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## Juvenile Justice staffers save life in Vidalia

Staff from the Office of Juvenile Justice's Baton Rouge central office and Swanson Center for Youth (SCY) in Monroe, who attended the bi-annual Quality Assurance Review held at the Vidalia Conference and Convention Center on the banks of the Mississippi River in Vidalia, had no idea that March 2 would be a day to remember.

Some staff had lunch at a well-known Vidalia restaurant, The Sandbar, and during their meal, an elderly man also having lunch there suffered a heart attack.

As the victim's son-in-law called for help, six OJJ employees sprang to the rescue. Vernon Foy, Swanson Deputy Director; John Preston, Swanson La Mod Coordinator; Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development (central office); Rodney Alex, Swanson Safety Captain; William Lee, Swanson principal; John Brunn, Swanson

Maintenance Manager, all went to the man's aid at once, calming his son-in-law, clearing the area and performing CPR for over 10 minutes, until an ambulance arrived.

Director of Treatment Annette Arthur witnessed the event. "Vernon cleared the area and the rescuers performed CPR, doing chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth until the ambulance arrived," she said. "This man had no pulse nor was he breathing when staff intervened. Prior to the ambulance arriving, he was breathing again. I can say with confidence that the SCY staff definitely saved this man's life, and I am proud to work with such people."

Director of Staff Development Fran Martin was performing CPR when the ambulance arrived. "It seemed like forever, but we all kept working until we were no longer needed," she said. SCY Deputy Director

Vernon Foy said that all facility staff take CPR courses annually and helping out came naturally.

Fran Martin, Annette Arthur and La MOD Coordinator Arlona Wells-Morgan stopped by the hospital on the way back to Baton Rouge to check on the 80 year-old man saved by OJJ staff members' quick action. "The man our staff gave CPR to survived," she said. "His family told us he was awake and talking but couldn't remember a thing. They plan to take him to a hospital in

his hometown by ambulance."

"I can't express just how proud I am of our staff members who saved a life," said Dr. Mary Livers. "It's good to know that our consistent training in CPR and first aid pays off when needed, that trained staff take appropriate action when needed without hesitation. But more important is the willingness to help others in the community. OJJ staff are the greatest people to work with, and these six in particular deserve our highest commendation."