

One Love. One Dream.

Over 1,200 Northwestern University (NU) students came together with one dream: to raise funds to save lives, one heart at a time. They came together to dance and sing, while raising valuable funds for life-saving research.

After thirty long hours of dancing, NU students raised \$1,019,130 in cash and in-kind donations to benefit The Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) and the Evanston Community Foundation on March 4-6. This is the first time in Northwestern University Dance Marathon's (NUDM) 37 year history that the event raised more than one million dollars.

The Children's Heart Foundation received a check in the amount of \$642,503.13, which is the largest single donation in CHF's history. This is the second time CHF is the grateful primary beneficiary of NUDM. The first time was in 1999, which still remains our second largest donation to date.

"The Children's Heart Foundation is incredibly grateful to the Northwestern University community, NUDM Executive Committee and most importantly, the over 900 dancers that participated in DM. While 30 hours dancing is a very long time, the result of the collective efforts will no doubt transform CHF," said Bill Foley, Executive Director of The Children's Heart Foundation.

"The research that will be funded thanks to NUDM will impact children and their families for generations to come," explained Foley. "We look forward to the day that we can answer the question of 'Why did this happen to my child?' 'How can my child's heart defect be treated?' and more importantly, 'How can congenital heart defects be prevented?'"

Throughout the year, the twenty-two executive board members and over 300 committee members helped organize events to raise awareness for NUDM and CHF. Some of these events included a Top Chef competition, the first ever MiniDM at Oak Park River Forest High School, weekly trivia, various holiday parties and even a Men's basketball practice and game. CHF Heart Ambassadors and

their families attended each of these events to illustrate the impact a congenital heart defect (CHD) can have on the entire family. The fifteen families involved in this program, spoke to dancer groups across campus, including fraternities, sororities, dorms, religious groups and athletic teams.

Throughout the weekend, these CHF Heart Ambassador families had the opportunity to share their personal story and struggles, as well as show off some of their best dance moves.

"As we saw on the dance floor this weekend, the kids and families touched by CHF are some of the most inspiring and energetic people you'll ever meet, and they are truly grateful to everyone at DM for the relationships formed, awareness raised, and funds donated," said Executive Co-Chair, Julie Sher, commenting on partnership between NUDM and CHF.

While the dancers were in the tent, the committee members hosted other NUDM events, including a silent auction, 5K/10K, Kid's Fair and DM Spa. Many Evanston residents, non-dancing students, alumni, faculty, and other guests were able to show their support through these events.

"We hope that we've taught the campus about the urgency surrounding funding for research of congenital heart defects, we hope we've given people a glimpse into what it means to have a family member affected by one and by doing so, we hope we've given the campus the chance to come together for a few hours to make a positive impact on the world," said Catrina Miksis, Executive Co-Chair of NUDM. ♥





President's Message

by Megan Van Pelt, CHF President



Congenital Heart Walks



Unit to fight Congenital Heart Disease in 2011 at any of our summer/fall Congenital Heart Walks:

- San Francisco Bay Area ... 8/6 San Francisco, CA
- Rocky Mountain ... 8/28 Denver, CO
- St. Louis Metro ... 8/28 St. Louis, MO
- Southern MI ... 9/11 Detroit, MI
- Northern OH ... 9/17 Cleveland, OH
- Nebraska ... 9/24 Lincoln, NE
- West VA ... 10/8 Wheeling, WV
- Southern OH ... 10/9 Cincinnati, OH
- Central OH ... 10/23 ... Columbus, OH
- Phoenix Metro ... 11/5 Phoenix, AZ
- Central Virginia ... 11/12... Richmond, VA

The Walks, a joint program between CHF and the Adult Congenital Heart Association, will support the missions of both organizations: to support CHF research and lifelong care. You can make a difference! Register as an individual, join a team, volunteer, or donate at www.CongenitalHeartWalk.org. For more information please contact Anthony@CongenitalHeartWalk.org or EWeiss@ChildrensHeartFoundation.org. ♥

