

Congress, Nonprofits Took a Stand, Practiced CPR and AED Use to Increase Awareness of SCA



SCAA, in cooperation with the Congressional Heart & Stroke Caucus, joined other members of the SCA Coalition to host "Take a Stand Against SCA" on October 26, 2011, teaching the basics of Hands Only CPR and AED use to members of Congress and legislative aides. Commemorating October as National SCA Awareness Month, the event raised awareness of the public health crisis of SCA, CPR and use of AEDs and legislation aimed at increasing bystander intervention through public education and access to lifesaving devices. An award was presented to [Representative Lois Capps](#) (D-CA) for her longtime support of heart-healthy, education and emergency response measures, including the newly introduced Teaching Children to Save Lives Act.

[Representative Phil Roe](#) (R-TN) also was recognized for recently providing lifesaving assistance to a man experiencing SCA at a North Carolina airport. "AEDs are really idiot-proof," commented Roe, a former obstetrician/gynecologist now serving his second term in Congress. In addition, [Dr. Ben Abella](#), University of Pennsylvania, Department of Emergency Medicine, Center for Resuscitation Science, and member, SCAA Medical Advisory Board, provided a medical overview explaining how government involvement is critical to reducing loss of life from SCA. The program also included SCA survivor presentations, featuring SCA survivor and AED advocate [Pamela Bonin](#) who shared her personal experience and called attention to early implementation of the chain of survival.

Large-Scale Study Proves Importance, Value of Heart Screening in Students



SCA among young adults is a serious concern, yet the challenges with performing ECG screenings on a large scale are many, including cost, lack of infrastructure and likelihood for false positive results. But results from one large effort have proven the value and feasibility of mass screenings in school aged youth. Led by [Joseph Marek, MD](#), Midwest Heart Foundation and member, SCAA Medical Advisory

Board, 32,561 students aged 14-19 were screened in 24 Chicago suburban high schools between September 2006 and May 2009.

Over 800 students were found to have ECG abnormalities that could be associated with risk of sudden cardiac arrest. And 100 participants were found with Prolonged QTc that may indicate Long QT syndrome, which may also be associated with sudden cardiac arrest. "We believe our findings demonstrate the feasibility of performing high-quality, low cost ECG screenings in large U.S. populations which creates the potential to reduce the overall rate of SCD in our country," said Marek. Assistance from community volunteers was a key element to conducting these events over two years. Findings were published in the October 2011 edition of [HeartRhythm](#).

Take the Fear out of SCA and Help Us SCA-ve a Life



Happy Halloween! Only a few days remain in October until the ghosts, witches and monsters pay a visit to your door. As frightening as the costumes may be, there's an even scarier threat lurking in your own community: sudden cardiac arrest. This time around, instead of dishing out candy, help SCAA commemorate National SCA Awareness Month and make a difference in someone's life today, this week and this month!



Today

Donate \$10, and enable SCAA to train students nationwide in CPR and AED use.
Donate \$100, and SCAA will provide recovery and rehabilitation resources to survivors.

Donate \$1,200, and SCAA will deploy an AED in a school, church or public location.

This week

Locate AEDs in your community.

This month

Take a CPR/AED [training course](#).

This year

If you witness a cardiac emergency, stand up and step in by providing lifesaving help.

Extra! Extra! Read All About SCA in the News



Check out how SCAA has been making news in the heart world.

[SCAA Applauds Congresswoman Capps for Her Leadership and Recognition](#)

State Column

October 25, 2011

[Capps honored at event highlighting CPR/AEDs in schools](#)

Ventura County Star

October 27, 2011

Mark Your Calendar and

be there with SCAA for these Exciting Events!

[National SCA Awareness Month](#): October 1-31, 2011

[Georgia Arrhythmia SCARE 5K Run/Walk](#): October 29, 2011

[American Heart Association Scientific Sessions](#): November 12-16, 2011

[Parent Heart Watch Annual Conference](#): January 13-15, 2012

[EMS Today](#): February 28-March 3, 2012

[American College of Cardiology](#): March 24-27, 2012

[Heart Rhythm Society Annual Conference](#): May 9-12

[Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update](#): September 11-15, 2012

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Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association
1250 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
USA

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