



**NORA'S HOME**  
for transplant patients and  
their families

SPRING 2021

**VOL. 1**  
ISSUE 2

# NORA'S NEWS

## Mission Statement

Nora's Home provides affordable lodging for organ transplant patients and their families in the comfort of a warm, home-like environment.



## Dear Friends,

Spring is in the air at Nora's Home! Our guests have enjoyed watching the healing garden come into bloom. It's a welcomed delight—life anew—for the transplant families staying with us. Along with spring flowers this April, we recognize Donate Life Month and join in promoting organ donation awareness and the Gift of Life that has given a second chance for so many.

We encourage you to read on, to learn of the happenings at the home and to consider signing up for Chef of the Day. There are many ways to stay involved without compromising our guest's safety and we have some great ideas for groups big and small! You also do not want to miss out on our upcoming virtual celebration on Thursday April 22nd, *HOMEcoming: Celebrating from Our Home to Yours!* Please join us as we celebrate 10 years with our Gala Chair Alumni. Tickets are on sale!

On behalf of our team, thank you for being part of our mission. We simply couldn't do this without you.

Warmly,

**Natalie Lencioni**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THE NORA'S HOME TEAM SHOWING OFF THEIR HOMECOMING MUMS

|| Along with spring flowers this April, we recognize Donate Life Month and join in promoting organ donation awareness... ||

# HOME HAPPENINGS

## Statistics

2013 – April 1, 2021

Families  
Served

2,584



Nights of  
Accommodation

37,527



Meals  
Served

9,135



Since January 2018



JOHN L. HERN

### A Lifelong Gift

For more than a decade, Nora's Home has had a special bond with the JLH Foundation. Paula Hern and her husband, Tom Barbour, along with founding board member, Ellis Tudzin, wanted to fulfill her late father's wishes and create a way for his memory to live on. The JLH Foundation, named after John L. Hern, was established in 1998 to support the financial needs of transplant patients and their families while promoting the need for organ donation.

While Paula's father, John L. Hern, was awaiting a heart transplant in 1996, he befriended many patients on his journey and learned of the difficulty for so many that could not afford the associated costs of a transplant, such as prescriptions and temporary housing.

The JLH Foundation graciously supported the early years of Nora's Home, contributing to the building of the 16-suite facility that opened in 2013 and in planning for the future expansion. On October 24, 2018, at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the phase two expansion, the campus was dedicated as the Hern Family Campus. A sign was erected above the entryway welcoming guests traveling from near and far to stay at Nora's Home.

"We are grateful for the support of the JLH Foundation and our friendship with Paula, Tom, and Ellis," said Natalie Lencioni, Executive Director. "Their kindness is felt every day by our guests who have a safe place to stay and roof over their head while they rest, heal and recover at Nora's Home. John's memory certainly lives on every day in the halls of the home."

The Hern family's generous and loving nature, as well as a devotion to helping those in need, will live on through the JLH Foundation for many years to come.



TOM BARBOUR & PAULA HERN WITH ELLIS TUDZIN AT A NORA'S HOME GALA



|| The JLH Foundation graciously supported the early years of Nora's Home, contributing to the building...the 'Hern Family Campus'. ||



# HOME HAPPENINGS

## Homecoming Efforts are Underway

Nora's Home is getting the starting lineup ready for our 10th annual gala, **Homecoming: Celebrating from Our Home to Yours**. We hope you join our winning team on Thursday, April 22 at 7:00pm for the virtual pep rally honoring the past 10 years of Gala Chairs and their commitment to the home!

The current times have led us to celebrating virtually and we are grateful for the opportunity to bring our home to yours and take you on a virtual tour of the home with our honorees.

Nora's Home hopes to raise \$350,000 from the event that will benefit the Adopt-A-Family program. This program provides financial support for families who are unable to pay the minimal nightly fee. Thanks to this program, no one is ever turned away due to inability to pay.



We'd like to thank our sponsors to date who have joined the lineup and you can too! Sponsorship opportunities are available, as well as individual Cheerleader tickets.

Please visit,  
<https://norashome.org/get-involved/2021gala/>  
for more information.

