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[News](#)

A West Dallas student saw sister stop breathing. Then her health care training kicked in

Uplift Heights sophomore encourages people to learn basic health care skills.



Sophomore Nevaeh Money, 15, sits for a portrait on Thursday, June 26, 2025, in a classroom at the Uplift Heights Healthcare Institute, in Dallas, Texas. Nevaeh learned CPR during a Baylor Scott & White Health workshop her freshman year. In April she performed CPR on her 16-year-old sister who was in cardiac arrest.

Angela Piazza / Staff Photographer

Nevaeh Money feared the worst when her sister stopped breathing.

In April, the 15-year-old saw her sister, Makia Davis, in the throes of a seizure on their living room floor. Nevaeh alerted their mother, Laquita Jackson, and their brother, and she called 911.

Fearing her eldest daughter was dead, Jackson tried to give her CPR. Nevaeh checked Makia's pulse and airway. There was no beat beneath her skin. The unconscious Makia was going into cardiac arrest, Nevaeh recalled.

"In that moment, I sort of blanked out everything," Nevaeh said.

Nevaeh made sure her sister's body was flat. She pushed compressions into her sister's chest to provide oxygen to her brain. She stayed by Makia's side as the paramedics arrived. They got a pulse before they transported Makia to the hospital, where she regained her ability to breathe.

"I wasn't thinking of what to do, how to do it," Nevaeh said, "I just did it, because I knew I didn't have time to think. ... I was trying not to cry. I was trying not to scream."



Nevaeh Money, 15, and sister Makia Davis, 16, sit on a park bench for an interview with the Dallas Morning News near Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge on July 17, 2025 in Dallas.

Angela Piazza / Staff Photographer

Educators from Nevaeh's school, the [Uplift Heights Healthcare Institute](#), and officials from Baylor Scott & White Health say the rising sophomore's actions illustrate how providing early health care education to aspiring medical students creates first responders in families and neighborhoods, providing community benefits long before students enter the workforce.

The hands-on programs transform students from passive learners into confident young professionals, and abstract classroom lessons become practical skills, according to officials from Uplift and Baylor Scott

& White Health. The training extends beyond career preparation, giving students a sense of purpose in community service, officials say.

When young people like Nevaeh master these techniques, officials say these young people develop the competence and confidence to act in critical moments, knowing they possess the knowledge to make a meaningful difference when it matters most.

Makia, 16, called the incident a “blur” because she doesn’t remember having the seizure. But she said she’s impressed with her sister’s abilities.

“If it wasn’t for my sister saving my life, I probably would’ve had a funeral by now,” Makia said.

Jackson says she’s always wanted her children to become a lawyer, a law enforcement official and a health care professional. The incident brought their family closer together and made them more alert and cautious about each other’s well-being, she said.



Laquita Jackson, right, speaks to daughter Makia Davis, 16, during an interview with the Dallas Morning News at a park near Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge on July 17, 2025 in Dallas.

Angela Piazza / Staff Photographer

With the incident behind them, the family is now using the experience to urge people to learn more skills to help their loved ones – whether it’s CPR, the Heimlich maneuver, or how to use an EpiPen, to name a few.

“If you can learn something simple ... just do it, because you never know when you may need it,” said Jackson, who called Nevaeh’s schooling “one of the best things to happen” to their family.

Health care high school

Nevaeh is one of the first 161 9th graders who enrolled at the Uplift Heights Healthcare Institute. The students began their training, which included CPR, as middle school graduates at the Baylor Scott & White Health administrative building.

When the Uplift Education charter school network opened the health care-focused high school in August 2024, they aspired to create future professionals. But the experts involved say Nevaeh’s courageous split-second actions transcend typical teenage achievements, considering she only began acquiring these skills last May.

Bloomberg Philanthropies selected Uplift Education and health care provider Baylor Scott & White Health as one of the 10 education and health care partners nationwide to receive a \$14.9 million grant. Their partnership resulted in the [Uplift Heights Healthcare Institute](#), housed in the Hamon Foundation building in West Dallas.



A photo of Baylor Scott & White Health’s main campus in Dallas.

Baylor Scott & White

Uplift Heights Healthcare is a tuition-free, career-technical education high school for students seeking health care careers. The classes prepare 300 students for jobs through therapeutic health care, biomedical science, nursing and health care operations courses.

Through hands-on practice in simulation labs equipped with life-sized mannequins that simulate different diseases and conditions, Uplift Heights Healthcare students learn how to work in medical settings. Students also participate in career panels, field trips to meet health care professionals, mentorship, job shadowing, internships and summer programs.

“One thing I always emphasize to our scholars is that you will never know when you will need to use this skill,” said Taylor Dominguez, Nevaeh’s 9th grade medical terminology teacher at Uplift Heights Healthcare. “That really takes a lot of confidence and courage to do what Nevaeh did.”

Phil Kendzior, vice president of workforce development programs at Baylor Scott & White Health, said they initially debated when to train students on CPR certification.



Phil Kendzior, Baylor Scott & White Health’s VP of workforce development programs, helps teach a course on professional communication during a health care camp at Dallas College’s Brookhaven Campus on July 17, 2025 in Farmers Branch.

Angela Piazza / Staff Photographer

After Nevaeh’s experience, Kendzior urges health science programs to do basic training, such as first aid and CPR, as early as possible, whether students work in health care or not.

“Never in my wildest dream had I imagined something like what happened with Nevaeh,” Kendzior said.

Health care talent shortage

By the end of their time with Uplift Heights Healthcare, students earn industry certifications in patient care, medical administration, or medical lab assistance, among others, and receive dual credit toward degrees from Dallas College, the University of Texas at Arlington or Texas Woman’s University, according to Uplift.

Additionally, qualified students will have priority job placement with Baylor Scott & White Health, where they can take advantage of tuition reimbursement to further their education, according to Uplift.

That matters, because the health care industry is experiencing a labor shortage in Texas due to an aging populace, talent shortages exacerbated by the pandemic, and population growth, advocates say.



Many nurses and health care providers are expected to retire in the next several years, worsening a worker shortage in the industry.

File Photo / Staff

For Nevaeh, her aspirations are clear: She wants to become a travel nurse. It helps her feel good about herself to know she’s making a difference, whether it’s by providing health care or teaching those skills to others, she said.