



## The Children's Heart Foundation™ E-newsletter

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### Upcoming Events

#### February: [Mending Hearts Necklace Fundraiser](#)

SHINElife created the Mending Hearts Necklace to raise money for CHD research! All proceeds from the Mending Hearts Necklace will go to CHF. Order today and your SHINE will ship between February 16th and February 24th. [Shop here.](#)

#### February 19: [Jump Start Your Heart](#)

San Diego, CA  
The 6th annual Jump Start Your Heart 5k walk/run will take place in beautiful Mission Bay Park at De Anza Cove. Register for the walk/run [here.](#)

#### February 23: [Illinois Chapter Meet & Greet](#)

Chicago, IL  
Join the IL Chapter for a meet & greet meeting to learn more about CHF and how you can get involved! More information [here.](#)

#### February 25: [Hands for Hearts Casino Night](#)

### CHD Awareness Week Begins

Today is the first day of **Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) Awareness Week** (Feb. 7th - 14th). Year-round, millions of people are affected by CHDs: babies are born with CHDs, patients undergo open-heart surgeries, families lose loved ones, and teens & adults face the lifelong challenges of living with CHDs.

This is why, at The Children's Heart Foundation, we're dedicated to funding the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of CHDs. Because of advancements made through research, death rates from CHDs in the U.S. have declined by 37.5%. It's our goal to see that number increase, and to continue to see babies born with CHDs survive to adulthood. All of which is only possible through continued research.

Join us in our ongoing efforts to fight CHDs, the most common birth defect in America. Help fund life-saving CHD research [here.](#)

You can also help spread awareness by watching and sharing the video, [CHD: The Facts](#), created by The Children's Heart Foundation, Illinois Chapter.

Greensboro, NC  
The 2nd annual Hands for Hearts Casino night benefiting CHF will bring supporters, sponsors, and family members of those affected by congenital heart defects together for an amazing evening of food and drink, live casino action, and spectacular live and silent auctions. For more information & to register [click here](#).

**February 25: [Graeme's Run](#)**

Katy, TX  
Graeme's Run 5k & 1 mile walk benefiting CHF is in memory of Graeme, who passed away from CHDs in May 2015. The event will take place at No Label Brewery. In addition to the run, there will be food trucks, bounce houses, face painting, and more! For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**February 25: [Show Some Heart Burn-a-thon](#)**

Mt Juliet, TN  
[Burn Boot Camp](#) will be hosting a 6 hour long "Show Some Heart" Burn-A-Thon, from 6 am - 12 pm, with a camp every hour on the hour open to all with donations benefiting CHF! They will be partnering with like-minded, healthy living businesses to hold silent auctions and giveaways throughout the day. Donate [here](#). [Email Christen](#) with questions.

**February 28: [Henri Bendel Fundraiser](#)**

New York, NY  
Enjoy an evening of sips, sweets, and shopping to celebrate Heart Month. Henri Bendel will donate 10% of the event proceeds to the CHF New York Chapter. More information [here](#).

**See more fundraisers & events [here](#)!**



## MAB Spotlight: Dr. Joe Forbess

Every year, The Children's Heart Foundation's Medical Advisory Board (MAB), which is made up of leading scientists, surgeons, and cardiologists from across the country, reviews the research grants that are submitted to CHF.

Once the grants are reviewed, members of the MAB, along with CHF staff, board members, and chapter representatives, have a meeting to discuss which of the research projects CHF should fund.

Dr. Joe Forbess, Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at Advocate Children's Hospital, Oak Lawn, IL, shared his thoughts about CHF and being part of CHF's MAB:



The Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) was founded in 1996 and is the nation's leading organization solely committed to funding Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) research.

CHF's mission is to fund the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of CHDs.

**Donate Now!**



"I have been a surgeon scientist for over 25 years. I have never had satisfaction in this realm such as I experience working with The Children's Heart Foundation as a member of their medical advisory board. These research grants are some of the 'hottest' research in this field. AND parents of patients with CHD participate with the MAB to offer input on the value and relevance of particular project proposals. I find their input both inspiring and challenging. I have to get these funding selections right---for them. This is THE way to make the greatest positive impact on the lives of those patients and families with CHD--the most common birth defect requiring surgery or other intervention in the first year of life."

**- Dr. Joseph Forbess**

Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery  
Advocate Children's Hospital, Oak Lawn, IL

## 3rd Annual Red Tie Ball Raises \$260,000

The Children's Heart Foundation Illinois Chapter's 3rd annual Red Tie Ball raised over \$260,000 (gross)! The event was held on December 10, 2016 at the University Club of Chicago. Nearly 280 people attended the event, which featured dinner, dancing, and live auctions.

Dr. John M. Costello, medical director Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, and Dr. Tarek Husayni, pediatric cardiologist and founding member of the Heart Institute for Children, were honored at the event with the Congenital Heart Defect Medical Champion Award.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this event for making it so successful! Funds raised will go towards helping CHF fund CHD research!

Save the date: Red Tie Ball 2017 will be on December 9th!



*From left to right: Red Tie Ball co-chair Shweta Stuart, Dr. Husayni, Dr. Costello, and co-chairs Heather and Mike Shaffer*



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