



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2016

Cary Area EMS Equips Ambulances with Tablets to Comfort Pediatric Passengers

Cary, NC—In an initiative that reflects their compassion for pediatric passengers who might be frightened or alarmed during ambulance rides to the hospital, Cary Area EMS has equipped six of its transports with Galaxy tablets loaded with music, games and child-friendly movies.

Steve Cohen, chief of Cary Area EMS, said the tablets will provide comfort and distraction for children being taken to the hospital as patients or as passengers traveling with sick or injured family members.

“Being in the back of an ambulance with strangers is very difficult,” Cohen said. Patients and their family members are often “scared and nervous and not sure about what’s going to happen.”

Cohen proposed the initiative to his staff earlier this year, and two employees, paramedic Tim Morrison and EMT Marie Johnson, agreed to take the lead on acquiring tablets and accessories for their seven trucks, including five that go out on emergency calls daily and two that are used for public outreach.

Their first challenge was financing the purchases, Morrison said. While Cary Area EMS is funded by Wake County for its equipment, supplies and training, “we didn’t really have a budget to work with for something like this.”

A grant from Cary-based SAS Institute provided \$1000 toward the purchases. In-kind donations from Target at Park West Village and Radio Shack at Park Place, both in Morrisville, boosted their buying power, allowing Morrison and Johnson to obtain six Galaxy Tab A 8.0 tablets and SD cards. A donation from Chapel Hill State Farm agent Donny Dingess, who lives in Cary, covered the cost of six protective cases and other accessories.

“State Farm has close ties to first responders. A program like this gives me the privilege of showing my support for Cary Area EMS,” Dingess said about his contribution. “Our goal is to strengthen existing relationships and develop new ones with organizations to build safer, stronger communities.”

Morrison and Johnson secured approximately \$2000 in funding and in-kind gifts for this initiative. They continue their efforts to procure a seventh tablet to ensure all Cary Area EMS transports are equally equipped.

“It’s good to have these tablets available for all patients, not just children,” Johnson said. “For adults, it may be their first time in an ambulance, and if we’re doing something potentially stressful, like inserting an IV, having a distraction such as games or music is helpful. The tablets could also be useful with special-needs populations.”

Press release by Abundant Marketing
216 E Chatham St- Suite 109 · Cary, NC 27511 · 919-379-5790

Cary Area EMS is part of the Wake County EMS System. Under Cohen's leadership, they have introduced several programs to build stronger connections with the public. In addition to their participation in community events year-round—including visits to schools, civic groups and health fairs—Cary Area EMS is the only ambulance service in the Triangle that offers an annual free flu-shot clinic, and their four-week Citizens' Academy gives members of the public a behind-the-scenes, hands-on understanding of what first responders do for the community.

"Our continuing mission is to do what's right by our patients and their families," Cohen said.

Visit www.caryems.org for details about the annual Flu Shot Clinic (coming October 1, 2016), Citizens' Academy, and other Cary Area EMS events. Individuals or businesses interested in contributing toward future purchases of tablets, accessories and content may contact Chief Steve Cohen at 919-380-6909.

###