

**For Immediate Release**

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**Kearney Fire and EMS to receive Spot A Stroke Award from  
Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City for recognizing  
local woman's stroke symptoms**

*Spot A Stroke awards recognize quick thinking in response to a stroke  
and ensuring a positive outcome*

*KANSAS CITY, Mo.* (March 18, 2016) — Janet Andes was up early the morning of July 12, 2015 drinking coffee and reading the newspaper while her husband slept. She stood up from the table and realized something was terribly wrong. She could not move her left side. She fell to the floor.

Andes' fall awakened her husband, who found her on the floor with a droop on the left side of her face, as well as weakness in her left side and a left gaze. When she tried to answer his questions, her speech was garbled. He called 911 and EMT Kent Youngblood along with paramedics Steve Giacone and Keith Keplinger, as well as Captain Robert Looper from Kearney Fire and EMS arrived within minutes to assess Andes.

The team recognized Andes was having a stroke. Knowing that time equals brain cells lost during a stroke, they quickly stabilized and transferred her to Saint Luke's Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City. En route the team communicated with the Saint Luke's stroke team so they could prepare for Andes' arrival.

Upon her arrival, Andes was given a thorough and quick evaluation. The Saint Luke's stroke team determined that Andes' initial stroke score was a 24, indicating she was suffering from a severe stroke. Thanks to the quick action of her husband to call for help, and the expert care received from Youngblood, Giacone, Keplinger and Looper, Andes arrived within the time frame to receive tissue plasminogen activator (tPA), also known as the "clot-busting" drug. This drug only may be administered during the first three hours after the onset of a stroke, and Andes was well within the allotted window of time.

A scan revealed a large blood clot on the right side of her brain. A Saint Luke's neurointerventionalist performed a procedure using a stent retriever to remove the clot completely. Immediately Andes was able to move her left arm, and her left gaze disappeared. Before leaving the neurointervention suite where the clot was removed, Andes' stroke score had improved to a 4. After

recovering at the hospital for two days, Andes was discharged with a stroke score of 0, or no remaining evidence of a stroke.

**At 6 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2016 a team from Saint Luke's Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute will present Kearney Fire and EMS with a Spot a Stroke award for their quick thinking and recognition of Janet Andes' stroke. Youngblood, Giacone, Keplinger and Captain Looper will receive an award plus a pin at a ceremony to be held at the Kearney Fire & Rescue Protection District's monthly board meeting.**

“Every minute counts when it comes to a stroke, because minutes mean brain cells lost,” said Jay McClintick, EMS Relations and Neuroscience Outreach Coordinator at Saint Luke's Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute. “Thanks to Kearney Fire and EMS's quick thinking and recognition of stroke symptoms, Mrs. Andes ultimately received the proper care, and achieved a positive outcome. Kearney Fire and EMS is an excellent example of how EMS providers are making a huge difference in stroke outcomes.”

Signs and symptoms of a stroke include:

- Sudden weakness on one side of the body
- Sudden numbness on one side of the body
- Sudden loss of vision – especially in one eye
- Sudden difficulty speaking or understanding
- Sudden severe headache

When it comes to stroke, time is of the essence. If you or a loved one is experiencing symptoms, do not delay. Immediately call 911 or seek treatment at your nearest hospital emergency room.

Saint Luke's offers a free online Stroke Risk Assessment at its website:  
[saintlukeshalthsystem.org/strokerisk](http://saintlukeshalthsystem.org/strokerisk).

### **About Saint Luke's Health System**

*[Saint Luke's Health System](http://saintlukeshalthsystem.org) consists of 10 area hospitals and several primary and specialty care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

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