



## Indianapolis companies, executives make bold commitments to heart and brain health.

*The American Heart Association Founders Day begins 100th anniversary celebration.*

INDIANAPOLIS, June 10, 2022 — Today commemorates the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. Leading up to the 2024 centennial, Indianapolis is beginning the anniversary celebration as the organization looks to build a new century of equitable health for all.

For nearly 100 years, the American Heart Association, devoted to world of healthier lives for all, has saved and improved lives, pioneered scientific discovery and advocated for healthy public policies in communities across the country. These bold moves have helped transform the nation's health and significantly reduce heart disease and stroke death rates.

"We pledge to continue our relentless work to eliminate heart disease and stroke, optimize brain health and ensure equitable health in every community across the country," said Monte Curnutt, chairman of the American Heart Association's Indianapolis board of directors. "We remain steadfast on our journey to transform health and to ensure all people have the opportunity to live longer, healthier lives."

The American Heart Association was [founded](#) in 1924 by six cardiologists, but the distinguished achievements of the organization for the past century are the result of more than \$4.8 billion in research and the passion of more than 40 million volunteers, supporters and employees.

"As we close out our first 100 years and begin the next, our work is far from complete. We are just getting started on the next chapter of our relentless work to end heart disease and stroke," Curnutt said. "We know that we can't achieve our monumental goals alone and are grateful to Hoosiers for the passion and commitment they give to support the mission of the American Heart Association."

The signature events of the Indianapolis American Heart Association have named event chairs that will drive the Association into the next century. These three chairpersons have demonstrated the bold leadership needed to catapult the American Heart Association's next 100 years of relentless work and transformative innovation. Upcoming Indianapolis chairpersons are:

- Jim Wright, vice president of company stores of Byrider as 2022 Indy Heart Walk chair
- Kim Speer as 2023 Indianapolis Go Red for Women chair
- Tom Dakich, general counsel of GEMCO Constructors as 2023 Indianapolis Heart & Stroke Ball chair.

The American Heart Association's centennial is a celebration of the lifesaving achievements and shared vision for a bold Second Century that will exponentially advance heart and brain health. The Association will continue to lead breakthroughs in science and technology, improve health care and advocate for federal, state and local policies that drive healthier lifestyles.

Reaching for bold goals is made possible because of like-minded organizations who share in the vision of better health for Hoosiers. Four Indianapolis companies have pledged support of donations of time, talent and funds as Second Century donors. Those companies are:

- DEEM
- Roche
- Shea-Kiewit
- TRIMEDX

To learn more about accomplishments in the first 100 years of the American Heart Association or how to participate in the second century campaign visit, <https://www.heart.org/foundersday>. or contact Amanda Mills at [amanda.mills@heart.org](mailto:amanda.mills@heart.org) for more information.

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#### About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on [heart.org](https://www.heart.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.