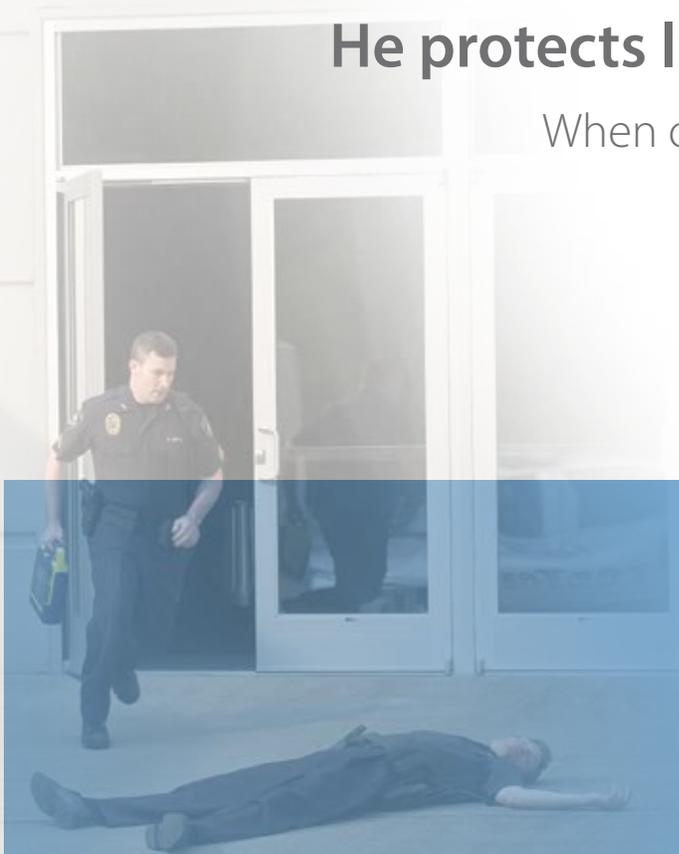


He protects lives. An AED saved his.

When one of Indiana's Finest collapsed,
a Powerheart® AED was there.

CASE STUDY



“If it wasn’t for one of these devices, I probably wouldn’t be here today.”

Lt. Regis Thimons, a detective with the St. Joseph County Police Department in South Bend, Indiana, was an early advocate for AEDs. His advocacy would save his life.



Police first responders

When a 911 call is placed, police officers are typically the first to arrive in situations of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), a condition that kills more than 325,000 people annually in the United States. After witnessing the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) some years ago, Lieutenant Regis Thimons, a detective at the St. Joseph County Police Department, mentioned the experience to a friend at a local hospital who told him he should contact HeartReach Michiana. The organization purchases and distributes AEDs as part of its non-profit mission. He did, and they responded with three units that first year. “Now we have about 80,” said Thimons, many of them Cardiac Science Powerheart® G3 Plus models, and every one thanks to HeartReach Michiana.

Officer down

Thanks, indeed, because Thimons said, “If it wasn’t for one of these devices, I probably wouldn’t be here today.” On Oct. 15, 2013, Thimons was found by a fellow officer in the restroom – unresponsive, no pulse, in a pool of blood from where his head had hit the floor. He had collapsed from SCA. Quick-thinking officers began chest compressions and located a Powerheart AED. He received four shocks; and his pulse returned by the time paramedics arrived.

The availability of the AED that saved his life is the product of years of preparation – for which Thimons himself is largely responsible. Most of his department’s patrol vehicles, the county jail, and the courthouse are now equipped with AEDs, and CPR/AED training is an annual requirement.

Life-saving technology

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SCA can strike an otherwise healthy child or adult who has no visible symptoms. According to the American Heart Association, if defibrillation doesn’t occur within 10 minutes, the chance of survival drops to less than 5%. That’s what makes quick availability of AEDs so critical. Thimons said he wants to get the word out about the lifesaving potential of AEDs for law enforcement.

His department’s AEDs have been used over a dozen times now, and he tears up explaining how he’s “living proof that these things are so valuable.” The experience changed his life, and now Thimons is 31 lbs. lighter, with a fresh outlook to go along with his new lease on life. “I decided to finally listen to my cardiologist,” said Thimons. “I have three years until retirement, and I want to be here for my grandkids.”



Powerheart® G3 Plus AED

The flagship Cardiac Science automated external defibrillator (AED) is ideal for first responders in law enforcement, including patrol vehicles, courthouses, and detention facilities.

To learn how your department or agency can be prepared for a cardiac arrest emergency, visit www.cardiacscience.com/law or call 800-426-1337.

