

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Amanda Beckler, Corporate Events Director
217-355-5119, amanda.beckler@heart.org



Save The Date - Champaign County Heart & Stroke Ball set for Saturday, February 20, 2010

The Champaign Heart Ball will celebrate a decade of dedicated fund raising with the 2010 event next year. President Emeritus Stanley Ikenberry along with Lou Rysnic and Judy Frasier Chaired the very first Heart Ball in our community back in February of 2001. Over the last nine years, the Champaign County Heart Ball has raised \$1.1 million (net) for the American Heart Association's lifesaving programs and research, contributing to advances such as CPR, pacemakers, bypass surgery, heart transplants, echocardiograms, coronary arteriography, heart lung machines, and anti-rejection therapy drugs.

Last year, our Heart Ball campaign raised just over \$51 million nation-wide allowing us to fund over \$123 million of research and programs across the country and in our community. Since 2001, the American Heart Association has funded almost \$6.7 million in ground-breaking research studies conducted in Champaign-Urbana at the University of Illinois.

Since the first event in 2001, the Heart Ball has since been Chaired by numerous community and philanthropic leaders. Here is a look at our friends of heart.

- 2002 – President Emeritus James Stukel and Mr. and Mrs. Craig Bazanni
- 2003 - Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fox
- 2004 – Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harrington
- 2005 – Mr. and Mrs. Van Dukeman
- 2006 – Chancellor and Mrs. Richard Herman
- 2007 – Mr. and Mrs. David Mills with Special Appeal Heart Champion Mr. Douglas Mills
- 2008 – Mr. and Mrs. Michael Comet
- 2009 – Mr. and Mrs. Curt Anderson with Special Appeal Heart Co-Champion's Mr. and Mrs. Wade Denby

The American Heart Association is proud to announce Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Shapland as the 2010 Heart Ball Co-Chairs. Charlie Shapland is President and CEO of Worden Martin, Inc. and his wife Julie is a lecturer of Accountancy at the University of Illinois. The theme for the upcoming 10th Annual Champaign Heart Ball is "Heart of Rock and Roll" in celebration of all of the past accomplishments and future efforts! The event will be held at the Champaign Country Club.



Both corporations and individuals support the Heart Ball, which is attended by nearly 300 guests annually. Great music and excellent cuisine bring together co-workers, friends and philanthropists to support the American Heart Association in building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. This event plans to raise \$185,000. These funds will help the Heart Association provide groundbreaking medical research, spread lifesaving knowledge and achieve stronger, longer lives for people in our community. ***Simply put, residents of Central Illinois see \$6.00 for every \$1.00 donated invested by the AHA in Champaign County in the form of research alone!***

The Executive Leadership Team is comprised of:

Curt Anderson, Busey Wealth Management, Michael Comet, Pepsi-Cola Champaign-Urbana Bottling Company, David Mills, John Clarke, University of Illinois College of Business, Dr. Stuart King, Christie Clinic Spine, Justin Kirby, McClure Financial Group, Tom Harrington, Jr., Devonshire, and Mark Pelafos, Worden-Martin.

For general, ticket, sponsorship, or volunteer information for the upcoming 2010 Champaign County Heart and Stroke Ball, please contact Amanda Beckler at 217-355-5119 or amanda.beckler@heart.org.

###

About the American Heart Association

Founded in 1924, the American Heart Association today is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of heart disease and stroke. These diseases, America's No. 1 and No. 3 killers, and all other cardiovascular diseases claim nearly 870,000 lives a year. In fiscal year 2007-08 the association invested more than \$554 million in research, professional and public education, advocacy and community service programs to help all Americans live longer, healthier lives. To learn more, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit americanheart.org.