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The Essex Foundation Helps First Congregational Prepare For Medical Emergencies *Awards grant to church for AED purchase*

Essex, CT -- After two separate medical emergencies at First Congregational Church (FCC) in Essex last year, members realized the need for having an automated external defibrillator (AED) on site. In addition to worship services, the church welcomes over 400 guests, many who are middle-age or older, into the building each week for various community gatherings including pre-school, 12-step programs, karate, big band and quilting groups. Reverend Kenneth Peterkin reached out to The Essex Foundation, requesting financial assistance for purchasing an AED and a cabinet to house it. The grant request was quickly approved by the Foundation's board members, allowing the equipment to be purchased and installed at the church this winter.



An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart to potentially stop an irregular heart beat and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest. With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson as well as people with first-aid, first responder and CPR training.

According to Reverend Peterkin, "FCC Essex is grateful to receive the grant from The Essex Foundation. Not only do we feel this to be a potentially life-saving item to keep close at hand for our more mature Congregation members and our guests from the greater community, as we expand our ministry to become a fine wedding venue, we also feel fortunate to offer peace-of-mind to all those who enter here."

Supported by donations from the community, The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents by providing funding for needs not met by other organizations or sources. More information can be found online at www.theessexfoundation.org or by emailing contact@theessexfoundation.org.

Pictured above: Reverend Peterkin displays the portable AED device outside the First Congregational Church.