

Link To Life hopes to save lives with new initiative

MATT JAMES

Staff Reporter

The Haliburton County Community Care and EMS have teamed up with Northern 911 in an attempt to save lives with a new initiative called Link To Life.

Link To Life is a small plastic envelope that attaches magnetically to a home refrigerator. Inside the envelope are medical forms for all members of the household to fill out in case of emergency.

The form is to be filled out with the usual information: name, date of birth, health card number, and designated contact number. In addition there will be space for unique medical information such as allergies, current medication, and any special information critical to an individual that would help EMS workers in case of an emergency.

Included in the package are instructions along with two stickers that are to be placed on the most frequently used door of the dwelling. Stickers can also be placed on a window, in plain view for paramedics.

Upon arriving at an emergency, EMS employees will look for the sticker and will know to find the necessary information on the refrigerator. This is helpful if an individual has lost consciousness or is unable to communicate with paramedics.

"It's a great way to get accurate medical information at a time when stress levels are up," says Pat Kennedy, director of the Haliburton County EMS. "Details that a person might not be able to give us in an emergency situation."

Roxanne Casey, the resource development co-ordinator at Community Care says the Link To Life envelopes are available by donation for a minimum of \$2, which helps cover the cost.

Casey has already ordered 1,000 envelopes and the County of Haliburton has given Community Care \$500 in support of the project. Northern 911 has also given Community Care \$1,000, which has helped reduce the cost.

"These envelopes aren't just for the elderly," says Casey. "Everyone in the county should have one."

The envelopes can be picked up at the Community Care office located in the Halco Plaza in Haliburton. Casey says the donation money will go toward the next order of Link To Life envelopes.

Casey added that one of the most important aspects in the success of Link To Life is that individuals keep their medical information up to date and for individuals to ensure that "do not resuscitate" orders are included in the envelopes.

For more information on Link To Life call Community Care at 457-2941 or e-mail info@communitycarehaliburton.com.



Don Geale, Barb Bohlin, Brigitte Gabauer, Roxanne Casey, Annette Richardson, Mårseen Brown and Brenda Bain were promoting Link To Life at the Home and Cottage show.

Photo by Matt James