

# HEART · IMPACT · LEGACY



## *CELEBRATING A DECADE OF GIVING*

*In grateful appreciation of your continued support and leadership to the American Heart Association, we are pleased to present some of the ways that your generosity has impacted the health outcomes of Americans.*



*A Special Report prepared by the American Heart Association on April 21, 2016*

# *In Grateful* **appreciation**

**I**t all began with a bid to win an auction item in 2006. Since then, your transformative philanthropy totaling more than \$2 million to the American Heart Association has saved countless lives.

For five years, you have been members of the **President's Circle** of the Cor Vitae Society. As the first \$1 million lifetime donors in the Midwest Affiliate, we are honored to distinguish you as **Heart and Torch Circle** members of the Society, which recognizes cumulative giving to the AHA. In addition to your personal support, your ongoing generosity also has inspired others to make significant gifts to the association. Did you know that you set the standard for chairs' contributions to the Heart Ball in 2008? Since then, all Heart & Stroke Gala Chairs in the Twin Cities have contributed a minimum of \$15,000 to support the AHA's mission. This has moved our guests to record breaking Special Appeal support of \$360,000, annually. Our progress in helping millions of people live longer, healthier lives is made possible because of Cor Vitae Society members like you. Thank you, again, for caring so deeply and for sharing our passion for finding a cure.

*Your incredible, ongoing generosity has been critical to our vision for transforming the future of medicine. The power of your giving has allowed us to dream bigger than ever before and take bold, unprecedented approaches to research and knowledge advancement.*

**Nancy Brown, CEO**  
*American Heart Association*





## THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS

Everything the American Heart Association does is to help people live fuller, healthier lives. Our success is measured in the number of lives saved. Over the last five years, deaths from heart disease and stroke have fallen by 11.6 percent, about 170 lives each day. Stroke has fallen from the No. 4 killer of Americans to No. 5. The association has achieved these results because it invests in the very best research and the brightest scientists working on a common goal: to find a cure for heart disease and stroke. But we can only make these investments because of transformative philanthropy.

Transformational philanthropy isn't just a phrase to describe large gifts. It's also about demonstrated leadership, that is: "putting your money where your mouth is." Your impact on saving lives can be seen in your early investment to launch the Science & Technology Accelerator Program.

The Science & Technology Accelerator Program has funded emerging yet underinvested technologies and projects with the goal of moving them rapidly to market to save lives. With your seed investment, the program was able to attract other investors, ultimately funding three companies to date.

Today, the success of the Science & Technology Accelerator Program and the promise of its funded companies has inspired us to take bold steps forward in patient health. Specifically, it got us thinking about how transformational gifts combined with our commitment to scientific research could lead to a cure. This objective led to the creation of the new **Science Acceleration Strategy**; four distinct approaches to developing, growing and scaling innovation.

All four pillars: Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine, Health Technology Initiative, Innovative Research Grants, and Cardeation Capital Fund share a common goal of getting the best medical solutions to patients as quickly as possible. They also build on something the AHA has been doing for years — evolving.

As the fight against heart disease has progressed, so has our approach in the fight against it. Today, we're focusing on precision medicine and the acceleration of science to personalize the treatment of disease for an individual. We believe that the Science Acceleration Strategy, with the support of transformational philanthropists like you, will make an extraordinary impact in 21<sup>st</sup> century health.

*I want to thank you both enormously. Your lead support that launched the Science & Technology Accelerator also helped attract other investments, ultimately propelling promising technological advancements to market. We believe this will dramatically help us achieve our 2020 Impact Goal to improve the health of all Americans by 20% and decrease death from heart attack and stroke by 20% by the year 2020.*

**Ross M. Tonkens, MD, FAHA**  
*American Heart Association*

**Over the last decade, your leadership has inspired others to make bold gifts.**

# BECAUSE *of* YOU

- ◆ Twin Cities Heart & Stroke Gala chairs have led by example with personal giving at the Cor Vitae Society Champion Circle or higher since 2009.
- ◆ The Twin Cities Heart & Stroke Gala has surpassed \$1 million and is well on its way to the next milestone of \$2M.
- ◆ Individual giving has surpassed auction giving and now accounts for 25 percent of the total!
- ◆ 170 lives are saved every day!
- ◆ New frontiers are being launched that will forever improve patient care, from prevention to treatment and yes, a cure!

Because of your vision that helped launch the Science & Technology Accelerator Program, the AHA has embarked on a new frontier for precision medicine through its Science Acceleration Strategy.

We're proud of the fact that AHA has always been forward thinking in our strategies to combat cardiovascular diseases and stroke. And we depend on visionary leadership, like yours, to help shape our path forward. We deeply appreciate your steadfast commitment of time, energy and support as we cross into new frontiers of science and technology that may one day lead to a cure for coronary heart disease.

**For all that you both do to support the mission and save lives,**

# THANK YOU!

