



EMS Responders and Civilians Lauded



**Waterbury Hospital
COO Trish Gentil**

In the late morning hours of April 28, eight year old Abel Hernandez Jr was sitting in his classroom at Maple Hill Elementary School in Naugatuck. In a moment, he collapsed at his desk. His teacher quickly checked on him and found him to be unresponsive. She called for help and within minutes, school nurses and other school staff had begun CPR. An AED was brought to the classroom by staff and 911 was called. Naugatuck Police and EMS units were alerted, while North-west CMED remained



Naugatuck Police Officers Danielle Durette and Mark Robinson were presented with life saving citations.

on the line with a school administrative assistant. Within a few minutes of the call to 911, first arriving Naugatuck Police officer was Mark Robinson, soon followed by Sergeant Michael Deely and Officer Danielle Durette with EMS Chief Kyle Kelley. Kelley notified CMED that shocks have been delivered by school nurses and to alert **Waterbury Hospital** for an incoming pediatric arrest. Both on duty Naugatuck EMS units along with their medic fly car arrived on scene and ALS was established. Before the Naugatuck EMS transport unit departed for Waterbury ED, the patient had ROSC, was breathing and had a blood pressure.

In the ED, Hernandez was

opening his eyes and responding to stimuli. He was later transferred to Yale New Haven Children's Hospital for surgical intervention. He walked out of Yale just a few days later.

Both Abel Hernandez Jr and his father attended the **Waterbury Hospital** EMS Week Awards banquet and presented his first responders and school staff with citations for their quick actions that saved his life.

"This was an example of all parties involved recognizing the emergency, acting quickly and saving this young mans life", explained Chief Kelley. "I am so grateful and humbled to be standing here with him and his father. It really is a special day".



Abel Hernandez Jr and his father stand with the responders from Naugatuck EMS who helped save his life.



Staff and administrators from Maple Hill Elementary School stand with Abel Hernandez Jr and his father after being presented with life saving citations.



Beacon Hose Company #1 Captain Peter Monti and FF/EMT Jeremy Rodorigo accept a Unit Citation from trauma victim Jailisa Reyes and her son MJ.

Also receiving an award from a patient were Beacon Hose Company #1 members for their actions while responding to a head on motor vehicle collision on August 29, 2021. In that incident, BHC firefighters and EMS members had to extricate two trauma victims trapped in a vehicle. Both patients were transported to Waterbury ED where the more serious patient went into cardiac arrest just minutes after being transferred to the trauma bay stretcher. Trauma surgeons quickly opted for an ED thoracotomy and began manual heart massage. Only one percent of patients requiring an emergency room thoracotomy after severe trauma survive. The victim in this case was 29 year old Jailisa

Reyes. She walked on stage and presented Beacon Hose Company members with their Unit Citation. “In this case, minutes mattered”, said BHC EMS Captain Peter Monti. “Had we not had quick response, rapid extrication with hydraulic tools and rapid transport, and a waiting ED and trauma team, she would not have survived”.



Litchfield Ambulance Chief John Pudlinski received a Lifetime Achievement award from Waterbury Hospital EMS Coordinator Jose Matias.

The following additional awards were presented that evening;

Organizational Excellence—Southbury Ambulance Association for upgrading to the ALS level

Organizational Excellence—Naugatuck Ambulance for their major reorganization and revival

Organizational Excellence—Watertown Fire Department, Waterbury Fire Department, Naugatuck Fire Department, Beacon Hose Company #1, Heritage Village Ambulance and Security, and Oxford Ambulance Association for collaborating with Waterbury Hospital at Vaccine Clinics throughout the area. This resulted in tens of thousands of vaccines being administered by EMT vaccinators.

Lifetime Achievement Citations—Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance Chief John Pudlinski for 50 years of service as well as Wolcott FD and EMS volunteer and Northwest CMED Manger Steve Savage for 40 years of service.

EMS Professional Citations—AMR EMT and Field Training Officer Tara Wheeler, AMR Paramedic and Shift Duty Officer Colin Radke, Beacon Hose Company members Christian Hotkiss and Christopher Beson as well as Heritage Village EMT Nick Desmarias.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Seymour Ambulance Association

- EMT Accelerated (Days) June 6— July 26
- EMT Accelerated (Nights) June 29— August 25
- EMT/EMR Recertification Hybrid Class June 4 and 5 from 0800— 1600

Contact Lee Ives at 203.888.8843 extension 4 for additional information or registration.

Woodbury Ambulance Association

- Stop The Bleed—June 22 from 1900 to 2100 at Woodbury EMS Headquarters. 426 Main street North, Woodbury
- This class is free and open to public and first responders.
- Contact Instructor Bob Slivinski at 203.263.5252

EMS personnel who take the course are eligible to become STB instructors.

Oxford Ambulance Association

- EMT Summer (Days) June 27—August 11
- EMT Summer (Nights) June 27— August 27
- EMT Sunday Only—July 31— December 11

Contact Keri McDermott at 203.881.5216 extension 7 for additional information or registration.