

Bensalem firefighter honored for helping to save life

By Chris English, staff writer | Posted: Thursday, March 31, 2016 5:00 am

A veteran volunteer firefighter has been honored by the Bensalem council for helping to save a life and starting a program that could save many others.

John Izak, 52, received a certificate of commendation at the council meeting this week for helping to save the life of Upper Southampton teenager Trevor Newhouse, a freshman at William Tennent High School in Warminster, during a ninth-grade soccer game in October.

Izak, the assistant chief at Bensalem's Nottingham Fire Department, continues to serve there even though he now lives in Warminster. He was watching a ninth-grade soccer game between Tennent and North Penn's Pennbrook Middle School in Upper Gwynedd when

Trevor, a teammate of Izak's son Michael, collapsed on the field after he knocked down a ball with his chest.

Realizing that the teenager was having a cardiac seizure, Izak and emergency medical technician Abraham Samuel started cardiopulmonary resuscitation, with Samuel administering chest compressions and Izak doing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Andrew Gerhart and Brad Taylor, of the North Penn Fire Company, soon arrived and shocked Trevor's heart with an automated external defibrillator. The combined efforts saved Trevor's life, and prompted Izak to start an initiative called Trevor's Heart Start that seeks to offer free CPR, AED and other emergency medical procedure certification courses to those involved with youth athletics, and also place AEDs on the sidelines of youth athletic events.

"The Bensalem emergency medical services has stepped up and allowed us to use their training resources to conduct the first trainings," said Izak, a volunteer at Nottingham since 1985.

"Already from our first group, a coach performed a Heimlich maneuver and saved somebody's life while on a business trip," he continued.

Izak said anyone wanting more information on Trevor's Heart Start can email Trevorheartstart@gmail.com.

Although he has been recognized at several events since the incident, Izak said it was especially gratifying to be honored by the Bensalem council and Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo.



(File) Bensalem volunteer firefighter John Izak recently was honored by Bensalem Council for helping to save the life of a youth soccer player during a game.

"I am very humbled to be recognized by this governmental body that has always been so proactive in supporting the fire and other emergency services in Bensalem," said Izak.

"John, we appreciate not only this heroic effort but also all your years of service over the years," said DiGirolamo at the meeting.