

## Ambulance service awarded by governor

**By Felicia Whatley - Staff Writer**  
**Manchester - posted Fri., May. 25, 2012**

President of Eastern Region EMS Council and Wayne Wright, President and CEO of Ambulance Service of Manchester, LLC attend the award ceremony. Courtesy photo.

EMS Week, May 20 through 26, recognizes the dedication, professionalism and personal sacrifice that is part of the day-to-day world of emergency service providers. During the week, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy gave the Governor's Award for Career EMS Services for 2012 to Ambulance Service of Manchester.

The award, he explained, was given to the ASM career ambulance service providers, because of their dedication to community service, public education and EMS leadership. ASM has licenses for 28 ambulances, nine of which are manned by paramedics. There are 125 total staff, serving 17 towns, eight hospitals and several nursing homes.

"We are more than an ambulance service," said Director of Business Development and Community Relations for AMS, David Skoczulek. "We have state-of-the-art equipment, a really committed partnership with the fire and police departments, and we have various services for the public," he said.

ASM also participates in two well-publicized events during the holiday season: the Emergency of Hunger Food Drive and the Connecticut State Police "Stuff-a-Cruiser Toy Drive." For the Food Drive, it was ASM management that originated the concept and enlisted multiple community partners to ensure its success.

The governor's award was based on EMS leadership criteria including that the organization needed to exhibit leadership qualities, integrity, and guidance within local regional, or state EMS organizations or boards; provide and promote education, guidance, management, directorship, tutelage or coaching in any EMS related issue and proactively participate in special events to promote EMS.

ASM provides EMS education in CPR and ENT classes, partnered with Manchester Community College. "We are pleased to say that we hold a very high pass rate among for the state exam and are able to teach a diverse cross-section of aspiring EMS professionals," said Skoczulek.



He also said, "We have actively sought to participate in several excellent programs. ASM is partnered with the Capital Region Education Council's (CREC) Public Safety Academy and the Central Area Health Education Center (AHEC) in a project to prepare African Americans from Hartford's North End to successfully complete an EMT program," said Skoczulek.

"We are delighted to receive this award. I am very happy for the employees," said President and CEO Wayne Wright.

Members of ASM's management team also participate in several Manchester boards and committees, including the Heart Safe Community Committee, School Readiness Council Health Committee, Shattered Dreams Committee, Road Race Committee, Rotary Club of Manchester, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and ECHN Chiefs of Service Committee. Skoczulek said, "We are committed to representing our values in public service beyond EMS response alone. We have actively sought roles for staff and management to steer the direction of EMS in Connecticut and aspire to be an integral part of public safety and public health."

ASM has participated in many special events that help promote EMS either directly or through positive association and experience. They also have worked to improve the skills of lay citizens in Basic Life Support (BLS) through community training programs and health screening events. "ASM is committed to increasing community awareness of EMS in the communities we serve," said Skoczulek.

ASM sent an ambulance crew free of charge to events like the Lutz Children's Museum's "Touch-a-Truck," Lowe's Home Improvement's Safety Fair, the Manchester Early Childhood Education Fair and events held by Girl Scouts troops in both East Hartford and Bolton.

The ambulance company has also dispensed information to health careers students at East Hartford High School, and has sent representation to the Manchester and East Hartford Polaris Center, Washington School Fun Day, Connecticut Children's Safety Day and the Crayons for Cancer picnic, according to Skoczulek. The company also provided medical standby services to the MS Walk, Kidney Walk, MARC, Inc. events, "Cruisin' on Main," Make a Wish Foundation, Manchester Concert in the Park and more.

"In EMS, you are only as good as the professionals you employ," said Wright. "Our EMTs, paramedics and dispatchers are the face and heart of the company. We are so proud of the dedicated staff at ASM, who makes these accomplishments possible. This award is really a tribute to them," said Wright.

For more information about ASM, check out their blog at [www.asm-aetna.com/blog](http://www.asm-aetna.com/blog).