



American Heart Association®

Heart Ball

2026

*Southern Arizona
Heart & Stroke Ball*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

THE WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT & SPA

Chaired by
PAMELA NEAL

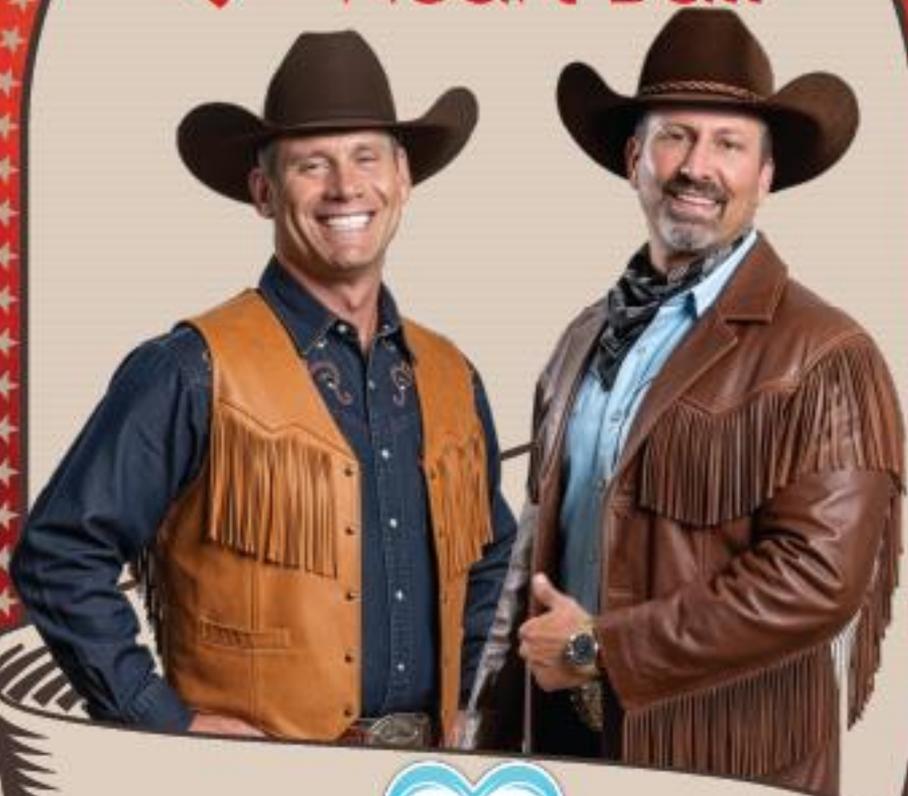
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Proud to support the
2026 Southern Arizona
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Heart Ball



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American
Heart
Association.

To be a relentless
force for a world of
longer, healthier
lives.



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Heart & Stroke Ball Guests,

On behalf of the American Heart Association of Southern Arizona, thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being here tonight and for standing with us as volunteers, sponsors, and champions of this life-saving mission. It is truly an honor to serve alongside you in our shared commitment to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

As I reflect on my nearly two years in this role, I am filled with profound gratitude and hope. I have witnessed firsthand the power of this community and compassion, generosity, and the unwavering belief that together, we can change outcomes and save lives. I know with certainty that the work we are doing has never been more urgent or more possible because of you.

This year alone, your support has fueled extraordinary progress across Southern Arizona and beyond:

Driving Innovation: Investing in groundbreaking research that pushes the boundaries of science, brings us closer to cures, and gives families more tomorrows.

Strengthening Communities: Launching Libraries with Heart in every Pima County library, place CPR Kits in local schools, expanding Self-Measured Blood Pressure programs to Federally Qualified Health Centers across Arizona, and partnering with food banks and school districts to create healthier, more equitable opportunities where they are needed most.

Advocating for Change: Standing up for policies that dismantle barriers to health and confront the social and economic challenges that too often determine who gets to live a healthier life.

Because of you, hope is not just a feeling, it's action. Its research funded, lives saved, communities strengthened, and futures rewritten.

As we look ahead, we do so with bold determination and an unshakable belief in what's possible. Together, we will continue to advance science, champion patients and caregivers, and reimagine what health looks like for every person, in every neighborhood, for generations to come.

