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## People & Places: American Heart Association gears up for Heart Ball on Feb. 4

BY DANNA SUE WALKER World Staff Writer  
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The American Heart Association's Heart Ball is a Tulsa tradition.

Family and friends gather to watch the formal presentation of Sweethearts and Mavericks - high school sophomores whose parents are supporters of the AHA.

The 41st annual Western-style event will be held Feb. 4 at the Exchange Center at Expo Square.

The honorees take part in volunteer and educational programs for the association throughout the school year.

This year, the 71 Sweethearts and Mavericks have also attended a series of parties leading up to the evening. They have taken part in family activities, such as a mother-daughter tea and father-son challenge course. They also spent a day with a heart specialist at St. Francis to learn more about heart care.

Chip and Sharon McElroy of McElroy Manufacturing are Heart Ball co-chairs. Their daughter, Julie, is a Sweetheart this year.

Sweetheart chairwomen are Cathy Burdick and Leigh Ann Fuller. Maverick chairwomen are Annie Brady and Tracy Salisbury.

The Heart Ball is one of Tulsa's premier galas, raising funds for heart disease research, education and legislative advocacy.

The presenting sponsor is St. Francis Health System. Other top sponsors include McElroy Manufacturing, Tulsa World, American Airlines, Cowen Construction and Magellan Midstream.

Volunteers on the executive leadership team are John Cowen of Cowen Construction; Jim McCann of McDonald, McCann & Metcalf; Angelyn Dale of Hall Estill; Mark Revard of F&M Mortgage Corp.; Matt Farris of Rogers & Bell; Hal Salisbury of Oklahoma Offset Inc.; Chuck Fuller of Bridgecreek Investment Management; Madalene Witterholt of Crowe & Dunlevy; and Ralph Hill of WPX.

The event's fundraising goal is \$600,000. Currently, the American Heart Association is funding more than \$3 million in the state of Oklahoma and \$122 million nationally.

"We are thrilled to do whatever we can to defeat the nation's No. 1 killer," Sharon McElroy said. "Our whole country is in a cardiovascular crisis, and the statistics are particularly bad in Oklahoma."

For information about tickets or sponsorships, call Monica Martin at 918-712-4003.

**Original Print Headline: AHA gearing up for Heart Ball**

**Associated Images:**



**Heart Ball director Monica Martin (left), Sheri Eustis and Martha Dickman prepare for the annual American Heart Association's gala to be held Feb. 4 at the Exchange Center at Expo Square. Courtesy**

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