



On Oct. 6, 2009, **Rafael "Ralphie" R.**, then a freshman at Ajo High School in Ajo, Ariz., was running across the field during football practice when his teammates saw him fall down and not get up. His heart had stopped suddenly and the lack of blood flow to his brain caused him to pass out within seconds. Fortunately, a local paramedic who volunteered with the coaching staff ran onto the field and started chest compressions. "Everything went perfectly in synch—all of the local agencies worked calmly and professionally, even taking time to calm us down. This is a flat-out miracle given the remoteness of our town," says **Bridget R.**, Ralphie's mother. Now a 19-year-old freshman at Arizona State University, Ralphie has returned to active sports, since his recovery from surgery to correct an anatomical abnormality in his heart.