Heart for Athletes is a non-profit organization started in 2014 by the friends and family of Sam Cockrell, from Daphne, AL. At the age of 16 Sam was an elite triathlete, who, in a timespan of 10 months, suffered from two sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) events and miraculously survived both.

The desire of Heart for Athletes is to be a part of the growing trend to perform cardiac screenings on athletes prior to their participation in athletic activities. This service will be provided to athletes in the communities of Baldwin and Mobile, AL, resulting in young lives being saved. The conditions that lead to SCA are detectable, and deaths are preventable.

The mission of Heart for Athletes is two fold.

1. The primary mission is to prevent sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in young athletes through cardiac screenings, education, and research in the Baldwin and Mobile county areas of Alabama.
2. By supporting education and awareness regarding the occurrence and symptoms of SCA, the secondary mission of Heart for Athletes is the prevention of sudden cardiac death once sudden cardiac arrest has occurred. Through the implementation of bystander CPR and use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), sudden cardiac deaths can be prevented and our communities will be safer.

Most youth who suffer from SCA have an undetected heart condition. A cardiac screening can detect deadly heart conditions that a typical sports Pre-participation Physical Exam (PPE) simply cannot.

Sudden cardiac arrest can strike with no prior symptoms and victims typically have a dismal chance of survival. Most causes of SCA in youth occur in public places, and as proven in Sam’s case, the immediate implementation of the cardiac chain of survival through the use of an AED, immediate CPR, and fast access to early advanced care is imperative, and can save lives. Our communities will be safer when more AEDs are placed strategically in more public locations, and when more people know what to do when they witness a cardiac emergency and respond appropriately with bystander CPR and AED use.

Heart for Athletes
Protecting Youth from Sudden Cardiac Arrest
www.heartforathletes.org

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Heart for Athletes screenings cost approximately $25 per athlete to perform. This is after donated services. We would like to purchase equipment to provide more screenings for more athletes.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the 501c3 organization Heart for Athletes.

**PLATINUM SPONSOR**  $5,000
Recognized as a Platinum sponsor for a Heart Screening Event including a banner at the event.

**GOLD SPONSOR**  $3,000
Recognized as a Gold sponsor for a Heart Screening Event including a banner at the event.

**SILVER SPONSOR**  $1,500
Recognized as a Silver sponsor for a Heart Screening Event including a banner at the event.

**BRONZE SPONSOR**  $1000
Recognized as a Bronze sponsor for a Heart Screening Event including a banner at the event.

**FRIEND OF HEART FOR ATHLETES**  $500
Recognized as a Friend of Heart for Athletes at a Heart Screening Event including a banner at the event.

**ATHLETE SPONSOR**  $50
Receive a Free Heart For Athletes t-shirt by making a minimum of $50 donation.

Because every SCA cannot be prevented, Heart for Athletes also wants to help ensure that our communities are prepared when this emergency occurs. Secondary prevention of SCA involves being ready with a plan of action in place for immediate response. The more people who recognize SCA when it happens, and are prepared to react appropriately with proper CPR technique and AED equipment, the safer our young athletes and our communities will be. Seconds count and any delay in bystander CPR and AED access decreases the victim’s chance of survival.

“We want to give a special thanks to all the coaches and the trainer involved in treatment of our son. Their quick actions and knowledge saved his life that day.”  
— Alex McKeever’s Parents, Sean and Shelly McKeever

Such an incident occurred at Spanish Fort High School, Spanish Fort, AL on August 4, 2014 when sophomore, Alex McKeever, collapsed on the field toward the end of football practice. McKeever suffered from a sudden cardiac arrest event (SCA).