

Parents, coaches and school administrators,

Over four years ago, we lost our son Patrick to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). He was 5'8" and 180 pound healthy/happy 14 year old kid. He passed away during a hockey game in Brainerd. He scored the game's 1st goal, then collapsed on the ice moments later. The Medical Examiner found he had 2 undetected structural heart defects. After his death, we reviewed his medical records which showed he had high blood pressure. Nothing was mentioned to us about his high blood pressure at any of his four medical exams/sports physicals in the two years prior to his death.

We started the Patrick Schoonover Heart Foundation so parents did not have to experience the loss of a child like we did. Patrick's Foundation offers "Play For Patrick" Heart Screens free of charge to all kids/young adults ages 14-24. The screen includes: Family Health History, Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, EKG (Electrical activity of the heart), Echo (Physical structure of heart) and Physician consultation. Kids & Parents are also taught bystander CPR and AED awareness. The Foundation will also donate a new AED to an area High school.

From August 2015 to May 2019, Patrick's Foundation conducted 17-Play for Patrick youth heart screens. Screened 2,902 kids, found 158 with elevated blood pressure (w/repeated check), 228 with abnormal electrical or structural heart defects, taught 2,687 kids & adults CPR & AED awareness and donated 7 AEDs to area High Schools.

We cannot bring Patrick back, however we can help others avoid losing their child. Gayle & I encourage you to take advantage of this life saving event. If you have a child 14-24, please register them today at www.playforpatrick.org

Gayle & Mike Schoonover