Team CHF

Team CHF is running, biking, hiking, walking, and swimming to raise awareness and funds for the #1 birth defect. Our athletes are participating in walks, runs, obstacle courses, marathons, biking, and hiking. Our thanks go out to our current athletes: Holy Novecek, Grayson Deal, Peter Male, Kali Kiecker, Mitzi Arnold, Eric Helmy, Sadhvi Khanna, Jama Pantel, Denise Pizzo, Team Halve a Heart, and Team Braveheart. For more information on how you can be part of the TEAM CHF action, contact Nels Matson at nmatson@childrensheartfoundation.org. ♥



This year, 2011, is shaping up to be our most successful year ever! We have welcomed new staff members to the organization and continued to build on key partnerships from our past. This year, we welcomed Nels Matson to CHF as TEAM CHF Coordinator. Nels is not only an amazing athlete but he's also a congenital heart defect (CHD) survivor. We are excited to welcome Nels to our family!

February marked our second year of partnership with Build-A-Bear®. At all 300 Build-A-Bear stores, customers were offered the opportunity to make a donation to CHF. This resulted in donations of \$187,000. Thank you to Build-A-Bear and to all of our CHF friends and family who participated! We look forward to continuing our partnership with such a fantastic organization.

Starting off the month of March, CHF was in full swing with the finale of Northwestern University's Dance Marathon. CHF was selected in 2010 to be the partner for Northwestern's 2011 Dance Marathon. It is difficult to capture in words the impact this event had on our CHF families, the CHF team, and me, personally. The passion, energy, time, and love that the NU students put into this event are remarkable. The 300 committee members, dancers, and faculty, spent nine months planning and then danced for 30 hours straight. They are amazing. I stood on stage at 1:30 AM looking out at the sea of 950 dancers and was overwhelmed with the realization that they were dancing for our CHD kids, dancing to make their future better, and dancing for each other, as more than a handful of those students might have to "walk in our shoes" some day with their own heart baby. I speak for CHF as a whole when I say THANK YOU to each and every individual who made that event a reality; you have truly made a difference.

In closing, I wish to thank our incredibly dedicated volunteers on both the chapter and national levels, as well as our event sponsors and donors who continue to support our efforts. Each of you makes a difference that brings health, hope, and happiness to children impacted by congenital heart defects. ♥

CafeGive

We want to remind all of you that you can earn for The Children's Heart Foundation as you shop on-line. Visit CafeGive.com and choose The Children's Heart Foundation as your cause. Then choose from hundreds of stores – representing apparel, electronics, office supplies, travel, sports equipment and many more stores. There is even a business products category where a wide variety of business supplies, travel and purchases are represented. The Children's Heart Foundation earns when you shop: www.CafeGive.com. ♥





The Medical Advisory Board Update



Carl L. Backer, M.D., Chairperson

The annual meeting of the Medical Advisory Board of The Children's Heart Foundation took place on October 23, 2010 at the Union League Club in Chicago, Illinois. Nineteen grants were reviewed and recommendations for funding were provided to The Children's Heart Foundation Executive Board. In attendance were Drs. Tom Weigel, David Sahn, Andrew Griffin, Marla Mendelson, and myself. Also in attendance were: • Amanda Adams (Colorado chapter), • Ellen Weiss (Florida chapter), • Todd Ford, Jim Mowen, Ryan O'Leary, and Byron Yip (Illinois chapter), • Bob and Lori Otvals (Missouri chapter), • Heather Helmy (Oregon chapter), • CHF Staff: Bill Foley (Executive



Director), Amy Basken, Tina Larson, Nels Matson, and Denise Pizzo (volunteer), •Editor, CHF Newsletter: Sue Donnellan

The submitted grants were scored by all of the Medical Advisory Board members prior to the meeting in Chicago. Based on these scores the grants were re-reviewed with peer discussion of the grants by primary and secondary reviewers. Following the discussion the grants were re-scored and ranked.

