SPECIALIZED TEAM FOR YOUR HEART VALVE PATIENTS
The South Texas Heart Valve Center, a department of Methodist Hospital, is the first and only private hospital-based program in South Texas dedicated to heart valve patients. The Center offers an interdisciplinary valve management team led by an outstanding group of highly skilled health care professionals including:
- Interventional Cardiologists
- Cardiovascular Surgeons
- Neurologists
- Pulmonologists
- Radiologists
- Anesthesiologists
- Specially trained and experienced cardiac critical care nurses

YOUR PATIENTS HAVE OPTIONS
The South Texas Heart Valve Center offers a full spectrum of diagnostic and surgical services, including:

CARDIAC IMAGING
- 2D/3D Echo
- Transesophageal Echo
- Stress Echo
- Cardiac CT

INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY
- Transfemoral and Transapical Aortic Valve Replacement
- Aortic and Mitral Balloon Valvuloplasty
- Mitral Valve Clip
- Prosthetic Paravalvular Repair
- Atrial Septal Defect/Patient Foramen Ovale Closure
- All commercially available heart valve devices offered

CARDIAC SURGERY
- Minimally Invasive
- Conventional Valve Replacement
- Valve Repair
- Redo Valve

NEW PROCEDURE GIVES HOPE AND IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE FOR INOPERABLE PATIENTS
The South Texas Heart Valve Center is the only private hospital-based clinic to offer all commercially available valves for the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), a significantly less invasive type of heart valve surgery as the heart valve is replaced without having to open the chest cavity. Our highly skilled team can insert the valve via the femoral artery or also use a transapical approach whereby a small incision is made between the ribs on the left lower chest, and the replacement aortic valve is inserted directly into the heart. This new approach allows for the shortest and most direct route to the diseased valve resulting in a shorter procedure (2 hours versus 4-5), and a shorter recovery time.

Since TAVR is much less stressful than open heart valve replacement, it is an exciting new option for older or non-operative patients who are not good candidates for more invasive surgery. Benefits of TAVR include healthier heart outcomes and better quality of life for patients who previously had no option.

According to the PARTNER study, TAVR is as good as open heart surgery in terms of long-term survival. The study showed that patients who were too sick or too old for surgery had a 20 percent improvement in survival after one year with TAVR. In addition to living longer, patients also felt much better and experienced fewer hospitalizations.

TAVR MEDICAL TEAM
Left to Right: Larry Hammer, MD; Daniel Donovan, MD; Jorge Alvarez, MD; Medical Director; Jim Garrison, MD; and Joshua Kollars, MD.

A NEW HEART VALVE WITHOUT OPEN HEART SURGERY
For most of her life, Imogene Howard had experienced shortness of breath. As she aged the condition worsened and she was eventually diagnosed with having a constricted heart valve, a condition known as aortic stenosis. Due to her age, open heart surgery to replace the heart valve was too risky. Her cardiologist told her and her daughter, Linda, about a relatively new procedure being offered at Methodist Hospital called Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement or “TAVR.” Linda went straight to her computer and started researching this option for her mother, who was in her late 80s at the time. Imogene received a TAVR procedure July 2013 at the age of 91. She immediately felt better and only spent three days in the hospital. Imogene enjoys oil painting and has donated many of her paintings to local charities.