

200 AT OLNEY ROTARY'S COMMUNITY CPR AND AED TRAINING CLASS

By Mike Weiner, Olney Rotary Club

On Saturday February 1, Members of the Rotary Club of Olney held a first-ever Community CPR and AED Training class with nearly 200 participants from the Olney and surrounding community, learning to use an Automated External Defibrillator and performing CPR on a sudden cardiac arrest victim. As part of its major service project to buy and install AED's outdoors at the various shopping centers in the area. The project has so far generated enough cash to buy and install two in one of the targeted shopping centers.

In 2017, a speaker introduced the Club to AED's and the lifesaving benefits of having an AED close by in case of a cardiac arrest, as the save rate can be as high as 90%, versus CPR alone which results in about 5% of victims being resuscitated. The Club has placed two, soon to be three, of these lifesaving devices in the community, and is



*[Above - top] CPR/AED students in training
[Above] Jeremy Gruber, CEO of Rescue One, demonstrates good CPR technique. [Below] Rotary Club members install an AED at a shopping center in Olney*



raising more money from citizens, and other sources such as grants, to complete the project with 8 or 9 of

these installed throughout the community for 24/7 access.

At a cost of about \$2,000 for the installation of these units, the Club has been appealing to the community for their support.

The project has generated lots of press coverage, with Channel 4 and Channel 9 News covering the event. With the success of this event behind them, members are looking forward to the next event sometime in the future.

Past President and current Treasurer Michael Weiner said, "We wanted to have a local, meaningful impact on the community, and with nearly 200 people showing up for the Training, the public response has been 100% positive. The Club is proud to have trained life savers to help in an emergency, and with continued support, is seeking grants from the District to help achieve the

goals. We have a third AED about to be installed in another center, and hope to have

all of these in place within one or two years".