The consensus of the MAB meeting in October was to recommend the following 5 grant proposals (out of 19 submitted) for funding by vote of the Board of Directors of CHF:

All these projects are two year projects.			
The category of these research proposals include: 2 basic science genetic research proposals, 2 clinical database projects, and one stem cell project.			
First Year Funding			
Title of Research Proposal	Principal Investigator	Institution	Funding
The Role of ETS-1 in the Neural Crest in Cardiac Development and Disease	Paul Grossfield, M.D.	Rady Children's Hospital of San Diego	\$ 100,000
Creation of a Visual Encyclopedia Illustrating the Terms and Definitions of the International Pediatric and Congenital Cardiac Code, a System of Nomenclature Developed by the International Society for Nomenclature of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases	Jeffrey P. Jacobs, M.D., Clinical Professor of Surgery	All Children's Hospital	\$ 50,000
Genes that Prevent Congenital Heart Disease	Patrick Jay, M.D., Ph.D., As- sistant Professor of Pediatrics	Washington University	\$100,000
Engineering a Heart Valve with Patient Specific Cells	Sunjay Kaushal, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery	Children's Memorial Hospital	\$100,000 (beginning in June 2011)
Fontan Conversion/ Arrhythmia Surgery Long-Term Database	Constantine Mavroudis, M.D., Professor of Surgery	Cleveland Clinic	\$50,000

In addition to the new grant proposals, we reviewed second year funding for Dr. Jane Newburger's grant, "The Relation of Regional Brain Structure to Long-term Development and Behavior in d-TGA Patients." This study had been approved in 2009 and is up for second year funding. The one year progress report was reviewed and the Medical Advisory Board recommended funding for a second year (\$50,000).

I want to follow-up in particular on one of the grants that was funded in 2008 and 2009 the "AAOCA" grant. Dr. Julie Brothers who is in the Department of Cardiology at Children's Hospital Philadelphia was the primary investigator on this proposal. This is her summary of the accomplishments of that grant which received \$50,000/yr for 2 years.

"Anomalous coronary artery is the second leading cause of sudden cardiac death in children and young adults in the United States. It is a rare congenital heart defect where one of the coronary arteries comes off the main blood vessel, the aorta, in the wrong location. As it travels to its correct location between the two great blood vessels, it can become narrowed. We believe this narrowing may put the child at risk for sudden cardiac death. There is significant controversy among doctors regarding how to treat children with anomalous coronary artery. The controversy is largely because we are unable to predict if and when a lethal event is going to occur and in which child. In an attempt to further understand this congenital heart defect, several pediatric cardiothoracic surgeons and cardiologists in the Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society (CHSS) formed the Anomalous Coronary Artery Working Group, with the ultimate goal

Continued on page 7



Chapter Development



Upcoming Events



Chapters are a critical life blood of The Children's Heart Foundation. Since our first Chapter came on board almost ten years ago, we are grateful to have a dedicated and growing team of volunteer leaders who are all committed to the CHF mission of funding congenital heart disease research. Along with our eight established chapters in Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania, the CHF has welcomed four developing Chapters during the last year. A special thank you goes out to the founding Presidents and Boards of our four developing Chapters:

Colorado	Amanda Adams	chfco@childrensheartfoundation.org
Missouri	Lori Orbals	chfmo@childrensheartfoundation.org
New York	Beatriz Collado	chfny@childrensheartfoundation.org
Virginia	Lisa McGhan	chfva@childrensheartfoundation.org

To learn more about CHF, volunteer opportunities within the organization, and ways to get involved, join us at our monthly introductory seminars at 1PM EST on the following Wednesdays: July 13th, August 17th, September 14th, October 12th, November 16th and December 14th. Cannot make the seminar? Please e-mail eweiss@childrensheartfoundation.org for more information. ♥



Advocacy



One Day, One Voice, One Message.

