

# Celebrate Life

A GALA HONORING CLINT ATKINS

Dear friend of heart;



Over the years, the Champaign Heart Ball fundraising gala has been one of the leading campaigns for the American Heart Association. 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**. 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.

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! This is a great opportunity to honor and recognize the significant contributions that Clint has made to our Community.

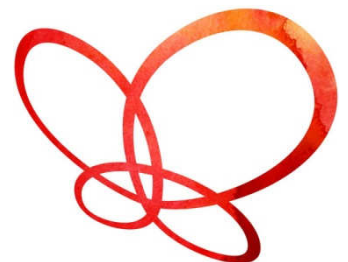
The goal for this year's event is to raise \$175,000 to help support the American Heart Association's efforts to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases. For every \$1 donated, \$4 is used to fund research taking place here in Central Illinois at the University of Illinois. We are also excited to have Carle Heart & Vascular Institute join us again as our signature sponsor.

Do you know all of the things that the AHA has done because of our support of this campaign? The American Heart Association is all of us....it simply does not exist without our community's leaders and citizens.

- In fiscal 2010-11, the American Heart Association spent more than \$106 million to fund 949 new research awards. Current focus areas for funded research include pediatrics, smoking and tobacco, nutrition, high blood pressure and patient outcomes. *WE did that!*
- It's there every time you visit a grocery store seeking heart-healthy choices and read the food labels with a heart smart check mark. *We did that!*
- Lowering the amount of calories consumed by children at school. *WE did that!*
- The American Heart Association is there every time a loved one or neighbor receives CPR and every time you're on a golf course, in a shopping mall or an airport that is ready to respond to cardiac emergencies with defibrillators.
- AHA is there with a hospital implementing a process to improve cardiac patient outcomes through Get With the Guidelines. *WE did that!*
- Reducing the U.S. death rate from congenital heart defects by 25 percent from 1999-2006. *WE did that!*
- Every time you, a loved one or friend has heart surgery, receives an artificial valve, a pacemaker or a cardiac stent, know that "WE" means every supporter from me to you. *WE did that!*

Together, we can help provide the resources the American Heart Association needs to eradicate cardiovascular diseases. In fact, measurable progress is already being made. Death rates are on the decline thanks in great part to the research and prevention measures spearheaded by the AHA. That's outstanding...but that's only the beginning...we can and we must do more. That is why we asking you to commit your support of the 2012 Champaign County Heart & Stroke Ball.

We hope that you are able to support and attend what will continue to be an amazing event on April, 28, 2012! If you are unable to become a corporate sponsor, please consider becoming an auction donor. The federal tax ID for the American Heart Association and this event is #13-5613797. The Illinois state tax exempt number is E9989446705. For more information about the 12th Annual Champaign Heart Ball, please visit **champaignheartball.org** or contact Amanda Beckler with the American Heart Association at 217-335-5119 or [amanda.beckler@heart.org](mailto:amanda.beckler@heart.org).



Thank you for your consideration,  
Barb and David Kuhl, 2012 Champaign County Heart Ball Co-Chairs

Amanda Beckler, American Heart Association