

A LIFE SAVED APPROACHING EMS MONTH

by Tom Kranz, EMT-B



Ken Troy isn't a huge fan of television. So, when his wife Evelyn (left) watches in the living room, he usually goes elsewhere and leaves her alone in her chair. But on the night of April 16, 2008, he decided to stay in the living room, a random change in routine that probably helped save his wife's life.

Evelyn suddenly slumped in her chair and became unresponsive. Ken called 911 immediately and a minute later, Fanwood Police Officer Kevin Stomber and Corporal Ron Greco raced into the home carrying a life saving defibrillator. They immediately began the steps of CPR and attached the defibrillator pads to Evelyn's chest. Within two or three minutes of their arrival, they had already administered the first shock.

After another minute or so, the first EMT from the Fanwood Rescue Squad arrived to assist. The automated defibrillator voice announced it was time to shock again and Corporal Greco did so. Within a minute of the second shock, Evelyn started breathing again and her pulse returned.

Almost at the same moment, the rest of the cavalry arrived-- more members of the Rescue Squad and paramedics from Muhlenberg Hospital. By six or seven minutes into the event, Evelyn was breathing and her

heartbeat returned. She was transported to Muhlenberg in the Rescue Squad ambulance with the paramedics monitoring her heart rate and respiration during the six minute trip.

"I don't remember a thing," said Evelyn three weeks later, back home with Ken (right) and doing well with her new best friend, an implanted defibrillator/pacemaker. "I guess God decided it wasn't my time yet. We are so grateful."

Quick action, trained responders and a little bit of luck all came together to keep Evelyn Troy with us a while longer.

Those responding from the Fanwood Rescue Squad were EMT's Patty Buckridee, Jim Drewes, Tom FitzGibbon, Tom Kranz, Melissa Padulsky and first responder Bob Hoyer.

