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## Press Release



### Pine Crest School's Security and Health Office Applauded for Saving a Life

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., May 22, 2012 – Quick action, teamwork, preparation, and timing came together to save the life of a man who went into cardiac arrest on the school's Fort Lauderdale campus Monday morning.

The victim was waiting for his daughter to complete her swimming lesson in Pine Crest's Lower School pool when he lost consciousness and stopped breathing. A Pine Crest swim instructor quickly removed the child from the scene and called 911. After nine minutes of CPR performed by a nearby Pine Crest parent who happens to be a paramedic, and a school nurse, along with the use of an AED installed near the pool, the man was breathing with a pulse. Once the ambulance arrived, the victim was immediately transported to Holy Cross Hospital. The man, who is not a Pine Crest parent, called the swim instructor from his hospital bed Tuesday to thank her for saving his life.

Pine Crest President Dr. Dana Markham and Chief Financial Officer Jim Cowgill paid a visit to the health office Tuesday morning to personally thank and commend personnel from the Security, Health, and Swim departments for their heroic efforts. "Our response team is incredible," Dr. Dana Markham told the group. "We are so proud. You not only saved a life. You saved a family."

Susannah Bexley, the Pine Crest parent who administered the chest compressions, praised Pine Crest's response team saying, "It was the right combination of everything – early response, early CPR, and early defibrillation. To have a team that is seamless and working together like this group is statistically unbelievable."

Executive Director of Transportation, Safety, Security and Crisis Management **Joe Markham** said he is very proud of his team and extremely happy for the victim and his family. Those recognized for playing an integral part in the emergency response are Assistant Director of Security **Paul Andres**, security officers **Bobby Barrett** and **Kassandra Bennett**, Pine Crest parent and paramedic **Susannah Bexley**, Chief of Security **Jon Cole**, registered nurse **Natalie Fairbanks**, swim instructor **Andrea Guevara**, security officers **Henri Jean** and **Brandon McCoy**, and Director of Health Services **Susan Taylor**. "Current research shows that 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest patients do not make it to the hospital alive if they do not receive proper CPR and the use of an AED," said Markham, who recently was appointed to the Broward Sheriff's Foundation Advisory Board. "If that AED had not been there, this man would not be with us today."

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*Established in 1934, Pine Crest School, one of the oldest private, independent, all-faith K-12 schools in South Florida, remains an epicenter of rigorous academics, positive change, multiculturalism, and civic involvement.*