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CPR TRAINING KITS COMING TO BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES FOR PUBLIC BORROWING

(Erie County, New York) – Today, February 16, 2023, during American Heart Month, representatives from the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries, Buffalo Bills Foundation, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York, Lawley Insurance and the American Heart Association announced plans to provide CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training kits in Erie County libraries beginning in mid-March.

Library Director John Spears said, “Libraries are all about learning. We provide free and equal access to informational and educational resources and services in support of community needs. It makes good sense for us to offer CPR training kits for public borrowing – just as someone would check out a library book; soon they will be able to borrow a CPR kit. Due to the generosity of our health and wellness partners, I am pleased to say all 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries will have the kits, which allow one to learn and practice the basics of helping someone in need and possibly saving a life.”

“Since January 3rd, the American Heart Association has seen a 620% increase in traffic to its Hands-Only CPR education resources,” said Association Executive Director Jason Stulb. “The American Heart Association’s CPR Anytime® kits that will be available for patrons to check out from their local Erie County Public Libraries contain everything you need to learn about the lifesaving skills of CPR, AED awareness, and choking relief in about 20 minutes. The Adult & Child CPR Anytime and Infant CPR Anytime kits are intended for those who want to learn basic lifesaving skills with the flexibility of a self-directed program. This kit is for people who do not need a certification or course completion card for a job or other requirements. Thanks to Highmark, Buffalo Bills Foundation, and Lawley for making this opportunity possible for all members of our community to learn how to save a life,” stated Stulb.

“Our Bills family knows first-hand the importance of CPR,” said Buffalo Bills Foundation Executive Director Michelle Roberts. “We are proud to partner with Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York, Lawley Insurance and the American Heart Association as a first step to help bring awareness to CPR training and access to CPR kits in libraries across Erie County. Our goal is to prepare more community members to respond in an emergency.”

“The past few months have reminded us all that CPR can drastically improve outcomes after a cardiac event,” said Dr. Michael Edbauer, president Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York. “Alongside the Bills Foundation, Lawley, American Heart Association, and the Libraries, we recognized that we have an opportunity to improve access to this lifesaving training. The libraries serve as an important access point, and we look forward to announcing other major training initiatives in the coming months.”

“Lawley Insurance has always been committed to our community. As an insurance agency, we must always be prepared to act. We are proud to have a safety committee and associates trained on CPR and AEDs in all branch locations. We are excited to partner with fellow organizations to continue to promote safety and additional training,” said Mike Lawley, principal of Lawley.

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Today's announcement preceded the monthly *Wellness @ Central* free public program featuring health and wellness representatives from over twenty local community organizations, including the American Heart Association which provided CPR training demonstrations throughout the afternoon.

For more information on when the kits will be available for borrowing, or health & wellness programming in libraries, contact 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org.

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