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United Hospital District Donates Ambulance to South Central Drug Investigative Unit
Refurbished Rig Will Replace S.W.A.T. Team's 30-Year Old Vehicle

Blue Earth, MN – July 16, 2019 – United Hospital District (UHD) has donated a used ambulance to the South Central Drug Investigative Unit for use in the Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) Unit. The former UHD vehicle will be moderately refurbished before replacing the S.W.A.T. unit's current vehicle, which is more than 30 years old.

The donation was made in recognition of local law enforcement's strong support for UHD. The hospital recently purchased and put into service an updated ambulance, which created a surplus in their emergency vehicle fleet. UHD's Chief Financial Officer Patrick Justin and Safety Officer/Ambulance Director Adam Grant brokered the deal, with assistance from Faribault County Sheriff's office. Possession of the vehicle was taken by City of Albert Lea Police Department Squad Commander Lt. Darin Palmer on July 12, 2019 on UHD's Blue Earth campus.

"We saw this as an opportunity to simply repurpose our ambulance for a better cause," said UHD's Patrick Justin. "We continue to partner with law enforcement within Faribault County and our neighboring counties whenever we can, to assist and protect the patients in our communities."

Added Adam Grant, who previously worked as a paramedic in Albert Lea, "I've known Lt. Darin Palmer for quite a few years. I knew he would put the ambulance to good use once the necessary modifications are made. The vehicle will be used to support any law enforcement need in the local region, so it's important they have a good working vehicle." The UHD vehicle was in excellent condition with low mileage. Refurbishing will allow it to accommodate more officers and more equipment, including a robot and a monitor screen.

South Central Drug Investigative Unit (S.C.D.I.U.) is a multi-agency emergency response team created by the City of Albert Lea Police Department over thirty years ago. The cooperative board includes all of

Faribault County, Waseca County, Freeborn County, Steele County and all the cities within. The S.W.A.T. Team supports the S.C.D.I.U. and is specially trained and equipped to resolve critical high-risk situations. Team members are licensed and specially trained police officers under the command of Lt. Darin Palmer.

United Hospital District is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital in Blue Earth, MN. It is one of Faribault County's largest employers and offers general surgery plus a full range of primary and specialty care services, including allergy & asthma, cardiology, ENT, ophthalmology, orthopedics, OB/GYN, rehab therapies (PT/OT/Speech Pathology) and urology. The hospital supports a patient-centered care philosophy and its network includes four clinic locations plus a Home Health and Hospice program, and the Adolescent Treatment Center, an inpatient recovery program providing substance use and mental health services.



Representatives from Faribault County Sheriff's Department, City of Albert Lea's Police S.W.A.T. Team and United Hospital District met on July 12, 2019 to complete the donation and transfer of a UHD ambulance to the South Central Drug Investigative Unit. Pictured left to right is Briar Bonin, Faribault County Deputy; Mark Purvis, Faribault County Deputy/Investigations; Lt. Darin Palmer, Albert Lea Police Department Squad Commander; Adam Grant, UHD Safety Officer/Ambulance Director; Scott Adams, Faribault County Chief Deputy; Mike Gormley, Faribault County Sheriff and Patrick Justin, UHD Chief Financial Officer.