

NORTHERN PALM BEACHES HEART BALL CAPTURED VALENTINE'S DAY ROMANCE ALL IN THE NAME OF

"Heart"

15TH ANNUAL GALA
TRANSPORTED GUESTS
INTO THE HEART OF TUSCANY

by Chris Hayes
Photography by Lynn Mozena



Terri and Kevin M. Justice

Guests of the Northern Palm Beaches Heart Ball were all "heart" on Saturday, February 14 as they graciously gave from the "heart" for the "heart" in support of the lifesaving mission of the American Heart Association. The black-tie gala drew together hundreds of civic, community and charitable leaders on Valentine's evening. Featuring the enchanting theme, "The Heart of Romance – Under the Tuscan Sun," the Heart Ball transported guests into the elegance of Tuscany, where art, history and nature entwined in the most compelling of fashions.

Jupiter residents Kevin M. and Terri Justice served as chairmen of the 15th annual event. The Justices, who have a family history of heart disease on both sides of the family, share a personal connection to the American Heart Association and its mission of "building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke."

In a Thank You to their supporters, the Kevin said, "The American Heart Association will always hold a very special place in our hearts and minds, and I hope it does in yours as well."

Charles Schallop, M.D., neurologist at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, was this year's Honorary Chairman. The American Heart Association presented the 2009 Northern Palm Beaches Heart Ball "Heart of Gold" award to Tire

Kingdom in recognition of Tire Kingdom's years of service and charitable support to the Heart Ball and the American Heart Association. The 2009 "Chairman's Volunteer of the Year" award honored Micki Wertenberger, who has served as the Heart Ball volunteer coordinator and an auction committee member for the past two years.

Held at PGA National Resort & Spa, the Heart Ball feted guests to a lavish cocktail reception featuring a silent auction, a selection of fine wines from around the globe, a multi-course gourmet meal accompanied by a ballet performance from Palm Beach Ballet Center, and a highly anticipated live auction followed by hours of dancing to the tunes of the Paul Vesco Orchestra.



Featured live auction items included a five-carat diamond heart necklace donated by Provident Jewelry, a one-week stay at an exclusive Ritz-Carlton property in Colorado, and a romantic dinner for two cooked in the winning bidder's home by Chef Guiseppi Luppino of Grandes Bella Cucina.



Fittingly, the Heart Ball took place during February, celebrated both locally and nationally as "American Heart Month." Throughout the month, corporations and individual supporters at both the local and national levels showcased their support for heart disease and stroke awareness as it relates to men and women by lighting monuments red, decorating offices red and dressing in red apparel. The Heart Ball and its educational initiatives are designed to empower guests and fellow community members to keep close tabs on their health and to recognize that heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women. In fact, while heart disease is largely perceived as a "man's disease," it affects one in every three women, and in terms of birth defects, cardiovascular issues are among the most commonly seen problems.

Dana Herst, whose 1-year-old son was born with a congenital cardiovascular defect, shared a first-hand account of the effects of heart disease on her family and acknowledged that research made possible by the American Heart Association has in turn saved the life of her child. To date, he has undergone two in-depth heart procedures. She spoke on behalf of the American Heart Association and the organization's American Heart Heroes program, an enrichment program for children living with cardiovascular diseases and their families. The premier activity of the program is a summer weekend at Camp Boggy Creek, which seeks to enrich the lives of children who have chronic or life threatening illnesses by creating camping experiences that are memorable, empowering and medically sound. Guests of the Northern Palm Beaches Heart Ball made gracious contributions to send children across the state of Florida to camp this summer. Herst also spoke of her passion of raising awareness about children's heart health in relation to cardiovascular defects, and her desire to see children grow and thrive without health threats like childhood obesity that are facing America today. **PBG**

Top photo:
Sheri Taylor
and Sean
Kreps
enjoy the
Paul Vesco
Orchestra.
Middle
and bottom
photos:
Performances
by the Palm
Beach Ballet
Center



Funds raised through the Northern Palm Beaches Heart Ball will pave the way for further advancements in heart and stroke research, education and community programs. The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of heart disease and stroke. For further information on American Heart Association programmatic and fundraising activities, visit www.americanheart.org or call the American Heart Association at (561) 615-3888.