



THE HEMS DISPATCH



It was our pleasure to host Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, and Congresswoman Ilhan Omar for a tour of one of our Hennepin EMS ambulances at a recent Whittier Clinic event. Earlier this year, they worked to secure federal funding to be used toward the clinic and HEMS – both of which provide an important safety net service to the local community and ensure everyone has access to equitable healthcare.

It was an honor to show our federal legislators how the investments made through appropriations are making a direct difference for us. One example is through our investment into portable ultrasound machines. The portable ultrasound devices allow paramedics to view cardiac activity, fluid on the lungs, abdominal aortic aneurysm, abdominal organ trauma and much more. Earlier detection of life-threatening illness or injury has saved lives, and we're grateful for the impact this tool has already had on patient outcomes.

We have several other legislators doing ride-alongs in the coming weeks and look forward to sharing similar successes with them. If you're an elected official and would like to see firsthand what HEMS is doing to provide premier EMS services in the community, please reach out. With strong community partnerships and support from legislators both at the state and federal level, we look forward to providing this exceptional care for years to come.

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HEMS

BY THE NUMBERS

Earlier this month, we celebrated **24** students who completed the EMR course through Hennepin Healthcare's Talent Garden, a **six**-week summer internship program where students get to shadow providers across the healthcare system including HEMS.

The Talent Garden's mission is to inspire and support historically excluded youth to pursue careers in healthcare. In the three years of Talent Garden summer internships, **65** high school students have finished the program and **100%** of the interns have passed their Emergency Medical Responder Exam to receive EMR and CPR credentials.



Read more about this year's students in the Here for Life blog at hennepinhealthcare.org/blog.



HEMS

IN THE COMMUNITY



Summer may be winding down, but our event schedule is not! We still have several events and concerts keeping us busy – including one recent weekend that involved four major concerts across four consecutive evenings: Metallica. Green Day. Metallica again. And Def Leppard.



Photo credit: Brad Rempel

We are excited to share that Hennepin EMS is now the EMS leader for the University of Minnesota’s large events. Our team will be providing advanced life support paramedics, incident dispatch, and command services at all U of MN home events with 10,000 or more attendees. We love serving a bustling community with diverse needs – this new service expansion adds to our exclusive EMS partnerships with Target Field, Target Stadium and U.S. Bank Stadium.



We provide EMS for several community running events, including this year’s RBC Race For The Kids, which took place on August 17. The annual walk/run along the Mississippi River includes a 5K, 5-mile, 10-mile, Kids 1K, and for the first time ever this year, a half marathon (13.1 miles) course. We are honored to support the emergency medical needs of runners, volunteers and staff as they raise money to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, which provides a home away from home for children going through a crisis.

HEMS STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We are delighted to share that our February recruit class recently celebrated their badging ceremony on August 22. Eight new medics and EMTs have completed their training will join our team. Congratulations and welcome to Copper Bibbs, Jason Gangloff, Justin Kuckenmeister, Derek Schnoor, Erika Storry, Alex Atkins, Suzy Muench and Josh Privette.





HEMS IN THE NEWS

WCCO recently spoke to Hennepin EMS team members about responding to the call that included Minneapolis Officer Jamal Mitchell, whom we sadly lost in the line of duty. Hats off to Paramedic Angela Erikson and Dr. Nick Simpson for speaking eloquently and honestly about the pain that we can carry after traumatic calls.



Hennepin EMS Deputy Chief Andy Jakacki also recently contributed an article to the Sun Sailor newspaper about the important role HEMS plays in keeping in the community safe at events – from Twins games to Morgan Wallen concerts.



HEMS SUCCESS STORIES

On a recent summer afternoon, HEMS Paramedic Rachel Geiger and her partner Ryan Fraser responded to a call for a gunshot wound. When they arrived on scene, the patient was alert and suffering visible wounds in his arm and groin. While he complained of shortness of breath, which would be typical given the stress of the situation, there was no visible injury to his chest area. Geiger immediately pulled out the portable ultrasound machine to investigate his complaint and within seconds identified any injury to his internal organs. The ultrasound screen showed a pneumothorax, also known as a collapsed lung, likely caused by the projectile entering the patient’s groin then moving upward and piercing his lung. As his heart rate started to slow to a life-threatening rate, the HEMS team was able to perform

measures that prevented him from going into cardiac arrest. Geiger credits the ultrasound for this accurate and life-saving diagnosis that was otherwise invisible to the eye.



The ultrasound changes everything. Lots of times, we have needed to create a differential diagnosis, or a guess as to what is going on with a patient. But now we can clearly identify what is going on in vital organs. It’s a game-changer on every patient we have.



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