
NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

GRANDMOTHER AND NANNY SAVE LIFE OF SEVEN-DAY OLD BABY

VICTORIA- The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented two women with Vital Link Awards to recognize their actions that saved the life of a seven-day old baby. The awards were presented at the BCAS Regional Office in Victoria earlier today with the parents and infant present.

“Most out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen at home,” said Vancouver Islands BCAS Executive Director, Shawn Carby. “These two women prove that early recognition of a cardiac arrest, immediate initiation of CPR and calling BCAS dispatchers for assistance, can make a critical difference in patient outcome.”

On February 10, 2008, seven-day old Thomas Eaton began choking; his breathing became shallow and he quickly started turning blue. Anita Berlin, the baby’s grandmother, realized he was not breathing and his pulse was weak. After she checked to see if anything was in his mouth, she began giving the baby mouth to mouth resuscitation and called for Geraldine Eda, Thomas’ nanny, who had recently taken an infant Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course. When Eda could no longer feel a pulse she initiated infant chest compressions. Berlin called 9-1-1 and the BCAS dispatcher was able to provide clear instructions on how to continue performing infant CPR until BCAS paramedics arrived.

“I believe that there was a direct link between taking the infant CPR course and Thomas surviving,” said Shelly Berlin. “Without Geraldine and my mom knowing what to do in an emergency, and the CPR instructions from the BCAS dispatchers, Thomas would not be here today.”

The BCAS Vital Link Award is presented to individuals who are involved in successful CPR efforts. Aside from providing some much-deserved recognition, the Vital Link Award is an opportunity to further community awareness about the benefits of learning CPR. November is CPR month.

The Vital Link Award was presented at 3300 Douglas Street, Victoria by Superintendent Dave Valentine and Superintendent Grant Brilz.

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