

# Foster's Online

Dover, New Hampshire

## Making sure the heartbeat goes on

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Jen Wade's voice cracks and there are tears in her eyes when she speaks. It's not easy talking about her fiance, Shawn Hall, because she must do so in the past tense. So must Shawn's cousin, Ron Goslin, and Shawn's parents, Clarence and Trudy Wyatt.

Tuesday the foursome were at Rochester's Riverside Park, the home of the Rochester Men's Softball League. It's one of the many fields where Shawn Hall played the sport he so loved. It is also where he died.

Last August, while players shook hands at the conclusion of a playoff softball game, Shawn Hall had a massive heart attack. CPR was performed, but Hall could not be revived. He was just 30 years old.

Hall's death is still shocking nine months later as family and friends try to cope. What has made it easier, according to Hall's cousin, Ron Goslin of Middleton, was a family effort to do something lasting and useful in Hall's memory.

"He died of a heart attack, so we decided to do defibrillators," said Goslin. "And we want to put them in places that he played. If there was a game, he wanted to be in it.

"We don't know if having (a defibrillator) would have saved Shawn," Goslin added. "We just wanted to do something to remember a good guy. Sending flowers just didn't seem to cut it. I talked to my aunt and Shawn's fiance, Jen, and we went for it."

Defibrillators are portable devices used to counter attack heart attacks by supplying an electric current to reestablish normal heart beat.

Hall was an active local men's softball player at the time of his death, and Goslin said the plan is to install defibrillators at softball parks where he played in Rochester, Gonic, Dover, Farmington and Rollinsford, as well as the Simard Babe Ruth Field in Rochester, where Hall played baseball as a teenager.

Through various fundraisers, Goslin said funds have been raised to purchase six defibrillators, at a cost of approximately \$5,000. With the donation of each item, Goslin is asking that each league have some of its league officials and coaches get training to use the machines.

"These are free," said Trudy Wyatt, Hall's mom. "All I ask is they come to the classes. And we're going to have plaques saying defibrillators donated in memory of Shawn Hall.

"It's no good if you don't know how to use it," said Goslin, who added that representatives from leagues in Gonic, Rochester and Rollinsford men's softball have already done training provided free of charge by Frisbie Memorial Hospital. "Frisbie will do as many



**The memory of Shawn Hall will live on in Rochester. Family members gathered this week at Rochester's Riverside Park, where Hall died of a massive heart attack last August, to present the league with a defibrillator. From the left are Hall's cousin, Ron Goslin; Hall's fiancee, Jen Wade, and his parents, Trudy and Clarence Wyatt. Missing is Rochester Men's Softball League President Gary Bryant.**

classes as we need," added Goslin. "We can't put them there if the (leagues) don't know how to use them."

The training course educates the trainee in using the defibrillator and also CPR. There have been two classes, and two more are planned. The goal is to have three defibrillators installed by the end of the month and the other three as soon as those leagues complete training

"We're doing this because of Shawn and we wouldn't want anybody going through the same thing we did," said Jen Wade. "If we can save someone else's life then something good has come from the bad. I know that Shawn would be proud of us right now."

Wade pauses. There is a light rain falling and a few softball players are on the field preparing for a game.

"This was the hardest thing we all had to go through," she said. "This actually keeps me going, do you know what I mean? This is my first time down here (since Shawn's death) and it's really hard for me."

"Shawn had such a big heart; he'd do anything for anybody," said his mom, who cannot say enough thanks to all the businesses and people who donated to make the defibrillators possible. "And now Shawn is helping everybody else."

As all good teammates do.