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**For Immediate Release
Chester First Aid Squad
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Chester First Aid Squad Recaps 2011, Announces Officers and Goals for 2012

CHESTER, NEW JERSEY - Chester First Aid Squad (CFAS) announced its Line and Administrative Officers for 2012:

Administrative Officers: President: Daniel Cribari; Vice President; Russi Champi; Secretary: Pauline Alexander; Assistant Secretary; Mike Mastro; Treasurer: Julia Robinson. Administrative officers are responsible for the business aspect of the squad, including facilitating meetings, and maintaining finances.

Line Officers: Captain: David Fretwell; 1st Lieutenant: Cris Champi; 2nd Lieutenant: Eric Prach. Line Officers are responsible for managing all emergency responses and the overall operational function of the squad.

Other appointed officers include: Quartermaster: Sam Rosenfeld; Chief Engineer: Anthony Grego; Training Officer: Holly Flanagan.

The Chester First Aid Squad had another busy year in 2011. Its dedicated team of volunteers, on call 24x7, responded to a record 845 calls within Chester Borough and Chester Township, plus 21 mutual aid calls in surrounding towns. CFAS EMTs responded to diverse emergencies, including traumatic injuries, medical emergencies, and fire-related emergencies servicing both patients and emergency fire personnel. For some emergency calls, CFAS partnered with advanced life support units, as well as AirOne, an Atlantic Health System helicopter, plus NorthSTAR operated by NJ State Police. The helicopters were utilized on six occasions to transport critically injured patients to a trauma or burn center hospital.

In addition to handling emergency calls, CFAS ensured an on-site presence at 24 local Chester events, such as the 4-H Fair, the Chester Craft Fairs, and various other festivals and sports events held locally. CFAS' North Road facility continued to serve as a Car Seat Station for the NJ Safe Kids/Safe Communities organization. A few members who are certified AHA BLS Instructors have been providing CPR/AED classes to teachers, athletic coaches and members of the public in an effort to help save lives.

Improvements in 2011 included the launch of "EMT's on Bike", which places EMT's on 2 fully outfitted bicycles to patrol heavy traffic/crowd conditions, allowing care to be initiated more rapidly. The squad also purchased new equipment for and expanded the capabilities of its support unit. The unit not only provides on scene rehabilitation for firefighters, but also contains specialty equipment for search and rescues, accidents involving machinery, and other supplies, which allows the squad to handle a large array of incidents. The squad also recently overhauled its website, www.chesterfirstaid.org.

In 2012, CFAS is looking forward to taking delivery of a new ambulance, funded by the township and borough of Chester. Other plans for the year include: Fundraising to replace an aging support unit, and establishment of a "Special Response Team". This group will consist of EMT's who have completed additional training in areas such as Confined Space Rescue, Water and Ice Rescue, Vehicle Rescue and so on. Look for more information in future articles.

CFAS Captain David Fretwell commented: "I'm extremely proud of our members who give selflessly to care for the sick and injured. Not many people realize how much work it takes to maintain an organization such as ours, but we are blessed with having such a terrific group of volunteers who really care about the community."

To learn more about the Chester First Aid Squad, inquire about becoming a member, or make a donation, visit: www.chesterfirstaid.org or call the CFAS Office at : (908) 879-5560. CFAS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization: all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and are greatly appreciated.

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About Chester First Aid Squad

The Chester First Aid Squad (CFAS) located in Chester, NJ is a volunteer, nonprofit, organization that provides emergency medical services to sick and injured residents of Chester and surrounding towns. CFAS was established in 1945 and became independent from the Chester Volunteer Fire Company in 1987. CFAS currently operates three ambulances and a support unit and consists of approximately 50 members, most of which are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). On average CFAS runs well over 800 emergency calls a year. CFAS works closely with the Chester Vol. Fire Company, and Chester Borough and Chester Township Police Depts. In addition to these local organizations, CFAS works with other mutual aid squads in the area, hospital-based paramedics, and state and private aeromedical helicopters. For more information about the Chester First Aid Squad, visit: www.chesterfirstaid.com

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