



A story from the heart



Rosemary Kidd

Laurence Kidd will sadly never know if an AED could have saved his mother, Rosemary.

Rosemary suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at Corley Services on the M6 in September 2012 and tragically died around a week later, aged 64.

An off-duty police officer at the scene administered CPR and an ambulance took mother-of-six Rosemary to hospital. But there was no AED on site so no defibrillation could be given until the ambulance arrived.



“The worst thing is the fact that I will never know,” says Laurence.

“It may not have saved mum but there will always be that doubt that if there had been an AED there it might have made that crucial difference.”

Rosemary and her husband John had stopped off on the M6 on their way back to their home in Essex. John had popped to the car to get something and when he returned something was clearly very wrong.

‘The worst thing is the fact I will never know’

“Dad knew something was wrong straight away,” continues Laurence.

“Mum’s head was tilted back and the colour had drained out of her.

“He was in a state of complete panic but managed to call for help and an off-duty police officer quickly began CPR.

“He asked the manager of the services if there was defibrillator but there wasn’t.

“The ambulance did arrive about five minutes later but as we know those first few minutes are crucial and because there was no AED my mum didn’t get the early defibrillation which might have saved her.”

Rosemary was rushed to hospital where she spent a week in intensive care.

‘Mum didn’t get the defibrillation which could have saved her’

“It was really traumatic not knowing what was going to happen,” Laurence continues.

“Finally the doctors explained that they needed to take mum off

sedation and see if her body would be able to cope. But she had suffered irreversible brain damage and she never woke up. It was devastating.”

What happened to Rosemary spurred Laurence on to research defibrillators.

“I just couldn’t believe what I found out,” he says. “The fact that AEDs increase the chances of survival so dramatically, yet a lot of people don’t even know what they are.

“They really should be everywhere. Take the service station – think how many thousands of people would go through there every day and they didn’t have a defibrillator. It is a travesty – there should be an AED in every public place.

“The statistics tell you it was going to happen there at some point.

“It might well be that my mum wouldn’t have been saved any way - we will never know, but she should have at least had that extra chance.”

***‘There should be an AED
in every public place’***

Laurence, supported by his wife Claire and young son Tristan, has now launched a campaign to encourage the Government to step in and make defibrillators commonplace in public places.



“Mum was the sort of person who would always help people so I thought it would be great to do something like this in her memory and give other people the chance she didn’t have.

“I am completely behind Hearts & Goals and hope people make a difference in their own communities and help save lives.”

Visit <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/40544> to sign Laurence’s e-petition.