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## **Sweetheart Ball raises \$1.57 million for heart disease research at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – June 22, 2010 – The 2010 Sweetheart Ball generated \$1.57 million for UT Southwestern Medical Center scientists and clinicians to research new and innovative ways of fighting heart disease.

“It’s simply a wonderful event for an important cause, and I’m so proud to be a part of it,” said Deborah Gunter, who chaired the 2010 gala held April 17 at Brook Hollow Country Club in Dallas. “Its overwhelming success is a true testament to the generosity of the people of Dallas, and how highly UT Southwestern is regarded. Heart disease is something that affects virtually every one of us in some way, so it’s very gratifying to see our community come together to support such an important and unifying cause.”

The Sweetheart Ball has become a tradition since it was founded in 1981 by Dallas philanthropic leaders. At that time, a group of civic-minded women committed themselves to battling the nation’s leading cause of death.

Since then, the ball has become one of the most prestigious charity events in Dallas. Proceeds from the 2010 event were matched by an anonymous benefactor for the final amount raised.

This tremendous community support has laid the foundation for groundbreaking research into the causes of cardiovascular disease, for which scientists and physicians at UT Southwestern have become known worldwide.

Proceeds from the Sweetheart Ball’s early years were designated for the establishment of the Gail Griffiths Hill Chair in Cardiology, named for a founding member of the group who died in 1984.

Proceeds from the 2009 Sweetheart Ball established the Sweetheart Ball – Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D., Distinguished Chair in Cardiology, honoring the institution’s former president who now serves as president of Southwestern Medical Foundation.

In all other years since 1982 the funds generated by the gala have been directed to the Sweetheart Ball Fund for Cardiology Research. This endowment fund has fueled the search for new therapies to prevent and cure heart disease, including research into treatments for those genetically predisposed to heart disease, and has helped fund innovative pilot projects, such as research into novel ways to regenerate heart tissue. Since its inception, the Sweetheart Ball has raised more than

(MORE)

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\$14 million for cardiovascular research at UT Southwestern.

“We continue to be honored by the Sweetheart Ball’s invaluable support of our efforts,” said Dr. Joseph Hill, chief of cardiology. “Thanks to the event’s magnanimous benefactors, we continue to move forward rapidly in our mission to create one of the best heart disease research programs in the world, and we are so grateful that they have once again entrusted us with such a major contribution.”

Sponsorship of the 2010 Sweetheart Ball was offered at multiple levels. The event’s lead donors, the Diamond Sweetheart benefactors (\$50,000), were the Dallas Cowboys Charities/Gene and Jerry Jones/Charlotte and Shy Anderson. Platinum Sweethearts (\$25,000) were J. Baxter Brinkmann, The Dedman Foundation Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Ford, Elizabeth Ann Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lavie, Lisa and Kenny Troutt, and Alinda H. and James R. Wikert. Gold Sweethearts (\$15,000) were Bess and Ted Enloe, Charlene C. and Tom F. Marsh, Sarah and Ross Perot, Deedie and Rusty Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sewell, and Annette and Harold Simmons. Silver Sweethearts (\$10,000) were Linda and Bill Custard, Mr. and Mrs. Randall Fojtasek, Joyce and Larry Lacerte, Barbara and Mark Lemmon, Joan and Irvin Levy, Nancy Cain Marcus, Margot and Ross Perot, Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Pickens, Michal and Loyd Powell, Dr. and Mrs. Karl Rathjen, Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Riggs Jr., PlainsCapital Corporation/Lee Ann and Alan White, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Woods, Sharon and Terry Worrell and Dee and Charles Wyly.

JP Morgan generously underwrote the patron party, given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Ford.

“The Sweetheart Ball has created a wonderful tradition of generosity that has been instrumental in helping us build one of the top-ranked cardiology programs in the nation,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. “Its support and encouragement continue to spawn research breakthroughs that lead to better diagnostic procedures and treatments for patients with heart disease around the world.”

The 2011 Sweetheart Ball, scheduled for April 16, will be chaired by Sonia Hamra. For information on sponsorship, please call 214-648-2510.

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