

# VITAL

## CONNECTIONS

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM NARBERTH AMBULANCE

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF LOWER MERION, NARBERTH, HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP, CONSHOHOCKEN, WEST CONSHOHOCKEN AND LANSDOWNE

## Lower Merion Non-Profit Vitality Grant Provides EMS Scholarships for Narberth Ambulance Paramedics



Jake McDonald

Jake McDonald and Levi Leach are currently on track to save lives as Narberth Ambulance paramedics thanks to the American Rescue Plan Non-Profit Vitality Grant provided by Lower Merion Township. Out of 49 applicants, Narberth Ambulance was one of 20 recipients. The nonprofit organization was awarded \$21,250 to fund its EMS Training Scholarship program.

The application process is career-focused. The individual seeking the scholarship must write a letter of intent to the clinical care committee outlining why they are seeking the scholarship and why they want to become a paramedic.

“After the committee decided I was eligible, I signed a contract,” said Leach. “Narberth Ambulance is paying for my school tuition and in exchange, I will work with them for at least three years as a paramedic.”

As the cost of paramedic school continues to rise each year, this scholarship offers a win-win solution. It provides aspiring students with the opportunity to build a rewarding career and enhances community safety by adding another well-trained professional to the field.

“I can focus on schoolwork without feeling the burden to work overtime hours outside of becoming a paramedic,” said McDonald. “This supports me in becoming a more effective provider.”

For students facing financial challenges, this scholarship allows them to concentrate on their studies and refine the critical skills essential in life-or-death situations. In addition to traditional classes, Narberth Ambulance provides hand-on experience for the paramedics in training. They are required to go on emergency calls.

“I work three to four days a week, going on calls ranging from falls to car accidents to various medical emergencies,” said McDonald. “I’ve been at Narberth Ambulance for over a year now and I’ve learned so much from the many calls I’ve assisted with.”

Narberth Ambulance responds to approximately 15,000 calls a year and serves over 150,000 residents. Close to Interstate 76 and major roadways, students in this program are exposed to a wide range of emergency scenarios, equipping them with valuable experience for their future roles as paramedics.

“I learn from every emergency call I go on and use that experience to guide me on future calls,” said Leach.

McDonald and Leach are set to graduate in May 2025. This invaluable experience ensures that students are well-prepared to work at Narberth Ambulance, upon completion of the program, as skilled and compassionate paramedics. Those interested in learning more or applying to the program can reach out to **Jeanine DiTomasso** at [JDITomasso@narberthambulance.org](mailto:JDITomasso@narberthambulance.org).



Levi Leach



# Rock 'N Ride: Some Come for the Fun,

For many, the annual Rock 'N Ride is an opportunity to showcase your competitive cycling spirit or to pedal for fun while hundreds of cheering onlookers line the course. For Narberth Ambulance of course, the annual event is a major fundraiser intended to support its 24/7/365 delivery of state-of-the-art medical services and hospital transport.

But for others, the annual event is even more symbolic. That is because it reminds them of their own personal experience with Narberth Ambulance, one that saved their lives or their family members' lives. Here are their stories:

## 911 Call for Loving Wife Reaffirms What Advisory Board Member Knew All Along



Raye and Jerry Johnson

For decades, Advisory Board Member Jerry Johnson always viewed Narberth Ambulance through the lens of a supportive donor and volunteer leader, not as a direct beneficiary of its skilled 24/7 emergency response.

That was until December of 2023, when he walked in the bathroom to discover that Raye, his beloved wife of 56 years had fallen. She was bleeding from a head gash and close to losing consciousness. His 911 call yielded an expedient, skilled Narberth Ambulance EMS team who “handled everything with care and transported her safely to Lankenau Hospital for additional treatment.”

The Narberth Ambulance team that arrived on the scene had no knowledge of the Johnson’s long-standing support of the organization or his role on the advisory board. “Yet, their professionalism was stellar,” Jerry recalls. “I had the epiphany that these people live and breathe the Narberth Ambulance mission, all day, every day and with every single person they help.”

That realization has stuck with Jerry and Raye. It made attending this year’s Rock & Ride – an event which he helps plan and execute annually – even more special.

“I hosted the hospitality tent, as I have done in the past. But this year my involvement felt even more special. “Thanks to Narberth Ambulance I had my bride, whom I married the day we graduated from college, by my side, alive and well. I am so grateful.”

## Lower Merion Commissioner Experiences Life-Saving Payback on the Ambulance He Supported



Left to Right: Mark Urbon, Rick Churchill, Mark Scanlon

When Lower Merion Commissioner Rick Churchill voted to approve the use of grant money to fund a new ambulance for Narberth Ambulance, he never realized his life would be saved in it.

When the Commissioner started experiencing signs of a heart attack during a routine physical at his doctor’s office, Narberth Ambulance was called onto the scene.

The Narberth Ambulance team determined he was having an ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), a type of heart attack that is more serious and has a greater risk of complications and death.

Narberth Ambulance activated a STEMI alert at Lankenau Medical Center, sent his EKG to the ER physician via telemetry, and began the Chest pain Protocol, delivering medications and treatments designed to stabilize and reduce the damage to his heart. The prehospital medical services performed on the ambulance enabled the Commissioner to receive the life-saving services he needed while being safely transported to Lankenau Hospital. Once there, he received a stent.

In the midst of all of this, Commissioner Churchill was able to joke with the EMS team that was attending to him onboard. “When I voted in support of funding this ambulance with grant money, I never dreamed I would see a payback so soon,” he quipped.

Now, back to life as usual as both a citizen and a government official he says with certainty, “That ambulance was worth every penny!”

