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## NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

### **12 YEAR OLD RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR HEROISM**

VICTORIA – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) recognized 12 year old Jacob Snobelen with a Good Samaritan award to recognize his quick actions which saved his grandmother’s life.

On January 10, Belinda Landers was driving her grandson to school. She hadn’t felt well for a few hours but continued on with her day. As she was approaching the Highway near Keating Cross Road, she started to feel very strange. The last thing she remembers was the rain falling on her windshield before she fell unconscious. Jacob instantly recognized not only that his grandmother needed help but also that they were in danger of driving into oncoming traffic. Jacob initially tried to press on the brakes with his foot but was unable to reach the pedal, so he knelt down and pushed the brakes with his hands.

“The Good Samaritan Award is well-deserved recognition for Jacob’s heroism,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “Selfless behaviour is one of the qualities often displayed by members of the public as well as the paramedics who are quickly on the scene of accidents such as this crash on southern Vancouver Island.”

“The bravery of this young boy is highly commendable,” said Shawn Carby, Executive Director for BC Ambulance Service Vancouver Island region. “Jacob’s quick thinking saved not only his grandmothers life but possibly his own; and other individuals on the highway that day.”

The BCAS Good Samaritan Award is presented by the BCAS to individuals who have provided unselfish and humanitarian assistance during a medical emergency. The award aims to recognize the selfless acts of individuals, and promote and raise awareness, of the important role members of the public can play during a medical emergency.

“Jacob must have been very scared, but I am so proud of how he handled the situation,” said Sherri Snobelen, Jacob’s mom. “I’m grateful to Debbie Sargent who was in a nearby vehicle and was able to look after him and explain what the paramedics were doing and what to expect. Her actions changed the traumatic impact this accident could have had on Jacob.”

The BCAS also recognized Debbie Sargent, Associate Dean, Health and Human Services at Camosun College, with a Good Samaritan Award for her role and actions. The awards were presented at a special ceremony on May 27 by BCAS Superintendents Les Cleverly, Grant Brilz and Quality Improvement Coordinator Dale Aylward.

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