



WHAT IS THE FAMILY CONFERENCE?

The Family Conference is a free **all-day event** that brings children living with heart defects and their siblings together to have fun while parents learn the latest medical, educational and social information on raising a child with heart disease.

WHO IS INVITED?

The event is for families with a child affected by a congenital heart defect. American Heart Heroes families from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Collier County and Treasure Coast areas are invited to attend. Children not yet members of American Heart Heroes program are enrolled at the time of rsvp.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

Upon arrival, families enjoy breakfast, fun meeting others and family photos. Shortly thereafter, kids are divided into their assigned age groups to start scheduled activities at the NSU Arena.

Parents will then gather to hear from professionals in the field. Lunch will be served for all (adult & kid buffets) before going back into groups for an exciting and educational afternoon. At conference close, families will gather again for snacks, activities, a special surprise and departure.

TRANSPORTATION— MIAMI TO EVENT

Charter bus transportation will be provided for families living in and around Miami. Departure will be from Jackson Memorial Hospital at 7:15 a.m. to arrive at the event in Ft. Lauderdale at 8:00 a.m.; estimated departure from the event is 4:30 p.m.

RSVPs

RSVPs for families are being taken now through **October 26** by calling toll free: **(888) 355.1060** or by emailing the information in the box below to **heroes@heart.org**.

If taking a coach bus, please let us know at the time of RSVP and receive further information.

No RSVPs can be accepted after the October 26th deadline!

FAMILY RSVP INFORMATION 2011 REGIONAL FAMILY CONFERENCE

- ✿ American Heart Hero Member— first & last name, age
- ✿ American Heart Hero's name for event nametag if different
- ✿ American Heart Heroes parent(s) attending— first names
- ✿ American Heart Heroes siblings attending— first name, age
- ✿ Transportation— if you're riding the bus
- ✿ Final confirmation/ reminder contact preference for the week of the event and that number/address to reach you (i.e.— Do you want an email, phone call to home/cell phone, etc.)



American Heart Association®



AMERICAN HEART HEROES®

American Heart Heroes

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American Heart Association®



AMERICAN HEART HEROES®



Please join us
**REGIONAL
FAMILY
CONFERENCE
2012 SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 3
SOUTH FLORIDA**

NSU Arena
Nova Southeastern University
Ft. Lauderdale
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



PREVIEW: FAMILY CONFERENCE TOPICS

- ✿ An Understanding of Your Child's Rights in the Florida School System
- ✿ Juggling and Wearing all the Hats
- ✿ Insurance for Children in Florida
- ✿ Transitioning: A Bright Future for our American Heart Heroes kids
- ✿ The Future of Pediatric Cardiology
- ✿ Ask the Expert Panel: Q & A Open Forum
- ✿ Stay tuned for more...

MEET BILL COON, KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Photo
www.chandwest.com

Since returning home from the hospital in 2009, Bill Coon has become an avid spokesperson on many topics, including heart transplant and organ donation. His unique experience and perspective as both an infant and adult heart transplant recipient and his ability to overcome obstacles has

enabled him to share remarks before and on behalf of several well-respected organizations. His witty commentary and conversational approach to his story and the world of medicine has won audiences everywhere!



"The tan nurse looked at me with squinted eyes. The room went black. I awoke the next day with a stranger's heart beating inside of me." ...excerpt from SWIM: A Memoir of Survival.

2012 REGIONAL FAMILY CONFERENCE

Serving families in South Florida: Treasure Coast, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade & Collier counties. This includes surrounding areas and in between.

FOR AMERICAN HEART HEROES PARENTS

Parents and caretakers will enjoy presentations designed especially for them. Each year, parents provide us with requests, concerns and desires to learn more about hot topics important to raising a child born with heart defects. Ranging from how to take a break as a family to knowing where to start if your child needs special help in school, heart parents need as much information as possible... and the American Heart Heroes Regional Family Conference is here to provide it!

FOR THE KIDS, 'TWEENS, TEENS

All kids will experience fun activities at the NSU Arena & University Center throughout the day. Included is the Rec Plex, providing additional recreational activities including rock wall climbing and more. Kids will be divided into age groups and will enjoy the carefully planned activities for their groups and will be escorted the entire day by volunteer counselors whose jobs center around having as much fun as possible with the kids! 'Tweens and teens will chat about very important subjects and each age group has special sessions designed for them.

PARKING AND DIRECTIONS

The Family Conference will be held at Nova Southeastern University's Arena, located at 3301 College Ave, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314. The Arena is at NSU's main campus (see map) and easy to reach from I-95, I-595, Turnpike and other roads.

From I-95, I-595 and Turnpike

- ✿ From I-95 and Turnpike, exit at the I-595 West exit; proceed west to University Dr. exit.
- ✿ From I-595, exit at University Dr.
- ✿ Turn left on University Dr. (south) and travel 1 mile after the underpass to SW 30th St traffic light. Left lane.
- ✿ Turn left at SW 30th St. to enter campus and follow the road all the way to the end, College Avenue.
- ✿ Turn right onto College Ave. The first major entrance on the right leads right to the Arena. (Mary McCahill Dr.)
- ✿ Proceed to the gated parking lot on right just before the "Shark traffic circle." Enter on right to park—FREE. Once parked, follow the sidewalk toward the main entrance doors straight ahead.