On March 10th, CHF joined Mended Little Hearts and the Adult Congenital Heart Association in advocating for increased federal funding of CHD research and enhancement of national data collection systems at Congenital Heart Lobby day 2011. In our efforts to secure this funding, CHF sent 10 advocates from across the country. These advocates shared their story with key legislators who serve on the budget committee for health issues, urging them to fund the much needed research. Nearly a dozen more CHF advocates also got involved in Lobby Day by calling or writing their legislators. Our united effort truly made a difference in Washington DC. Thank you to our wonderful advocates. ♥

Please join us at the events listed below. For more information, please visit our web site at www.childrensheartfoundation.org

June 1— July 16, 2011 – USA

Bike4theCHF is taking place. Join Nick Busta and Nels Matson on their bike journey across the country. For more information and to donate visit www.bike4the.chf.org.

July 14, 2011 – Devon, PA

Philly Hearts, a family event featuring Philly foods, music, entertainment and music will take place at Hilltop House. For more information: (484) 428-1090 or CHFPA@childrensheartfoundation.org

July 15, 2011 – Oak Brook, IL

Mike and Joanna Agne will be hosting their Eighth Annual "Forever in our Hearts" Summer Luau in loving memory of their daughter Isabel Rose. Visit www.foreverinourheartsgala.org for more information.

July 16, 2011 – Columbus, OH

Join us for The Children's Heart Foundation night at the Columbus Crew. Game starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by calling 614-447-4181 and mention CHF night or order online at www.thecrew.com/chf (special offer code CHF).

August 8, 2011 – Boston, MA

The Second Annual Jasper Johnson Golf Outing will be held at Blackstone Golf Club. For more registration and more information, please visit: www.jaspersheart.com

August 15, 2011 – Elizabeth, PA

"Remember An Angel, Swing For A Survivor", the 3rd Annual Golf Scramble Tournament in loving memory of Alec James Kahler, will be held on Sunday August 22, 2010 at Butler's Golf Course. For more information contact Denise Kahler@littlegepk@aol.com.

September 19, 2011 – Lake Forest, IL

CHF-IL will hold its Twelfth Annual Chicago Golf Outing at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, IL. For more information contact Todd Ford at chfil@comcast.net.

October 9, 2011 – Chicago, IL

Saving Children's Lives...One Mile at a Time – If you have registered for the 2011 Bank of America Chicago Marathon you can still run for CHF by joining TEAMCHF. For further information, please call Nels Matson @ 727-421-9487 or nmatson@childrensheartfoundation.org



Ohio Chapter



In January, we kicked off the year selling calendars and Valentine's Day Cards developed by Cincinnati VP Trisha King. At Columbus College of Art and Design, Board Member Jeannine Kraft, spearheaded a Candy Gram event. Adam Thomas, a Junior Board member, made a CHF presentation at Fisher Catholic High School and raised over \$400 during a "dress down" day at school.

On March 12th we hosted our 4th "Food for the Heart" Dinner at Buckeye Honda in Lancaster, Ohio, with over 125 people in attendance. We raised at this event \$8500. The Primmer family donated their time and made homemade pizzas. Also at the event there were crafts, dancing, and a silent auction. The radio station WLOH had a "Live Remote" at our event and Dr. Christopher Learn of Nationwide Children's Hospital was a speaker.

Our chapter received \$25,000 as beneficiary of the Columbus Dealers Association Auto Show Preview Dinner.

We look forward to hosting 3 Congenital Heart Walks in Ohio in the fall! ♥



Oregon Chapter



The Oregon Chapter has recently added three new board members. Each has a powerful and personal connection to CHD. Introducing:

Julie Le Gassick, formerly environmental consultant, now a stay-at-home mom, and Heart Mom. **Mari Ricker**, family physician in Portland, OR and Heart Mom. **Jason Lines**, physician's assistant, Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Portland, OR.

The Oregon Chapter celebrated Heart Awareness Month with a small event for donors and sponsors at Vie de Boheme, a winery in Portland, Oregon. 35 attendees enjoyed a wine tasting planned by Didier Sudre.

