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TEA HEART SCREENING PILOT UPDATE

Back in February, The Texas Education Agency awarded Championship Hearts Foundation a contract to begin screening sixth-graders for heart conditions that can cause sudden and unforeseen death.

The \$1 million Early Cardiovascular Detection Pilot Program, created in 2007 by Senate Bill 7, will target about 12,750 students (*a little over 2% of the 6th graders*) in public schools across Texas.

The free screening (*paid for by The State of Texas*) is designed to detect signs of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) and other conditions that can cause sudden death. HCM is the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young people. In Texas, on average 50 students die from sudden cardiac arrest each year, according to Parent Heart Watch, a national organization that collects heart-related medical data.

One model of the screenings will include a pre-screening questionnaire, an electrocardiogram (EKG), which tests the electrical activity of the heart, and a screening echocardiogram, an ultrasound that shows the shape and size of the heart. Many heart conditions that can lead to heart failure among adolescents are undetectable without an electrocardiogram or an echocardiogram. The other model will include a pre-screening questionnaire and EKG only. If at the conclusion of the EKG it is determined by the on-site Cardiologist that an echocardiogram is necessary, one will be performed at that time.

Results of the data collected will be reported to the Texas Education Agency by June 2009 to determine the feasibility of a large-scale, statewide screening program.

To date, the following schools have been completed or are scheduled to be performed:

- Sept. 19th - Bastrop Middle School, Bastrop
- Sept. 22nd - LBJ Middle School, Johnson City
- Sept. 25th - LBJ High School, Johnson City
- Sept. 29th - Cedar Creek Middle School, Bastrop
- Oct. 1st - Bastrop High School, Bastrop

The list is limited and updates may be obtained by contacting Michelle Garcia of the Championship Hearts Foundation at:
Championship Hearts Foundation
9442 Capital of Texas Highway North
Arboretum Plaza One, Suite 500
Austin, TX 78759
512-340-7313
mgarcia.championshiphearts@yahoo.com
www.championshipheartsfoundation.org

Check back at our site often for any updates. As always, we are available for screenings

– individual or group appointments – most any time. Contact our office for specific availability.

It is important to remember that this state pilot program will be limited to 12 year old students only. If your child or student is not 12, they will not be selected to be a part of this free program, but can still be screened through The Heart To Play at the discounted rate of \$75.00.

Too many of our students die needlessly. All we need is 15 minutes – *it could save their life!*