The David Brooks Memorial Endowment Fund

Colorado Citizens Benefit from One Family's Initiative

The David Brooks Memorial Endowment Fund was established in memory of David Brooks, who died in 1995 at the age of 12, due to an undetected heart defect. David's parents, Paul and Laurie, and sister, Jessica, wanted to do something in David's memory to help other children with heart problems. They learned that automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) could save lives. Realizing the importance of having AEDs accessible in an emergency, the Brooks family wanted to place these devices in schools. While AEDs are available in many places such as colleges, businesses, and health clubs, very few Colorado K-12 schools carry them. The Brooks family began by making a donation from their son's memorial fund—which is managed by the Denver Foundation—to help purchase AEDs for public schools. But the family decided to go even further: they approached their state senator to sponsor legislation so that all school districts are required to accept donated AEDs. In April 2005, then Colorado Governor Bill Owens (R) signed Senate Bill 170—David's Law—requiring all schools to accept donated AEDs. In addition, the bill also protects a Good Samaritan who, acting out of good faith, helps someone by using an AED in an emergency. As of January 2007, the David Brooks Memorial Endowment Fund has placed AEDs in 15 Colorado school districts.