



UL ENGAGE

Community Briefing

2017 No. 21

Munster Medics

**Peyton Ernste
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UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

UL Engage

share

enable

grow

Promoting University Community Collaboration

Project Aim

Our aim was to gather information regarding community first responder groups in Limerick. This includes contact information, communication systems within the community first responder groups, maintenance of AEDs, and emergency communication systems throughout the Munster Region.

Project Objectives

- To create an excel sheet providing all community first responder groups contact information.
- To compile data regarding community first responder groups' communication system.
- To gather information about local AEDs and their usage.

Project Rationale

Munster Medics is one of many volunteer emergency medical response teams in Limerick. Due to the vast size of Limerick, Munster Medics has asked communities to organize first responder groups. These community first responder groups are expected to be first aid, CPR, and AED certified so that they can respond to local emergencies and provide medical intervention while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. This project will impact the Limerick community greatly. Effective communication and organization of these community first responder groups, as well as ensuring community members have the contact information for their specific community group, is vital to the health and safety of communities in Limerick.

COMMUNITY

Overview of Community Organisation

Munster Medics is an emergency response service in Limerick. They specialize in cardiac response as well as first aid and CPR training. The group is active in providing emergency response education to local schools, businesses, and communities. Munster Medics annually attend UL open days, sporting and community events, and local festivals in the hopes of keeping the Limerick community safe. Munster Medics is also on call for any emergencies that may arise in the community and will respond on scene immediately.



Munster Medics

Community Partners

Donal and Majella founded Munster Medics in the hopes of creating a safer Limerick. They recognized the need for quicker medical response in the case of emergencies, so they did something about it. As well as responding directly to medical emergencies, they saw a need to provide education to the public in first aid, CPR, and AED training. Donal and Majella are both qualified emergency medical personnel and instructors who strive to make create a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere when providing these life-saving courses for members of the community.



STUDENTS



Peyton Ernste- Creighton University

Peyton is a second year nursing student at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She was excited to work with Munster Medics this semester because of her interest in the health care field. She was also interested to see the difference in health care between Ireland and her home country of the United States. In her free time, Peyton enjoys spending time with her friends and family, traveling, and volunteering in her community. Peyton is eager to take this experience with her back to the United States!



Quinn Herbst- Creighton University

Quinn is a second year nursing student at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She is very interested in the Health Care field and thoroughly enjoyed working and learning alongside Munster Medics. Quinn is looking forward to going back to Creighton and putting her developed skills such as communication, perseverance, and patience into action!

OUTCOMES

Donal and Majella recognize the importance of this project, which is proven by their action of taking this project to UL Engage to be resolved. Although we did not get the results we were hoping for, we were able to uncover a bigger issue. Not only are the people in charge of the specific community first responder groups unknown to Munster Medics, but to the communities as well. It is important that this gets resolved as soon as possible. The communities throughout Limerick need to be able to contact a single person in order to receive the immediate medical attention they need, and this person needs to be known. Once the community first responder groups are contacted and the person in charge is known, the communities will be much safer.

TESTIMONIALS

“Approximately 5,000 people die of sudden cardiac arrests in Ireland every year. 70% of these sudden cardiac arrests occur out of hospital and in the community, workplace, and home. About 92% of cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital, but statistics prove that immediate CPR can double or even triple a victim’s chance of survival.” –Munster Medics

“In Ireland, approximately 5,000 people die each year from cardiac arrest, that is on average 13 people each day. Approximately 70% of these happen in the home, at work, or during a leisure pursuit in the presence of family, friends, colleagues, or strangers. Effective CPR and the use of Automated External Defibrillators within the first 3 to 5 minutes of cardiac arrest can produce survival rates as high as 49% to 75%.” –Munster Medics

“The work that you girls are doing is grand. The need for efficient medical response in Ireland is greatly lacking and it is so important that it get resolved. So many people are ill prepared for a medical emergency, making it that much more important that emergency medical care be accessible and quick. The community will be much better off after the work you girls have done in getting the project started and clearing away the weeds, and the work more students will continue to do after ye leave.” –Joanna, Community Member

