



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CGI becomes American Heart Association Healing Heart Society Champion**  
*Fit Friendly company partners with AHA focused on employee wellness*

Washington, DC -- The American Heart Association (AHA) is pleased to announce that CGI has signed on as a Healing Heart Society Champion – part of its year-long campaign surrounding this February’s Greater Washington Region Heart Ball.

With its US headquarters in Fairfax, CGI is one of the largest independent information technology and business process services firms in the world. CGI and its affiliated companies employ approximately 26,000 professionals in over 100 offices across 16 countries. As part of its ongoing commitment to health and wellness through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, CGI will work with AHA to promote heart health throughout the broader CGI community.

In addition, CGI was recently named a gold level Start! Fit Friendly company. Start! Fit-Friendly companies implement various activities and programs to encourage physical activity, nutrition and culture enhancements such as on-site walking routes, healthy food choices in cafeterias and vending machines, annual employee health risk assessments and online tracking tools. CGI joins the 60 other esteemed Start! Fit Friendly companies in the Greater Washington Region

As a part of the Healing Heart Society, CGI will also develop a traveling photo wall, called the Heart Heroes Gallery, which will honor “heart heroes” from the ranks of our military physicians highlighting their experiences from the battlefield. The wall will travel year-round throughout the region at participating hospitals and corporate offices and will be featured at 2010 Heart Ball.

“CGI is thrilled to be the inaugural Healing Heart Society Sponsor,” said Cheryl Campbell, Vice President, CGI and AHA Greater Washington Board member. “Great partnerships make great communities. We are committed to improving the lives of our members, customers and the people in our community, and we are particularly proud to honor our military physicians serving our soldiers around the world. Working with the American Heart Association helps us deliver on our commitment”

Diseases of the heart are America’s No. 1 killer; stroke is No. 3. Together these cardiovascular diseases kill more than 870,000 Americans each year and cost the nation over \$400 billion in indirect and direct costs. The figures are just as daunting locally, where cardiovascular diseases or

stroke account for one of every three deaths in the Greater Washington Region. Cardiovascular diseases do not discriminate, as they are the number one cause of birth defects and also the leading cause of death for women.

For more information about the 2010 Greater Washington Region Heart Ball, please call (703) 248-1735 or visit [www.dcheartball.com](http://www.dcheartball.com).

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**About the American Heart Association**

The American Heart Association is the largest voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases in communities across America. These diseases devastate millions of Americans of all ages and cause nearly 950,000 deaths each year. To prevent, treat and defeat these diseases, the association funds breakthrough research, educates the public and health professionals, and advocates for healthier communities.

**About the Greater Washington Region Heart Ball**

The Heart Ball, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, is an elegant, black-tie celebration of life bringing together more than 500 of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia's most prominent physicians, corporate, health care and community leaders to salute the impact the AHA mission-related activities have had in the Greater Washington Region over the past year. The Heart Ball is supported by The Bender Foundation, Inc. More information can be found at [www.DCHeartBall.com](http://www.DCHeartBall.com) or call 703.248.1717.