Tonight, we celebrate you and the lives you are helping save. Thank you for believing in this mission, for walking this journey with us, and for helping create a healthier future for all.

Enjoy this evening of celebration and inspiration. Here's to another century of lifesaving work and to the hope, health, and heart we are building together.

With deepest gratitude,

Marc Acuña

Executive Director

American Heart Association of Southern Arizona





Evening Program

- ♥ 6:00PM Silent Auction and Cocktail Hour
- ♥ 7:00PM Heart Ball Program Begins
- ♥ 7:30PM Dinner
- ♥ 7:45PM Live Auction
- ♥ 8:10PM Survivor Story & Open Your Heart
- ♥ 8:30PM After Party Begins with the Mark Miller Band



Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,



It is a humbling experience to thank you on behalf of myself, the Board of Directors, the Executive Leadership Committee and the Corporate Team that is here this evening for your continued support of the American Heart Association. Thank you for joining us this evening for this year's Heart and Stroke Ball in

memory of my husband Daniel to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of the American Heart Association over the last century is such an achievement for us all.

We would like to recognize our donors, sponsors, and volunteers for their commitment to the American Heart Association of Southern Arizona. Without your participation, the success of this event would not be possible. You should be commended for your understanding of how the American Heart Association continues to do research to help us with our coronary issues. Without them, we will have failed. As in, the University of Arizona continues to do research on Medications, Artificial Hearts and AED placement, Post-Shock Delay, AED Failure and such. Their three pillars are research, education and patient care! Their facility on the University of Arizona is not only impressive, but the students learning there are brilliant. I have heard them present not only on campus but at the Scientific Conference with the American Heart Association. Their research will bring new light on Cardiovascular health to help thousands of patients.

Let's continue to make a difference through your donations to help with CPR Training Kits and AED Machines in schools and rural areas along with Cardiac Emergency Response Programs (CERP). Awareness is the better part of valor to help these important causes. Please enjoy your evening.

With love and heart,

Pamela Neal

2026 Rubies and Boots Heart and Stroke Ball Chair



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The

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COMMUNITY!



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The Bain Law Firm, LLC

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Karnas Law Firm

Sheila Chonis
Realty Executives Arizona Territory

Chris Edwards
Tucson Appliance Company

Dr. Nooshin Hashemzadeh
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Brittany & Jake Kagele
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Matthew David Karnas
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Anthony & Emily Schaefer
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Jolene Steinberg
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Jennifer Stingley
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Lisa L. Stutz
Arizona Complete Health

Meg Swain
Loan Depot

Yolanda Weinberger
Engel & Völkers

Kathleen Winn
KVOI the Voice-Winn Tucson

Join the Nation of Lifesavers

More than 356,000 people in the U.S. experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital every year, including an estimated 23,000 children under 18.

In these critical moments, 90% of victims die unless someone nearby is trained and ready to act.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death on school campuses. Approximately 40% of youth cardiac arrests are sports related. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, or during a football game, every second counts.

Our goal is to build a Nation of Lifesavers by giving people the confidence and skills to provide lifesaving CPR and use an automated external defibrillator.

Last year, we trained 16,916 lifesavers through local CPR training centers and community events. 34,225 students in Southern Arizona learned Hands-Only CPR through our school programs.





Thank you to the Neal Family Trust for helping build the next generation of lifesavers in *Southern Arizona* !

61% of Americans feel helpless to act during a cardiac emergency. Through **Nation of Lifesavers**, the American Heart Association has a multi-pronged approach to double the number of lives saved from cardiac arrest by 2030. To make this a reality supporters, like the Neal Family Trust, help provide funding for CPR programs in our community that enable kids and their supporting adults to learn the lifesaving skills of Hands-Only CPR quickly. Plus, it teaches AED use and choking relief. These can be facilitated by anyone. Part of this includes providing a Cardiac Emergency Response place to have the necessary resources and plan in place to respond in a cardiac emergency.

There are **491 schools** in Southern Arizona. **21%** of those schools are currently equipped.

This leaves **386 schools** that are in need of CPR equipment and education.