### HOMECOMING COURT

Nora's Home Board of Directors

### HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN

C. James & Carole Walter Looke  
Family Foundation  
Amy and John McCall  
Walter Oil & Gas Corporation  
Charitable Fund

### SENIOR CELEBRATION

Houston Methodist  
Westwood Wealth Management

### JUNIOR PRIDE

Vicki and Carl Baucum

Haydeh and Ali Davoudi  
Drs. Lillian and  
A. Osama Gaber  
Brigitte and Bashar Kalai  
Houston Methodist J.C.  
Walter Jr. Transplant Center  
Novartis  
The Jerry & Linda Strickland  
Family Foundation  
Texas Children's Hospital  
Kathleen and Pat Wood

### SOPHOMORE TRADITION

Paula Hern and Tom Barbour  
Caldwell Companies  
CareDx  
Cathy and Tom Cooney

Annie and Bob Graham  
Laura and Dr. Mark Hobeika  
Stanley Hoffberger  
Houston Kidney Consultants  
Paige and Todd Johnson  
Dr. Sippi and Ajay Khurana  
LifeGift  
Shazma and Arshad Matin  
Sanofi Genzyme  
Roberta and Lee Schwartz  
John & Stephanie Smither  
Visionary Fund  
Drs. Adaani Frost and  
Wadi Suki  
Lynda Underwood  
Linda and Steve Webster  
Maria and John Zerr

### FRESHMAN SPIRIT

Imad F. Abdullah and  
Dr. Nour Sneige  
The Gaber brothers  
Waleed & Hisham  
Geraldine and Dr. Joseph Galati  
Hoda and Michael Kardoush  
Kindred  
Kayla and Jim Lehmann  
UTHealth School of Public Health  
Cheryl Webb  
Dr. Stephanie Yi and Terry Padden

### PRE SHOW WAITING ROOM SPONSOR

Veritex Community Bank

*listing as of April 14, 2021*



SIGN UP FOR  
**The Sunflower  
Scoop!**

We have recently kicked off our blossoming monthly e-blast, called the **Sunflower Scoop**! We encourage you to sign up today so you can get to the root of upcoming events, special shout-outs, and highlights of our amazing guests! We are excited to grow this newsletter and the way we share information with our Nora's Home family.

Sign up on our website, [norashome.org](https://norashome.org)!

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Peggy Schroller

Program Assistant

**Q: How did you first learn about Nora's Home? What attracted you to our mission?**

**A:** My children are grown, and we are empty nesters. I felt that I needed to give back some of the kindness that I was shown when my son had a renal transplant three days after graduating college in 2006. When I first called Nora's Home in 2015, Marilda was so helpful and indicated that there were many volunteer opportunities, so I began coming a few hours a week and helping in the office. I enjoyed it so much that I was asked to "work" at Nora's Home in 2018. It has never felt like work!

**Q: What about your job do you look forward to most on a daily basis?**

**A:** My favorite part about Nora's Home is visiting and interacting with the guests. Hearing their stories and words of gratitude for Nora's Home is so uplifting.

**Q: What advice do you have for a transplant parent?**

**A:** It is hard to watch your child go through a chronic condition. Surgery and immunosuppressant therapy can add to the stress. Talking about these changes and how you will work them into your routine is helpful. Make sure to find time to do fun things together with family and friends while allowing to keep things as normal as possible.

**|| My favorite part about Nora's Home is visiting and interacting with the guests. ||**



**Q: Do you have any favorite hobbies?**

**A:** Yes! My favorite hobbies are traveling and shopping.

**Q: Do you like to cook?**

**A:** I love to cook! My children love it when I make "homemade" cinnamon rolls. If I am not cooking, we generally find a good seafood place to enjoy.



# FEATURED GUEST STORY

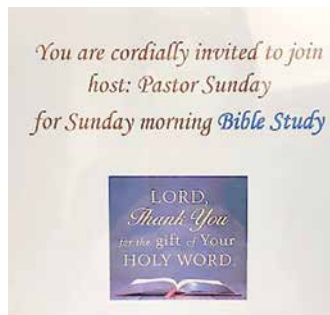
## Eddy Sunday Serving Guests on Sunday

**Eddy Sunday has been a Baptist pastor for the last 25 years and is a recent double lung transplant recipient. He and his wife of 47 years, Cherie, stayed at Nora's Home during his recovery. If you were to meet him in the hallway, you wouldn't have guessed that he even had a transplant. He is always in good spirits with a smile on his face!**

Having been in ministry for over 40 years, he led programs for the youth, prisons, senior communities, and his parish. So, it was no surprise that Eddy took a strong interest in helping to resume the Sunday Morning Bible Studies here at the home. In pre-COVID times, these would take place on Sunday led by beloved Houston Methodist shuttle driver, Elwood. But they came to a halt as in-person volunteer efforts were temporarily suspended.

