The city of Kent and its fire department is now accepting an 18,000 dollar donation from University Hospitals for new CRP and cardiac equipment, most of it in the form of an app called PulsePoint. Other equipment such as Lucas machines are also being provided from University Hospitals.

Through the use of this new age app, which is the first of its kind in the Akron area, the city will be looking to reduce the amount of cardiac injuries and deaths by connecting and empowering the community to asset through the use of this app.

Kent Fire Chief John Tosko explains what this app entails.

*What it is, is an app on your smart phone which allows registered users who are trained in CPR, the ability to know when CPR is needed, in progress, and in your general vicinity in your location.*

According to puslepoint.org, 1,000 people have cardiac emergencies nation wide everyday. In these situations time is everything. Every minute someone is not treated their chance of survival goes down by 10 percent. The app will effectively try to cut that time and boost peoples' chances for survival

*You sign up for it, its very easy, its free, and you give your location and you give permission that will send you the information from our dispatch center. So, say you’re downtown at Tree City Coffee having an iced latte and a block away someone keels over and is in cardiac arrest. Someone calls 911, it goes through our dispatch center, your phone will get an alert, CPR needed at acorn alley. It will start to go in route, then it will tell you where the nearest AED is. You grab it and you start to head towards the scene and then you can start to defibrillate someone and start CPR right away. It gets CPR to the patient quicker, and the AED quicker. But, if we can get someone there a minute earlier that could really make a difference.*

The community and its citizens will be benefited by this app exponentially. The idea for the app, although new, was imagined when a fire chief in California noticed the time it took for his responders to react to call.

*How this all started out in California, there’s a fire chief whose at a restaurant he looks outside and sees his crew pulls up to the restaurant. He goes out to meet them, see if he can help. Turns out on the other side of the restaurant one of the patrons was in cardiac arrest and needed CPR. So, he went and helped him, but he started thinking later, on, he goes, “how can I and other people who know CPR in the location, how can we be notified that someone needs CPR and needs an AED hooked up.” So he developed this program called PulsePoint*

Chief Tosko at a recent April city council meeting stated that the city of Kent has about 25 cardiac arrest situations every year. Mr. Roger Sidoti, Kent city councilmen, said just one life is worth the implementation of this app. The motion was unanimously approved by the rest of the council.

University Hospitals will be providing the initial licensing fee for installation of this technology, as well as providing maintenance fees. However, there’s still an amount that has yet to be raised before its implementation sometime around July.

*The only thing were trying to come up with, we have to come up with about $5,000 now to help the interface with the new world system. So, im trying to reach out to people at Kent State who can possibly help us bridge that gap. But, small price to pay for something like this can really make a difference and save lives. And its kind of a big deal coming into northeast Ohio.*

Tosko and other city officials are looking into different ways to help spread CPR and cardiac training and awareness.

*So were hoping to improve that over the summer, and into the fall, and improve on the number of people that are trained in CPR in our community. It’s important, I think it’s a worthwhile endeavor.*

*These are CPR machines that keeps us from having to do CPR all the way to the hospital it gives better control, it gives the right depth, and they don’t get tired.*

With the help of apps like PulsePoint and new emergency equipment, along with a more alert and prepared community, there is a high likeliness that citizens will be even safer within the Kent community.