



Dear NCTTRAC Member,

Heart disease affects over 22.5 million people in the United States at a staggering rate of over \$90 billion dollars. That is more than \$4,500 per person that is spent to treat heart disease and it still remains a leading cause of death. Heart Disease strikes all levels of socio-economics and race/ethnicities.<sup>1</sup>

To combat this issue, the HEART Safe Community Workgroup of the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council's (NCTTRAC) Cardiac Committee has implemented a program designed to recognize a community's efforts to protect its citizens from the effects of heart disease and sudden death by evaluating the following system components:

- 1) Access to Emergency Care and Public Access to Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)
- 2) Pre-Arrival Instructions
- 3) Pre-hospital Care
- 4) Transport Hospital Locations & Abilities
- 5) Community Education and Health Awareness
- 6) Feedback Between Medical Facilities and Pre-hospital Care Providers

This program requires a multi-disciplinary team approach to successfully complete the recognition process, allowing your community to display the NCTTRAC HEART Safe Community street sign. Most importantly, your community will have the opportunity to be one of the first recognized as a HEART Safe Community in Texas, and impact the saving of lives

In closing, NCTTRAC would like to recognize the following members of the HEART Safe Community Workgroup for their efforts and leadership:

John Glover, Fire Chief, Highland Village Fire Department  
Brad Goudie, Assistant Fire Chief, Highland Village Fire Department  
Stephanie Koepke, ACNS-BC, RN, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas  
Angi Perreault, RN, Texas Health Harris Methodist Hurst-Euless-Bedford  
Kevin Sandifer, EMS Captain, Mansfield Fire Department  
Alan Taylor MD, Interventional Cardiologist, Cardiology Partners  
Debbie Travis, RN, Texas Health Arlington Memorial  
Casey Rauschuber, BSN, RN, Wise Health System  
Karen Yates, RN, Methodist Mansfield Medical Center

Become a HEART Safe Community, go to [www.NCTTRAC.org](http://www.NCTTRAC.org) to obtain an application.

Sincerely,

Chief Ricky Reeves  
NCTTRAC Chair

*NCTTRAC does not represent or imply that participation in the program will result in improved survival rates within the community. However, increased community-level efforts to strengthen the chain of survival have been successful in many participating communities throughout the country.*

<sup>1</sup>Eduardo Sanchez, MD, MPH, FFAFP Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas  
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