

ZOLL®

CASE STUDY

Quick-Acting Bystanders Save Volunteer's Life



Raised on a cattle ranch, Bill Butner longed to be back around horses. So when he retired from Pacific Power and Light six years ago, he and his wife, Elaine, began volunteering at the Healing Reins Therapeutic Riding Center

in Bend, Oregon. Healing Reins is an equine therapy program for individuals with special needs.

One night last January, Bill and Elaine had just finished a volunteer training orientation at the arena, when Bill collapsed on his way back from returning a horse to its paddock.

Fortunately, Carla Gibson, a new recruit and also an orthopedic and neurosurgical scrub nurse, witnessed the event and took control. She dropped to her knees and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), while telling a nearby volunteer to call 911 and another to retrieve the automated external defibrillator (AED) from the tack room a few feet away.

A fellow volunteer attached the electrodes from the ZOLL® AED Plus® to Bill's chest, and right away the AED advised a shock. Carla pushed the shock button and stepped back as the AED's audio prompt instructed. She then continued chest compressions, with the AED Plus prompting her on the quality of her chest compressions. After two minutes of CPR, the AED reanalyzed and advised another shock, which she administered. Carla traded off doing chest compressions with two other volunteers while another gave Bill breaths until the ambulance arrived 15 to 20 minutes later.

"There's a good chance I wouldn't be here or I'd have had brain damage if things hadn't fallen into place," said Bill. "I was pretty much gone until they put the AED on me. The AED saved my life."

"There were several people who played a huge role in the saving of Mr. Butner's life, but without the AED, I don't feel he would have survived!" added Carla. "It was what shocked his heart back into a more normal rhythm, which I feel is the reason he lived."

Carla found the AED Plus extremely helpful and easy to use. "The audio prompts especially made a difference since it talked you through each step of the rescue. And something I found unique to this unit was that the pads actually calculated the depth each compression was giving and would tell you whether or not compressions were deep enough."

Carla is referring to the ZOLL AED Plus' Real CPR Help® feature, which provides real-time feedback on the depth and rate of chest compressions by audibly and visually coaching rescuers with prompts such as "Push Harder" or "Good Compressions."

The ZOLL AED Plus, the first and only Full-Rescue AED that provides Real CPR Help® for depth and rate of chest compressions, audibly coaches rescuers with prompts such as "Push Harder" or "Good Compressions" during CPR.



"We have a lot of people who come through our barn doors each week, and it seemed obvious that having lifesaving support on hand was critical."

*Healing Reins Arena Executive Director
Dita Keith*

By the time the EMTs arrived, Bill was talking. He was transported to St. Charles Medical Center five miles north, where cardiologists determined he had a blockage and inserted two stents.

Two weeks later, Bill was back volunteering at Healing Reins. A month later, he and Elaine got their American Red Cross AED/CPR recertification at a training program Healing Reins sponsored.

Healing Reins Safety Program

Healing Reins purchased its AED in 2008 after the center's executive director, Dita Keith, completed CPR training and realized the need to equip the riding center with one. "We have a lot of people who come through our barn doors each week, and it seemed obvious that having lifesaving support on hand was critical," said Dita, who lobbied her board of directors for the AED purchase.

The AED Plus is centrally located, so it's easily accessible to staff and volunteers, all of whom are CPR and AED trained. Program Director Polly Cohen is responsible for maintaining the AED, checking the pads and batteries regularly to make sure they are in working order.



Bill Butner, holding the AED Plus, which helped to save his life, is surrounded by his wife and rescuers at the Healing Reins Arena. (L to R) Kris Jennings, Dennis Jennings, Butner, Elaine Butner, and Carla Gibson.

"We are so thankful to have had the proper equipment in place to save a life," said Dita. "Bill Butner is an incredible volunteer and friend to Healing Reins. It is hard to imagine what might have been had we not taken the proper precaution more than four years ago. This is an investment that every business, whether for profit or non-profit, should make, especially when a lot of people visit the premises on a regular basis."

Darcy Justice, Healing Reins' volunteer coordinator, added that the AED Plus "saved Bill's life. I have absolutely no doubt. Everything that night fell into place. If anything had been even a little bit different—from the timing when Bill went to the paddock to who was there that night—I don't think he would have made it."

A Life Changer

Bill said what happened that night at Healing Reins has changed his life. In addition to feeling better physically, he has gained a new appreciation for serving and helping others—as well as for AEDs. "I'm a definite believer in AEDs now. I can't speak enough about AEDs because one actually saved my life."

From this incident, Bill said, he and Elaine have realized that they have a lot of friends their age and older who they camp with and that what he went through could happen to any one of them at any time. Therefore they decided to purchase an AED that they carry around with them.

"If something were to happen to one of them while we were with them, we would be able to provide them the same chance I was given," explained Bill. "We can't think of anything worse than to have it occur and we did not have the tools to help them. Before my incident I can't say that I really understood the importance of this device. I had my dad and a brother die at an early age because knowledge and the equipment were not available at the time. I am so lucky, or someone has a bigger plan for me. Right now I feel it important to get the word out to everyone I can about how important it was to have had an AED on site when I had my sudden cardiac arrest."

For more information on the ZOLL AED Plus, please call 800-804-4356 or go to www.zoll.com/aedplus.

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