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The main goal should be to have one phone number to distribute to members of all communities in Limerick. Donal and Majella should have these phones and should call the community first responder group in that area to respond to the situation. This will diminish confusion about who to call.
- In communities where all efforts of finding information cannot be found regarding the head of the community first responder group, a new head of the community first responder group for that community group should be appointed. If this person agrees, their contact information and plan for how they will conduct their group's communication and training should be recorded on an Excel document. Additional members should be recruited and trained by Munster Medics.
- Attend a town hall meeting in each community, preferably with the head of the community first responder group in that community, and provide the community members at the meeting with contact information for their first responder group. Give physical copies of this information to community councils, GAA Clubs, and post offices.
- A meeting should be held every couple of months with Munster Medics and the head of each community first responder group. At these meetings, contact information should be updated, questions should be asked, resources should be allocated, and ideas should be discussed to make the groups as effective and efficient as possible.
- All groups should be trained by Munster Medics to ensure that the information they receive is consistent. This will also create a connection between the groups and Munster Medics.

GALLERY

Please include photographs capturing aspects of your project. Describe the content of each photograph (e.g. the names of the people in the photo/the location and the context or activity being undertaken)



Donal and Majella teaching a First Aid Training class in Limerick.



Peyton after Quinn wrapped her arm at a First Aid Training class in Limerick.



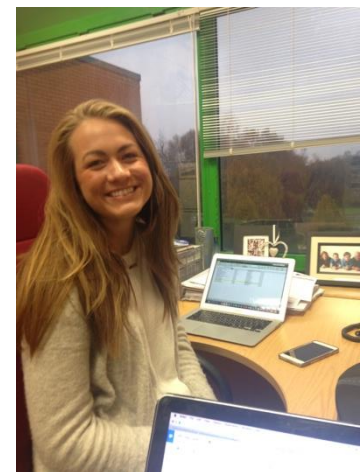
Members of the first aid training class held in Limerick performing CPR.



Donal teaching how to use an AED at a First Aid Training class in Limerick.



Quinn working on getting in contact with First Responder Groups in the Munster Region.



Peyton working on getting in contact with First Responder Groups in the Munster Region.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Munster Medics

Name of Group:

Contact Person:

E-mail address:

Mobile Number:

Number of trained members:

Number of Defibrillators in Area:

Are the Defibrillators up to date/when do they expire:

Communication system for Group:

Date of last training for group members:

Who is the nearest first responder group to your town or village and do you have their contact information?

COMMUNITY VIDEO

This fall semester Peyton Ernste and Quinn Herbst worked with Munster Medics founders, Donal and Majella. Munster Medics is one of the many volunteer emergency medical response teams in Limerick. Munster Medics specialize in cardiac response as well as first aid and CPR training. The group is active in providing emergency response education to local schools, businesses, and communities. Munster Medics annually attend UL open days, indoor and outdoor events, sporting events, and festivals in the hopes of keeping the community safe. The group is also on call for any emergencies that may arise at any time of day. Our goal was to contact all community first responder groups within Limerick. We created a questionnaire to compile information regarding the present state of the group's training and communication system. Another aspect of the questionnaire was to gain information about the current state and location of the AED defibrillators within Limerick. The current problem is that it oftentimes takes an upwards of thirty-five minutes for an ambulance to reach the scene of an emergency. Not only that, but most community members do not know who to contact as there is either a variety or complete lack of contact information circulating throughout communities. Our project will impact Limerick communities significantly. The communication, organization, and efficiency of the community first responder groups is vital to the safety of the people living in these communities. It is also critical that the community members know who to contact in case of emergency for the most efficient and effective possible care. Throughout the fall semester, Peyton and Quinn struggled to receive responses from the people whose contact information was initially provided and obtained throughout the project. Of the people who did respond, the vast majority were unaware of what the community first responder group was and who would be in charge of it. After Peyton and Quinn's work this semester, the plan going forward for Munster Medics would be to continue to contact community council's and various people throughout communities in order to create one document to account for all the active groups and members. It will be important for the heads of all of the community first responder groups to have meetings to ensure that all groups are receiving the same information and to continuously keep in contact with them. After all groups are accounted for, it is crucial that the contact information for these groups get publicized to the community members so that they know who to call in case of an emergency.

Link to video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFMek60vGJE>



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