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Long Realty - The Schaefer Team

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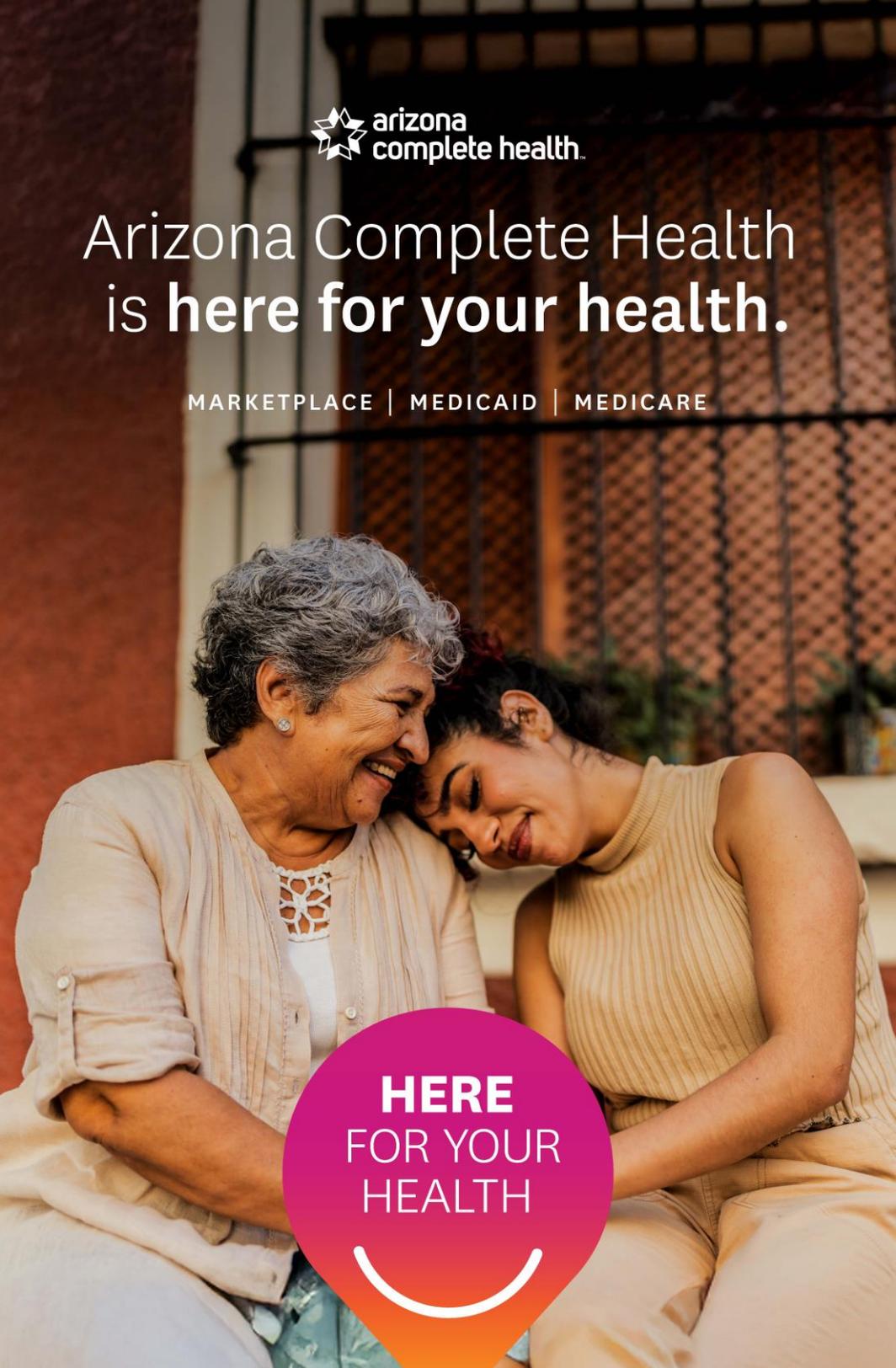
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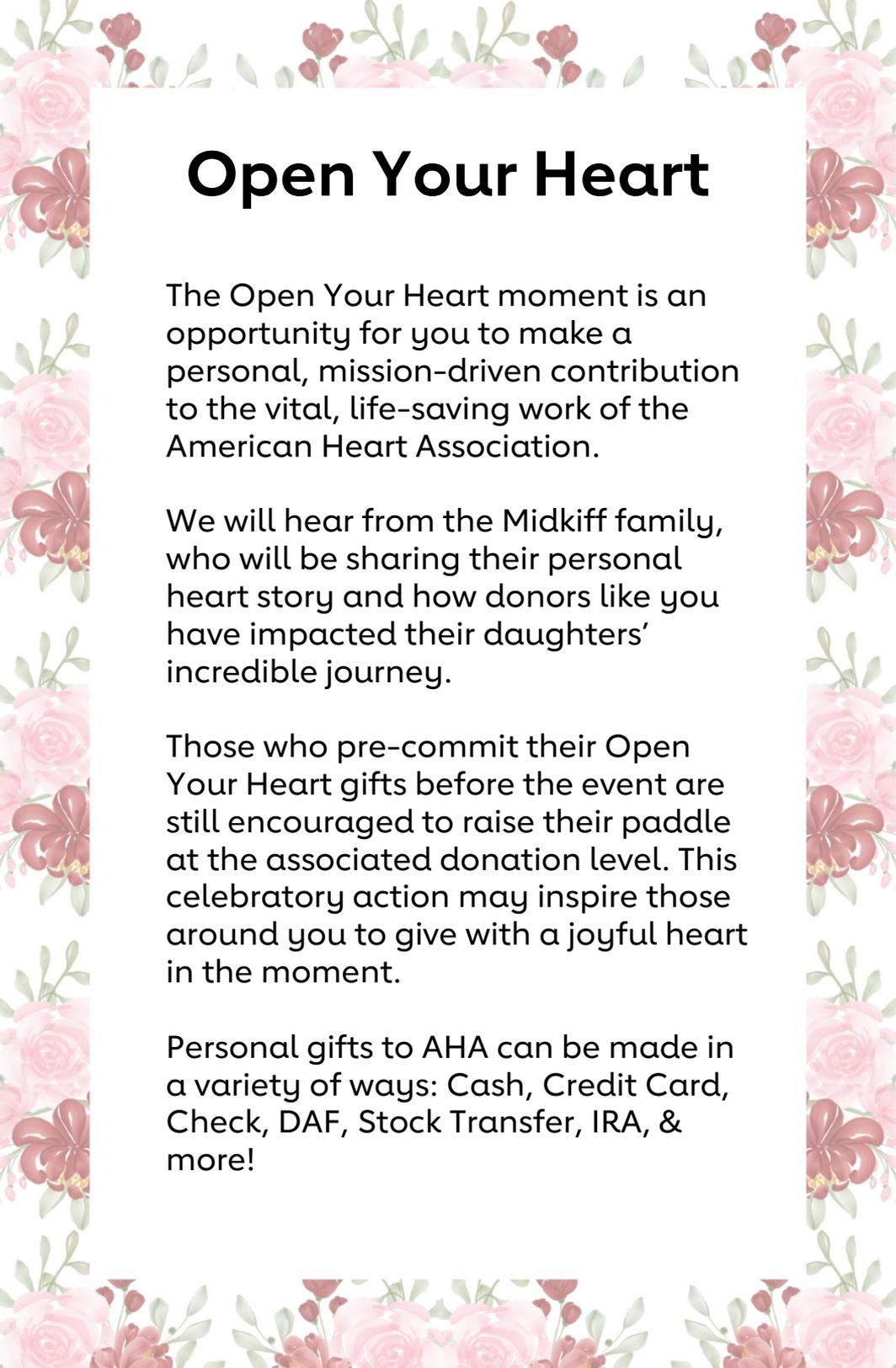


