



# 'Celebrations of the Heart' Highlights Hospitals/Fire Departments Partnership

Heart patients thanked the physicians and first responders who saved their lives as John C. Lincoln wrapped up American Heart Month with "Celebrations of the Heart: Thanking the Teams Who Save Human Lives" at the Cowden Center.

Phoenix Fire Stations 7 and 33 and the Daisy Mountain Fire Department received awards honoring their partnerships with both John C. Lincoln Hospitals.

Stewart Miller, 79, of Phoenix, had a heart attack on Dec. 7, 2009, as he was unloading the family van after pet-sitting. Phoenix Fire paramedics packed Miller in icy saline bags during the race to John C. Lincoln North Mountain Hospital, where he received two new stents.

For the next four days in ICU he was sedated and hooked to the hypothermia system that lowers body temperature by 3 to 5 degrees, slowing his metabolism, reducing demand on his brain and other vital organs, and nurturing his recovery.

Jana Schloesser, 36, her husband and three children were teary-eyed as they said thank you. Schloesser had just walked away after a brief chat with her neighbor on Dec. 17, 2009, when – for no good reason – he looked back and saw her lying on the ground. He called 911 and started chest compressions, which kept her going after sudden cardiac arrest.

Installation of a wireless pacemaker in North Mountain's Cath Lab and several days of hypothermia saved her life

Tom Francis, a Deer Valley patient, had planned to be there to thank Deer Valley's Emergency Department and Cardiac Cath Lab teams and Daisy Mountain Fire paramedics, but could not attend because of a family emergency. Francis benefited from the technology installed in Daisy Mountain's eight emergency response vehicles that sends patients' EKG results via wireless Bluetooth to the Deer Valley ED while the ambulance is en route.

Physicians evaluate the EKG results to determine whether the patient is having a heart attack and mobilize the team for the patient's arrival. This saves 20 to 30 minutes in treatment time.

Bentley Bobrow, MD, medical director of the ADHS Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, ended the program by explaining how all the protocol followed by first responders and hospital personnel – CCR, hypothermia, coordinated care – is a model for saving lives.



Emergency physician Alison Smith, MD, and Daisy Mountain firefighter/engineer Gary Simpson, EMT