Our Special Guest was Brian Doyle. Brian is an award-winning author, essayist, and editor of the University of Portland's Portland Magazine. Brian is also a Heart Dad. Brian's works include: "The Wet Engine: Exploring Mad Wild Miracles of Heart", which chronicles his journey as a parent of a child with Congenital Heart Defect, and "The Grail: A Year Ambling & Shambling Through an Oregon Vineyard in Pursuit of the Best Pinot Noir Wine in the Whole Wild World". Brian's reading was emotional, witty and captivating. We feel like we have developed an important new friend in Oregon.

We held our signature event, LionHeart, at the Portland Children's Museum in June. ♥



Pennsylvania Chapter



On November 13, The Children's Heart Foundation- Pennsylvania Chapter hosted "Thankful Hearts" at the Merion Tribute House in Merion Station. We would like to thank our sponsors, Theodore and Lynnea Lynch, Beneficial Bank, Kristie and Vince Pennoni, A&E Construction, Annette and Chuck Pennoni, Pepper Hamilton LLP, and Jeremy Hinman. Dr. Brothers of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, our speaker for the event, has received funding from The Children's Heart Foundation for the last two years.

At this event, we honored Dr. Matt Gillespie of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as the recipient of our "Smart Heart" Award. Molly Hampshire of Nemours/DuPont was also honored with our "Loving Heart" Award. Many thanks to the dedicated "Thankful Hearts" Committee for putting on this memorable and successful evening!

"Philly Hearts" will take place at the Hilltop House in Devon on July 14, as Bike4theCHF bikes into our area. Families will enjoy games, moon-bouncing, face-painting, visiting with animals from the zoo, and dinner featuring Philly's favorite foods. For more information and to purchase tickets call: 484-428-1090 or visit chfpa@childrensheartfoundation.org

Denise Kahler will host the third annual "Remember an Angel/Swing for a Survivor" on August 14th at the Butler's Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA. Please join us!

To see pictures of our past events and find out about upcoming events, please join our new Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CHFPA. ♥

DID YOU KNOW...

For a second year in a row, The Children's Heart Foundation is proud to partner with Build-A-Bear Workshops throughout the United States for the month of February 2011, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Month. Build a Bear workshop guests had the opportunity to donate to CHF at the end of their purchase throughout February 2011. This partnership continues to enable CHF to continue to fund the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects. ♥





Florida Chapter



The Florida Chapter has been busy orientating new officers for the board. The Junior Board made trips to All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg on February 11 and to St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa on February 18 to thank the Cardiac Nurses for all they do and to hand out information on The Children's Heart Foundation. While at All Children's, Dr Gul Dadlani treated them to a tour of an operating room and an ICU room, put them in scrubs and had a question and answer session. The Junior Board also visited the local Build-A-Bear to thank them for their support.



Nicolle Van Valkenburg and Family: held their 2nd Annual Bryan Van Valkenburg Memorial Golf Tournament benefitting CHF. Plans are underway for their 3rd annual golf outing to be held in October. ♥



Arizona Chapter



As a newly formed chapter for The Children's Heart Foundation, Arizona continues to raise money and CHD awareness. In 2010, we raised over \$75,000 at our first annual golf event at DC Ranch Country Club in North Scottsdale. 50 golfers enjoyed a delicious dinner and silent auction. Taking place the same weekend was our first annual Congenital Heart Walk (CHW). This event was attended by over 500 participants, bringing in over \$40,000, and included a special guest appearance by Aaron Boone, who used to play Major League Baseball and is a CHD survivor. This year's event will be on Sunday, November 6th. Please go to congenitalheartwalk.org for more information.

