

Milwaukee Public Schools

Immediate release

Dozens of defibrillators donated by charitable group

Forty-one WCAIO members make individual AED purchases

Calling it an “incredibly generous” gift, MPS Superintendent William Andrekopoulos accepted a donation of \$65,395 from the Wisconsin Coalition of Asian Indian Organizations (WCAIO.) The money will cover the purchase of 41 defibrillators for MPS schools. Defibrillators -- or Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) are compact resuscitation devices that can restore a heart beat in a cardiac crisis.

The WCAIO is a non-profit association with a long record of charitable projects. The organization chose the MPS defibrillator project as the recipient of its 2007 Annual Fund Raising Drive. “We identify projects that can have a significant impact on a community,” said WCAIO President Bobby Dhir. The donations were made by 41 individuals who each provided the estimated \$1,600 cost of an AED. Some donors made their gifts in



WCAIO President Bobby Dhir presents the donation to MPS Superintendent William Andrekopoulos. With them, in the back row, are Amit Ray, Anup Khullar, Yogesh Khatri, Himanshu Parikh and Sadanand Manoli. In the front row are MPS’ Ann Riojas and Becky Neumann-Schwabe.

the name of a loved one, explained Dhir. “Each donor’s contribution will be honored with a name placque at the school where the defibrillator is installed.”

“In just the last year, three people were resuscitated in three different school sites by school staff who were trained in the use of an AED,” said Becky Neumann-Schwabe, MPS’ AED trainer and a member of the Board of Project Adam, a defibrillator-awareness organization locally affiliated with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Equipping each of

MPS's approximately 160 sites with an AED is the district's goal. With 118 defibrillators already in place, the WCAIO donation brings MPS in reaching distance of that goal. "We have been the recipients of WCAIO's generosity for a number of years in a row," said Superintendent Andrekopoulos. "Most recently they had given a big boost to our vision screening program. It is difficult to count how many families' lives have been made easier because of the commitment to the community that this organization has made."

For additional information, contact Roseann St. Aubin, MPS Communications Director, at (414) 475-8237. The WCAIO is on the Web at www.wcaio.org

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