headphones, and laminated picture cards for injury location and pain scale. The girls also produced an accompanying training video to brief EMS clinicians on the contents of the kits, which were in active use within 24 hours of their being placed on Salisbury Fire and EMS units.

Today, ambulances and fire trucks in Salisbury, Sharptown, Willards, Powellville, Delmar, Fruitland, Hebron, and Parnsburg carry these kits, with more localities planned for the future.



▲ From left: Captain Chris Truitt, Salisbury Fire Department; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Olivia Truitt; Briana Truitt, MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson; and Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

2021 RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS

■ HOLDEN SPECK

ON JULY 13, 2020, the Montgomery County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call from 10-year-old **Holden Speck**, who at the time was home with his father, David, and his 7-year-old sister, Kylie. Holden reported that his father was shaking and throwing up. Although Holden was initially upset, upon speaking with the dispatcher he immediately calmed down and set about answering questions in order to get help for his father. Throughout the call, Holden remained calm, focused, and answered every question, including the address, his father's age, specifics about his father's medical history, and where to locate his father's medication. He also indicated that he would be able to contact neighbors to watch him and his sister while his father was transported to the hospital.

Holden also updated the dispatcher on his father's status, including that he was snoring and making "weird noises," prompting the dispatcher to run the EMD breathing diagnostic, which Holden performed flawlessly. He was also able to direct Kylie to unlock the front door and begin gathering their father's medications for EMS personnel while remaining by his father's side to continue monitoring his condition. Despite the fear of witnessing his father's medical emergency, Holden demonstrated gentle understanding with his sister, keeping her calm throughout the event, and even reminding her to put on her mask, due to COVID-19 precautions, when EMS arrived on the scene. Though only 10-years-old, Holden exemplified the type of caller that 9-1-1 dispatchers everywhere hope to have on the other end of the line with every call.



▲ From left: Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Holden Speck; and MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.

■ ARMON SALEEM WILSON AND MACAYLA MILES

HAVING COMPLETED THEIR AFTER-NOON CLASS at the Howard County Public School System's Applications and Research Laboratory (ARL), Wilde Lake High School students **Armon Saleem Wilson and Macayla Miles** were returning to their home school when their bus stopped within a few blocks of their destination. Armon and Macayla, both EMT Trainees, took notice when their driver placed the bus in park and frantically ran across the street to where a stricken child lay.

Without a moment's hesitation, Armon and Macayla also ran over to the injured child. They quickly assessed the patient and, having determined that the child was in full cardiac arrest, immediately initiated CPR. Both students carried on their resuscitative efforts until responding Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services personnel arrived.

Armon and Macayla graduated high school in the spring of 2020 and have since started on new educational programs.



▲ From left: Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Macayla Miles; Armon Saleem Wilson; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson; Howard County Chief Administrative Officer Lonnie Robbins; and Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services Deputy Chief John Jerome.

2021 RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS

■ SAMARIE BRACKETT

THE HIGH SCHOOL FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM, a collaborative effort between the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and Prince George's County Public Schools, is designed to prepare students for opportunities in Fire and EMS. Cadet **Samarie Brackett**, a first-year student in the program, showed her mettle when she quickly initiated CPR on an unconscious employee of the driving school in which she was enrolled.

The victim resumed breathing, but soon began choking and once again stopped breathing. Despite extreme fatigue, Cadet Brackett jumped back into action and continued administering CPR until first responders arrived and took over. If not for her efforts, another school employee noted, "I believe this day would have turned out differently." Cadet Brackett's quick thinking and immediate action helped to provide the best chance possible for a successful outcome to this incident.



▲ From left: Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department Fire Chief Tiffany Green; Acting Deputy Chief Dwayne Bonnett; Samarie Brackett; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson; and Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

Maryland Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group Launches Website Offering Guidance to Citizens, Public, and Private Institutions

THE MARYLAND ACTIVE ASSAILANT INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK GROUP (AAIWG) announces the launch of its new website, aaiwg.maryland.gov, which includes resources for Marylanders describing how to best prepare schools, homes, houses of worship, and businesses for an active assailant incident.

The safety and security of all Marylanders has always been a top priority for the Hogan-Rutherford administration. In February 2018, Governor Larry Hogan issued an executive order formally establishing the AAIWG as a public body with specific goals and objectives.

This website provides practical, evidence-based direction and information and serves as a valuable tool to identify, update, and share best practices to help Maryland prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from an unexpected attack. Some of the important topics covered include Active Shooter Preparedness for Private Citizens and information regarding the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course.

The AAIWG was established after the tragic Washing-



ton Navy Yard shooting in September 2013. The Maryland State Police (MSP) and Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) co-chair the work group with leadership and policy oversight provided by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The AAIWG involves participants from throughout the State of Maryland and the National Capital Region in all facets of active assailant prevention, preparedness, and response.

The work group created this resource-oriented site developed by subject matter experts from across the state that includes specific content for:

- Emergency management and public safety personnel
- Businesses and employers
- Houses of worship
- Schools and universities
- Health and human services
- Special events and tourist attractions
- Families and individuals

For additional information, visit aaiwg.maryland.gov or contact aaiwg.mema@maryland.gov.