On April 30th we held our fourth annual "A Heartfelt Affair" wine tasting/cooking demonstration event at the home of Angela and Doug Ducey (AZ State Treasurer) in Paradise Valley. This serene setting was complemented by 300 generous participants, live music, auctions, and delicious food by Chef Eddie Matney (local celebrity chef and CHD Survivor) and wine by Francis Coppola. Over \$45,000 was raised during this year's event. Finally, we are in the beginning stages of planning our seventh annual Tucson Omni Golf outing. Anyone interested in getting involved please contact Janeen Kokodynski at janeen.kokodynski@dcranch.com. ♥



Heartfelt Thanks



- ♥ **Build-A-Bear Workshop:** In 2011 Build-A-Bear Workshop once again partnered with CHF during the month of February and raised over \$187,000 for CHD research.
- ♥ **Alpine Childrens Charity** continues to raise funds and awareness for childhood diseases.
- ♥ **St. Jude Medical:** for their continuous support and their charitable sponsorship.
- ♥ 2010 and 2011 Chicago Golf Sponsors: Returning sponsors **The Curran Group, Sweet Mandy B's, L & W Supply, and Sprint.** Our presenting sponsor, **The Exchange Group,** our new sponsors **Walgreen's, Moser, Kearns and Assoc, Sidley Austin LLP, Sprint** and **Robert Baird Company.**
- ♥ **LifeSource** a sponsor of Northwestern's Dance Marathon.
- ♥ Walks were held by **Natasha** and **Dustin Durham** in honor of their son, Noah, and **Richard** and **Jeannette Wayne** held their 2nd annual walk in honor of their daughter, Emmaline.
- ♥ For the past 4 years, **Douglas** and **Haley Vonder Haar:** our 9 and 11 year olds from Alaska have chosen CHF to receive a portion of their proceeds from their various fundraising endeavors including ice cream and hot chocolate stands. This summer they raised over \$1,300 from ice bringing their 4 year total over \$3,000 raised.
- ♥ **Stephanie Tantillo** owner of Satori Fire Glass: a percentage of her jewelry sales benefits CHF.
- ♥ **Dani Montano, Carol Kvasnicka, St. Frances Cabrini Ladies League,** artists from **Joni Renee Gallery, New Franklin Elementary School, Alexis Mitchell, Gamma Omega Delta Fraternity, CDWG - Capital Beltway Team, Meat Heads Burgers & Fries, Kiryle Foundation, The Meil Family Foundation, Beta Xi Chapter of Psi Iota Xi Sorority,** CHF was beneficiary for their various fundraising events.

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and your support in spreading awareness is greatly appreciated! ♥



Illinois Chapter



Medical Advisory Board, continued from page 3

of starting a multi-institutional, multi-national registry of patients with anomalous coronary artery.

Thanks to the generous contributions from The Children's Heart Foundation, the Anomalous Coronary Artery Registry has been created under the auspices of the CHSS. As of December 2010, we have 26 participating CHSS institutions in the United States and Canada and 107 patients enrolled. We anticipate at least 30 institutions participating by the end of 2011 and hopefully 500 patients enrolled over the next few years. We have compiled the largest number of anomalous coronary artery patients ever. We recently published our first manuscript describing the creation and design of the Anomalous Coronary Artery Registry. (Brothers JA, Gaynor JW, Jacobs JP, Caldarone C, Jegatheeswaran A, Jacobs ML and the Anomalous Coronary Artery Working Group. The registry of anomalous aortic origin of the coronary artery of the Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society. *Cardiol Young* 2010; 20[Suppl 3]:50-58)."

Over the next several years, Dr. Brothers plans on using information from this study to help answer some of the clinical questions surrounding treatment strategies, long-term outcomes after surgery, and clarify the best tests to evaluate these patients for sudden death. This project has the potential to prevent sudden death and will have a major impact on the lives of hundreds of children, their families, and their communities.

I want to take this occasion to welcome two new members of the Medical Advisory Board who participated in grant reviews for the first time.



Dr. Christopher Caldarone is Professor of Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario. He is also the Chair of the Division of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Toronto.



Dr. Courtney Hardy an Assistant Professor of Anesthesia at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and a pediatric cardiac anesthesiologist at Children's Memorial Hospital.

