



12.30.2015 | EMERALD TEXTILES

Emerald Textiles announces Tom Gildred is 2016 American Heart Association Heart & Stroke Walk®

Company's CEO, a San Diego Entrepreneur, will lead event that aids in the fight against the nations' largest causes of death

San Diego, California, December 30, 2015 – Emerald Textiles is pleased to announce that its CEO, Tom Gildred was named chair of the 2016 American Heart Association's (AHA) San Diego Heart and Stroke Walk. In 2015, the American Heart Association's San Diego Heart and Stroke Walk had over 10,000 participants and raised over \$1.4 million to help in the fight against cardiovascular disease and stroke, two of the leading causes of death in the country. The Heart & Stroke Walk is one of the primary fund raisers for the AHA, and this year the goal is \$1.4 million in San Diego alone. Last year, the American Heart Association contributed over \$9 million in funding to San Diego research facilities; saving lives, creating memories, and giving hope.

"I am delighted to be selected as the Chair of the 2016 Heart Walk, said Gildred." It is important to me to support the work of the American Heart Association with the goal of doing away with cardiovascular disease and stroke. Emerald Textiles has been a supporter and fundraiser for five years now, and we are proud to continue that tradition."

Mr. Gildred brings significant background in business and the community to the position of Chair of the 2016 American Heart Association's (AHA) San Diego Heart and Stroke Walk. He is the winner of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award™ locally and has twice been a national finalist. He serves on numerous boards of directors benefiting both local companies and non-profits, including past president of the board of The San Diego Museum of Art and the San Diego State University, College of Business Administration Board of Directors. Mr. Gildred founded and is Chairman of the Board of FMT Consultants, a Microsoft Gold Certified business software firm which has received the Microsoft Partner of the Year Award and was named one of San Diego's "Best Places to Work" in 2011 and 2012. He is also on the Board of Directors for The Gildred Companies. Gildred is the Treasurer for the Plaza de Panama Board of Directors led by Irwin Jacobs who is the Director and Chairman of the committee.

Gildred is a founding member of Vistage Group 3080 and served on the Vistage Member Advisory Committee. He is a founding member of the Downtown San Diego Breakfast Rotary Club, a past member of the Board of Directors of the Mission Valley YMCA and a past member of the San Diego Software Industry Council. He recently won the Millennium Award from the Friends of Balboa Park and was named "Most Admired CEO" by the San Diego Business Journal.

About the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association

The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association are devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – the two leading causes of death in the world. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. The American Stroke Association is a division of the American Heart Association. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit heart.org or call any of our offices around the country.

About Emerald Textiles

Emerald Textiles provides the most environmentally responsible, high quality, linen rental and management solution for the Southern California healthcare industry. Emerald's two facilities are located in the greater Los Angeles and San Diego areas and serve hospitals throughout Southern California and across the eastern corridor to Palm Desert. Emerald utilizes the most advanced technology and provides a higher standard of cleanliness, industry compliance and customer satisfaction.

Read the story in the news here:

[CBS](#)

[Textile Industry Today](#)

[Textile Rental Services Association](#)

[Tom Gildred's San Diego Heart and Stroke Walk Donation Page](#)