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PBC woman survives heart attack with high tech pump, teamwork



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. -- Michelle Kellim is alive today thanks to her husband and a new high tech device.

In July, Michelle's husband Erik, awakened to find her with no pulse and not breathing. She had gone into cardiac arrest. He called 9-1-1 and started performing CPR on her. Paramedics kept the CPR going with an assist later from a new surgical device called an Impella pump.

The Impella pump is the smallest device that can be used to pump blood. It's so small it can be threaded through an artery and into the heart, where it can allow the damaged heart to recover and give surgeons critical time to perform other procedures to save a patient's life.

The team of paramedics who responded and the doctors who tended to Michelle were recognized during a celebration of Kellim's life at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center.

"The Impella Heart Pump was critical in keeping her alive. Without that, she wouldn't have made it through the day on July 13th. And for the doctors, I just can't thank them enough. And they gave me my wife back, basically," said Erik.

"I just want to say thank you to everyone who helped, and worked on me. It means the world to me, and I'm so happy to be able to hold my kids again," said Michelle.

PBGMC is one of only two hospitals in Palm Beach County using this technology to save peoples lives.