New members of the Medical Advisory Board who will be joining in 2011 are:



Dr. Jim Jagers, Chief of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at Denver's Children's Hospital.



Dr. Kenneth Schowengerdt, Chief of Cardiology at Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis, MO.



Dr. George Van Hare, Director of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at Washington University, St. Louis, MO. ♥

The Illinois Chapter held its annual family benefit, "Hearts at Play", on February 20th, at Pinstripes in Northbrook. With bowling, food and fun for the entire family, it was a special evening to celebrate, enjoy and be inspired. The event was attended by more than 250 people and raised over \$10,000 for The Children's Heart Foundation. A special thank you to event chairs Darlene Buenzow, Erin Smith and Jackie Wilson.

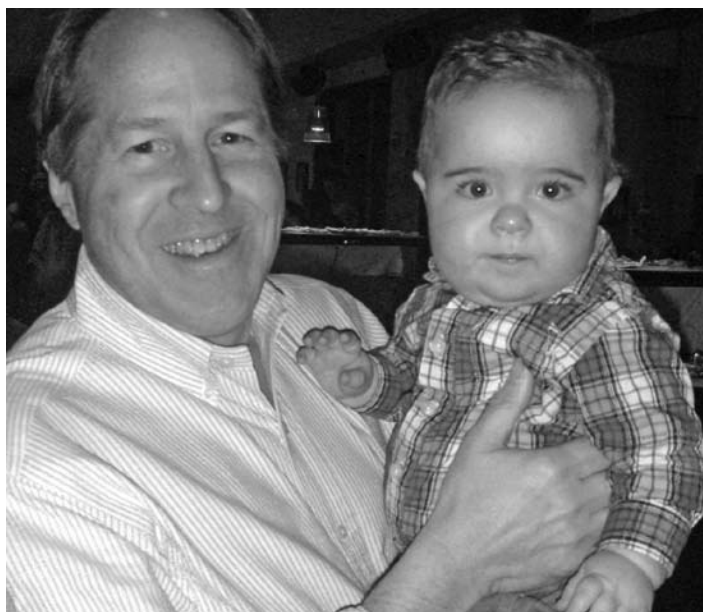
Our heartfelt thanks to all of our Illinois Chapter Heart Ambassadors who helped to support the Northwestern University Dance Marathon, and provided student participants with a closer look at how their fundraising can positively affect children with congenital heart defects.

Neha and Matt Meyer hosted their second "Jump to your Heart's Delight Fundraiser" raising over \$3,000. A special thanks to the Star Wars Group Midwest Garrison, 501st Legion/Nar Shaddaa Base who added a little extra excitement to the event and Chef Tim Meyers and Donna Wagner who donated heart cookies for the event.

Our Young Professional Board has been busy with numerous activities throughout the Chicago area. They raised over \$5,000 with a fashion show, a soccer tournament and "The Largest Speed Dating Event".

Jennifer and John LaVere hosted "Ava's Giving Tree" in loving memory of their daughter Ava. All the proceeds of this event benefitted CHF.

Planning for our fall golf event has already begun. The Illinois Chapter's 12th Annual Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 19, 2011, at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest. Last year's event raised more than \$70,000 and we hope to exceed that this year. ♥



Dr. Backer and Tyler Schaffer at Pinstripes

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About CHF



The Children's Heart Foundation was established in 1996 by Betsy and Steve Peterson to honor the memory of their son, Sam, who died from congenital heart disease at age eight. Today, the Foundation is a national organization with local chapters and a network of volunteers working to eradicate congenital heart disease as America's number one birth defect. To date, CHF has distributed \$3.9 million through 41 research grants. ♥



Our Goal



The goal of The Children's Heart Foundation is to bring health, hope and happiness to children impacted with congenital heart defects, the number one birth defect in the United States. We accomplish this goal by funding the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects in children.

Saving Children's Lives – One Heart at a Time ♥