

Garland County American Heart Association

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PRESS RELEASE



“Have A HeART for Art”

The Garland County chapter of the American Heart Association (AHA) is again presenting “Have a HeART for Art,” in conjunction with the 2010 Heart Ball, the AHA’s principal annual fundraiser. Through this educational program, art teachers from area schools are invited to participate by combining an art activity and contest with heart health discussion and materials in their classes. The contest requires that entries must have a heart motif incorporated in the artwork. Teachers will submit two entries per grade. The winners from each participating school will be displayed during **Gallery Walk**, at the **Malco Theater February 5, 2010**. A Grand Prize winner, along with four divisional winners will be chosen by a panel of judges. The winning entries will be exhibited at the **February 13th Heart Ball Gala** which will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center. This contest is open to all Garland County school students Kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Arkansas. Research has shown that heart-healthy lifestyles cannot begin *too* soon: habits—whether good or bad—established early in life are often carried into later years. Helping youth initiate heart-healthy habits early has the potential to pay positive dividends in the years to come. “Have A HeART for Art” combines the joy of art with healthy heart awareness that will benefit the students the rest of their lives.

“Have a HeART for Art” is held in memory of Michelle Lee Bartlett. Michelle was a second-year law student at the University of Arkansas who died in September of 2003 at the age of 23. Michelle was a 1998 honors graduate of Lakeside High School and served as Senior Class president. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the Ram Tennis Team. She was also a member of First United Methodist Church in Hot Springs. Michelle had a love for creating art, with one of her last projects being the Children’s Chapel at the First United Methodist Church.

For more information, contact:
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