

Red Cross Commends MTA Employee for Saving a Child's Life

By LISA HUYNH

(Oct. 8, 2002) Most of us probably do not know how it feels to save another human being's life.

Ryan Williams, who works as a Utility "A" in the Logistics Department knows the feeling – he saved the life of a little girl last year.

In September, the American Red Cross commended Williams by presenting him the Life Saving Achievement award. National Chairman David McLaughlin presented the award on behalf of President Bush.

Williams also received a certificate signed by the President and a Red Cross medal and ribbon for his achievement.

The incident occurred in April 2001, only two days after he had completed an MTA CPR class. The infant was choking on a hair barrette that had closed her airway.

Williams performed a basic infant choking emergency procedure on the one-year-old girl and was able to dislodge the barrette – allowing her to breathe again.

The child then was transported to a children's hospital where doctors were able to remove the object by surgery.

Although it was unexpected because it was a year after the incident, William says, "It's a definite honor to have received the award."

"It's really the organization that deserves the credit because they offer this kind of training," says Williams. "I was just a recipient. The MTA made it made available."



Ryan Williams, above right, receives the American Red Cross Life Saving Achievement Award, below, for saving an infant from choking.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Last year, 450 MTA employees took Red Cross classes offered at their work locations by MTA Corporate Safety. With the expansion of Employee Health and Wellness and programs under the Safety's First campaign, the number of classes being offered will significantly increase. In the first quarter of FY 03, 17 CPR/AED and First Aid classes were scheduled and all are filled.

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