# Others Come with Gratitude for Lives Saved



The annual Ardmore Rock N' Ride continues to grow each year, drawing more participants and sponsors than ever before. Thanks to the incredible support of over 90 sponsors, Rock N' Ride 2024 was an outstanding success.

“We’re thrilled to share that we raised over \$230,000 to help sustain Narberth Ambulance’s 911 emergency medical services and pre-hospital care,” said Jeanine DiTomasso, Chair of Philanthropy.

Every dollar raised at Rock N' Ride is dedicated to funding a state-of-the-art ambulance, ensuring the community continues to receive top-tier emergency care. As a non-profit 501(c)3 relying heavily on donations for funding, this event has further advanced Narberth Ambulance’s mission of saving lives and providing critical support when it’s needed most.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year’s Rock N' Ride a memorable and impactful event.

**Save the date for the 2025 Ardmore Rock N' Ride on Sunday, August 10.**



## [ Narberth Ambulance Enhances Patient Care with Life-Saving Devices ]



Narberth Ambulance is equipping staff with the latest life-saving technology and medical devices. The recent addition of the Sapphire medication pump, will allow our paramedics to administer Nitroglycerin and Levophed intravenously significantly enhancing our paramedics critical care capabilities, ensuring they are always prepared to respond to any emergency.

“The Sapphire medication pump is a compact, portable infusion device commonly used in emergency medical situations for delivering fluids, medications, and other treatments intravenously,” said Deputy Chief Patrick Glynn.

Additionally, IV delivered Nitroglycerin and Levophed are powerful medications used in emergency medical situations. The IV Nitro treats chest pain and cardiac emergencies by reducing the heart’s workload and oxygen demand. Levophed helps stabilize blood pressure in patients with severe low blood pressure, essential in treating shock and other serious conditions.

“Together, these advancements empower our team to deliver more comprehensive and efficient care,” said Glynn. “Further enhancing survival rates and supporting patient recovery is our primary goal.”

Narberth Ambulance consistently integrates state-of-the-art medical tools to deliver advanced, high-quality care and critical pre-hospital emergency services to over 150,000 residents in Lower Merion, Haverford, and the Boroughs of Narberth, Conshohocken, West Conshohocken, and Lansdowne.

# Protecting the Living Among the Deceased: Narberth Ambulance Equips Laurel Hill Staff with Lifesaving Skills

Laurel Hill, a 265-acre cemetery straddling the Schuylkill River, with 78 acres in Philadelphia and 187 acres in Bala Cynwyd, recently partnered with Narberth Ambulance to provide CPR, AED, and First Aid with Stop the Bleed training to its 50-member staff.

“Not only will training improve the safety for our staff,” said Laurel Hill Assistant Superintendent Ryan Bird, “but will create a safer space for the visitors who come to ride bikes, walk our grounds, take tours, attend meetings, funerals, and memorial services, and visit their loved ones.”

In addition to daily recreational visitors, Laurel Hill hosts community programs and private events like weddings and anniversary celebrations. Other public events such as 5K runs, fundraisers, concerts, educational workshops, movie screenings, and more draw a diverse crowd from nearby and surrounding areas.

“Laurel Hill is surrounded by a large and active community,” said Narberth Ambulance Executive Director, Al Davey. “Our staff starts off by conducting a site survey to address the specific challenges of the property and how to best coordinate care in the minutes leading up to the ambulance arrival.”

After the site survey, Narberth Ambulance recommends safety improvements and proper AED, first aid kits and bleeding bag placement. Not only does Narberth

Ambulance provide life-saving equipment, but it will ensure that Laurel Hill’s staff is properly trained in how to use it and where to locate it.

“We welcome all to our cemetery” said Bird, “and our goal is to ensure the safety of everyone on our property. With the CPR and AED training coupled with bleeding control kits installed by Narberth Ambulance, we’ll be prepared to respond effectively in any emergency.”

Organizations committed to life-saving training like Laurel Hill are crucial to the chain of survival. Although Narberth Ambulance EMS are equipped and ready to respond at a moment’s notice, a trained bystander could make all the difference in a life-or-death situation.

“We commend Laurel Hill for taking the safety of its staff and visitors seriously,” said Davey. “As an organization, Narberth Ambulance is committed to providing comprehensive training to community members, fostering safer environments.”

Businesses, organizations and residents looking to learn more about the safety training that Narberth Ambulance offers can visit [www.narberthambulance.org](http://www.narberthambulance.org) or email [info@narberthambulance.org](mailto:info@narberthambulance.org) to request a quote.

To learn more about Laurel Hill, visit [LaurelHillPHL.com](http://LaurelHillPHL.com).

## Become a Member of Narberth Ambulance to Protect You and Your Family

Becoming a member is the perfect way to protect you and your family from the high cost of emergency medical costs. Membership runs from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025 and ensures that if you need our services during this time we will waive all costs once copays and deductibles are met. To learn more or join our membership program visit our website [www.narberthambulance.org](http://www.narberthambulance.org).



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### Important EMS Updates Inside!

*Founded in 1944, Narberth Ambulance, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, serves 160,000 community members living in Lower Merion, Narberth, Haverford Township, Conshohocken, West Conshohocken, and Lansdowne. Annually, the organization responds to more than 15,000 calls for emergency medical and advanced lifesaving support services. Narberth Ambulance has received local and national recognition for its EMS physicians unit, the first and only one of its kind. To offer your support to Narberth Ambulance, visit [www.narberthambulance.org](http://www.narberthambulance.org) or scan the QR code below.*

