(GREENVILLE, SC) The American Heart Association along with Jarden Process Solutions presented over 250 athletic balls to the YMCA of Greenville at a celebration on May 9, 2017, at the Caine Halter Family YMCA. The balls were donated by attendees of the 2017 Upstate Heart Ball as part of the “Bring a Ball to the Ball” campaign. The campaign, locally sponsored by Jarden Process Solutions, was aimed to encourage children to be active and play sports. Donations included soccer balls, footballs, volleyballs, basketballs, and much more.

“Participation in sports is proven to promote physical activity, build self-esteem, improve social skills, and can motivate children to excel academically,” said Chuck Villa, CEO, Jarden Process Solutions and sponsor of the campaign. “Guests who attended the 2017 Upstate Heart Ball were encouraged to “Bring a Ball to the Ball” to promote active living in children in the Upstate community.”

Sam Franklin, YMCA of Greenville COO, accepted the athletic balls and said, “I can guarantee that each of these donated athletic balls will provide hours and hours of fun – but more importantly they will provide the catalyst for us to teach valuable lessons that participants will carry with them for life.” He concluded, “Many of life’s lessons can be learned while being part of a sports team or playing an individual sport. Know that these sports balls will be used in an array of activities that will change lives on a daily basis”.

Libby and Charles Dalton, chairs of the 2017 American Heart Association Upstate Heart Ball also attended the event.

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The Y is one of the nation’s leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The YMCA of Greenville welcomes men, women, and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of every child and teen, improve the community health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors.