

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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SWEETHEART BALL RAISES \$700,000 FOR HEART DISEASE AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS – Oct. 1, 2002 – This year’s Sweetheart Ball generated \$700,000 for UT Southwestern Medical Center scientists and clinicians to seek revolutionary treatments for heart disease.

Linda Gibbons, chair of the 2002 ball, said an anonymous donor matched the \$350,000 raised by the ball.

“It is our hope that this year’s Sweetheart Ball and our efforts will provide UT Southwestern with the means to conduct vital research that will hasten the search for better answers to preventing and treating heart disease,” said Gibbons, who also serves as a member of the Tower Center board of directors at Southern Methodist University, chairman emeritus of the board of TACA, a trustee of the Children’s Medical Center of Dallas and member of the Crystal Charity Ball committee, the Dallas Woman’s Club and the Junior League of Dallas.

Sweetheart Ball proceeds were a critical component this year in the recruitment of a new chief of cardiology. Dr. Joseph Hill, from the University of Iowa College of Medicine, an authority in cardiac cellular function, will join UT Southwestern in mid-October.

“Dr. Hill’s research on the molecular processes that lead to cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure, coupled with our many other current research initiatives, will ensure that UT Southwestern continues at the forefront of finding the causes and cures of many cardiac diseases,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president.

Civic-minded women committed to battling the nation’s leading cause of death established the Sweetheart Ball 21 years ago.

In the 1980s, proceeds from the Sweetheart Ball were given to support special research projects and to creating an endowed chair in honor of Gail Griffiths Hill, one of the group’s founders, who died in 1984. Since 1992, the funds have been earmarked for the Sweetheart Ball Endowment Fund for Cardiology Research. The endowment has grown to more than \$5 million, with its income being used for cutting-edge cardiology research.

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“Proceeds from the Sweetheart Ball have enabled us to launch new research programs and have allowed Dallas to remain at the forefront of heart research,” Wildenthal said.

Next year’s Sweetheart Ball, scheduled for April 12, will be chaired by Janie McGarr. McGarr is on the board of directors of KERA, North Texas Public Broadcasting, and Planned Parenthood of North Texas and serves as a member of the Crystal Charity Ball and the Junior League of Dallas.

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