



TEXAS HEART[®] INSTITUTE

at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital

Project Heart

Activities for the Classroom

Spotlight on...

**Henry
Aceves**



Henry Aceves grew up in Sinton, Texas, which is a small town about 30 minutes outside of Corpus Christi. Science and math were his favorite school subjects—especially algebra. But, his most memorable school assignment was a report he wrote about Dr. Denton A. Cooley, Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, and the first implantation in the world

of an artificial heart in a human. It was at this

moment that Mr. Aceves knew he wanted to go into the medical field. Mr. Aceves kept this report for many years to remind him of when he first discovered his passion for health.

A young Mr. Aceves receives a volunteer award.



At the age of 15,

Mr. Aceves became an Emergency Medical Technician or EMT. If this sounds like a very young age to be answering emergency calls and picking up patients in ambulances, you would be right! In fact, he was the youngest EMT in Texas and has many exciting stories to tell about those early years. For example, the time his ambulance slipped on a wet road causing it to flip over. The gas tank exploded just as Mr. Aceves was able to squeeze through a small back window to save a patient that was almost twice his size. It was like a scene from an action movie!



**Mr. Aceves as
a paramedic.**

Mr. Aceves' proudest moment

was when he graduated from paramedic school. He took extra classes for a special degree that allowed him to be an instructor. That gave him the opportunity to train other paramedics and EMTs about the career he loved.



Mr. Aceves teaches a student how to correctly perform CPR.

In 1992, Mr. Aceves became one of the first Physician Liaisons for the Heart Information Center (HIC) at the Texas Heart Institute. His job is to answer questions about heart disease for anyone that needs help, from sick patients and their family members to doctors and students. Being fluent in both English and Spanish, Mr. Aceves can communicate easily with visitors who come to the HIC. Having been an EMT and paramedic instructor, he can also decide whether people need medical help right away. A favorite part of his job is meeting people from all over the world and sharing his love of medicine with them. If you have a question, Mr. Aceves will find an answer!



Mr. Aceves at Texas Heart Institute.