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**"Building healthier lives,  
free of cardiovascular  
diseases and stroke."**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Community Icon to be Honored at 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Champaign Heart Ball

**CHAMPAIGN, IL**, November 2, 2011—Barb and Dave Kuhl, co-chairs, have announced that this year's American Heart Association **Champaign Heart Ball** will be held on April 28, 2012 at the Champaign Country Club. This year's Ball will celebrate and honor the life of a Champaign Icon, Clinton C. Atkins. Mr. Atkins passed away suddenly in April of this year from a heart attack.

The theme of this year's Heart Ball will be **Celebrate Life!** Dave Kuhl commented that "As we went through the initial planning stages for this year's Ball, it became very apparent that this would be a great opportunity to honor and recognize the significant contributions that Clint has made to our Community. To have lost him to heart disease so early in his life is a true loss to our Community."

The Kuhls are delighted to be chairing this year's Heart Ball. "We feel this is another way for us to give back to a community that has been so good to us," Kuhl said. Both Dave and Barb have had careers in banking in the local community with Dave currently serving as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Freestar Bank.

The goal for this year's event is to raise \$175,000 to help support the American Heart Association's efforts to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases. "For every \$1 donated, \$4 is used to fund research taking place here in Central Illinois. We are also very excited to have Carle Heart & Vascular Institute join us again as our signature sponsor. With their recent expansion, our community is even better positioned for dealing with cardiovascular disease, our nation's number one killer," commented Kuhl.

For more information about the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Champaign Heart Ball, please contact Amanda Beckler with the American Heart Association at 217-335-5119 or amanda.beckler@heart.org.

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### **About the American Heart Association**

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. Our mission is to build healthier lives by preventing, treating and defeating these diseases – America's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. We fund cutting-edge research, conduct lifesaving public and professional educational programs, and advocate to protect public health. To learn more visit [americanheart.org](http://americanheart.org).

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.

