

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**STRONG WILL EVENT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT**

SUFFOLK, VA (November 15, 2017) As a way of remembering and honoring her deceased brother, a local woman has donated funds to the Suffolk Police Department in order to purchase new lifesaving equipment.

April Brooks, CEO and Founder of “Strong Will”, a nonprofit organization, has coordinated a run/walk event for the past two years at the Suffolk Seaboard Coastline Trail during the Driver Days Fall Festival, held in late October.

On April 19, 2016, April’s 35-year old brother, William “Will” West, overdosed on Heroin and Fentanyl. Following his death, April decided that she wanted to do something that would help save lives and make the community a better place. This year, April wanted to help the Suffolk Police Department in the purchase of new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). This year’s event raised more than \$8500 after expenses, enough to purchase 4 to 6 new AEDs for the Suffolk Police Department.

Upon receipt of the donation Chief Thomas Bennett said, “We sincerely thank Mrs. Brooks for her generosity, as well as the time and effort she has put into making this event a success. The equipment we are able to purchase will aid in the saving of lives in our community.”

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