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Scan to learn more.





Open Your Heart

The Open Your Heart moment is an opportunity for you to make a personal, mission-driven contribution to the vital, life-saving work of the American Heart Association.

We will hear from the Midkiff family, who will be sharing their personal heart story and how donors like you have impacted their daughters' incredible journey.

Those who pre-commit their Open Your Heart gifts before the event are still encouraged to raise their paddle at the associated donation level. This celebratory action may inspire those around you to give with a joyful heart in the moment.

Personal gifts to AHA can be made in a variety of ways: Cash, Credit Card, Check, DAF, Stock Transfer, IRA, & more!

Survivor Story

Meet the Midkiff Family

Our Southern Arizona Heart Ball passion speakers, the Midkiff's, are powerful advocates for CPR and AED readiness in schools. In 2023, Pyper Midkiff suffered cardiac arrest during soccer practice.

Thanks to quick CPR, she survived, but was later diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a serious heart condition also affecting her twin sister, Emeri. Pyper now lives with a pacemaker and defibrillator and awaits a heart transplant.

Their story underscores the importance of lifesaving CPR and AED access.





American Stroke Association.
A Division of the American Heart Association.

Together to End Stroke®

F.A.S.T. is how we come together to end stroke®

Learn the stroke warnings signs

F.A.S.T.

Face
Drooping

Arm
Weakness

Speech
Difficulty

Time to
Call 911

— THE —
SCHAEFERTEAM
R E A L E S T A T E



As relentless advocates for healthier living, Emily and I are proud supporters of the American Heart Association! Our family, like many, has been directly impacted. We remain steadfast in our effort to

champion longer, healthier and more vibrant lives here in our Southern Arizona community!

*-Anthony & Emily Schaefer
2022 Heart Ball Chairs*



Open Your Heart Supporters

The Neal Family Trust
Anthony Schaefer
Jesus Rodriguez
Kathleen Winn
Dr. Scott Stamp
Dr. Sakthivel Sadayappan
Alexander Carpio
Dr. Nicholas Giacomma, D.C.
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Live Fierce. Southern Arizona Sponsor



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COMMUNITY!



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Our most heartfelt thanks to our
Cor Vitae Philanthropic Giving Society Members

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Cor Vitae Society Members

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Kevin Rowe

Dr. Sakthivel Sadayappan and Bhuvanewari Sakthivel
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Emily and Anthony Schaefer
Dr. Jason Schemp
Lance Willett and Tracy Sole De Hoop
Mr. Howard Stewart
Dr. Lydia Tully-Coe
Kaukaha Watanabe
Kathleen Winn



Master of Ceremonies

Frankie Fletcher, Call to Auction

Growing up in a large family in Tucson, Arizona, Frankie was surrounded with community and culture. This, and his natural comfort for performing arts, had him strive to be the loudest voice in the room and the funniest face in the picture. With 12 years of both local and international crisis response and volunteering in his community, Frankie has discovered how creating joy for others has long been a driving force for helping wherever and however he can. This led to performing mime comedy in Haiti and dance, drama, and music in Africa at an AIDS orphanage. Frankie has found a greater purpose in using his skills and passion for performance to inspire joy, hope, and excitement through event fundraising. Frankie has made it his mission to use his skills, experience and passion to inspire others to give and grow their community and culture.



Auctioneer

Madison Ramirez, U Can Bid Auctions



Madison Ramirez has been immersed in the auction industry for as long as she can remember. Growing up alongside her father, Paul Ramirez, she spent countless hours behind the auction block, developing a deep passion for auctioneering.

Featured Entertainment The Mark Miller Band

After the night's captivating and inspiring program stay to celebrate the life saving impact we make with some dancing. We will be joined by **The Mark Miller Band**, Tucson's premier country group. Known for their powerful vocals and signature blend of classic '90s soul, Mark Miller, Dan Hawk, Steve Fosdick, and Sean Zilla will deliver an unforgettable performance that will both inspire and entertain as we come together to celebrate community and support the fight against heart disease and stroke!



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Heart Walk.

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SOUTHERN
ARIZONA
2026
HEART WALK

locally presented by



Alison Flynn Gaffney
CEO
Banner University
Medicine Tucson



2026
Southern Arizona
Heart Walk
Co-Chairs

Jennifer Mendrzycki
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& CEO
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Go Red for Women is nationally sponsored by



Save the Date

2026 SOUTHERN ARIZONA GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON

Join us in changing the future of women's health, together!

09/10/2026

10:30AM-1PM

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3800 East Sunrise Drive
Tucson, AZ 85718

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heart.org/SoAZGoRed



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Thank you to our 2026 Event Chairs



Pamela Neal
Heart Ball Chair



Jennifer Mendrzycki
Heart Walk Chair



Alison Flynn Gaffney
Heart Walk Chair



Cindy Klingberg
Circle of Red Chair



See You Next Year!

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**Long Realty - The Schaefer Team
Omni Pool Builders & Design**

**Tami Arthur
Jesus Rodriguez**



**2027 Heart Ball Chair
Martin Lopez**





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Thank You!

RUBIES & BOOTS