When guests spoke about the desire for Sunday prayer, Eddy stepped up to share his time and talent. Sunday was still preaching after he was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and up until his transplant with his oxygen tanks by his side. Now post-transplant, with tanks aside, he could resume his passion for preaching and welcome and greet fellow guests as they gathered in the M.D. Anderson Foundation Education and Support Room in the home.

He packed a full, socially distanced room, and guests were grateful to pray the word together.



# OUR TRANSPLANT CENTERS

## Are You an Organ Donor?



Did you know that April is National Donate Life Month? During the month, Americans are encouraged to register to become an organ donor. Nora's Home has seen so many lives saved and given a second chance through this selfless gift.

An important partner of Nora's Home is, LifeGift. LifeGift is the designated organ procurement organization (OPO) for North, Southeast and West Texas, partnering with more than 200 hospitals across 109 counties. They offer hope to the thousands of people in Texas and beyond who need lifesaving organ transplants, and to countless others who need lifesaving tissue transplants.

"April's observance of National Donate Life Month celebrates lives saved through organ, eye and tissue donation and the legacies of those who have given the generous gift of life," said Kevin Myer, President and Chief Executive Officer. "By lighting up our communities in blue and green, it's yet another reminder of the hope organ, eye and tissue transplantation brings to so many, and to show our support for the nearly 10,000 Texans currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant."

Nora's Home will proudly sport their blue and green on April 16. The home will be lit up and staff and guests are encouraged to wear the special colors. For more information on how you can save lives, visit <https://www.lifegift.org/>.

### Celebrate Donate Life Month With LifeGift!

Here are some fun ways you can help promote our life saving message.  
Be sure to share your photos with us on social media.

<b>4/1</b> Kick off the month with a National Donate Life Month Facebook Frame to your profile pic!		<b>4/8</b> Sign up for LifeGift's Virtual Fort Worth 2nd Chance Run/May 22nd.	<b>4/16</b> It's Blue & Green Day! Share your photos!	<b>4/23</b> Done Vida Special Message!
<b>4/2</b> LifeGift Ambassadors of Hope Coffee Chat: "The Power of Two"		<b>4/9</b> Celebrating buildings and organizations who are lighting blue and green this month!	<b>4/17</b> Shine a Light of Hope - Post your photos!	<b>4/24</b> Ambassadors of Hope Volunteers share their stories.
<b>4/3</b> Support our partner Smilin' Rylen Foundation's Run! Sign up, Today!		<b>4/10</b> Blue & Green Day is on April 16th! Tie a blue/green ribbon on a tree and share on Facebook.	<b>4/18</b> National Pediatric Transplant Week Begins Today!	<b>4/25</b> Transplant Nurses Week starts today. Post what your nurses mean to you.
<b>4/4</b> Abril Es El Mes Nacional de Done Vida! DoneVida.org		<b>4/11</b> Share a photo of your painted Donate Life Rocks!	<b>4/19</b> Celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week - share your favorite event photos! LifeGift LOVES our Ambassadors of Hope!	<b>4/26</b> Flagpole Photos Day
<b>4/5</b> Answer a trivia question and be entered to win a fun NDLM goody bag!		<b>4/12</b> Donate Life Month Flag Raising Day	<b>4/20</b> Light a candle in memory of a loved one.	<b>4/27</b> Share your personal story if you have connected with your donor family or living donor.
<b>4/6</b> Donor Families and Ambassadors of Hope Virtual Rock Painting class today!		<b>4/13</b> Write a Message of Hope Day.	<b>4/21</b> Show us your blue & green sock photos!	<b>4/28</b> Give a shout out to your healthcare professional for #NationalSuperHeroDay!
<b>4/7</b> Share a way you've celebrated your transplant anniversary!		<b>4/14</b> Invite your family & friends to follow LifeGift social media.	<b>4/22</b> Holocaust Museum of Houston - Lunch and Learn LatinX audience	<b>4/29</b> Order of St. Lazarus/ Lifegift/Nora's Home Education Panel, "The Past, Now and The Future"
		<b>4/15</b> National Donate Life Month Spirit Week Begins - post a favorite photo in your Donate Life t-shirt.		<b>4/30</b> AOPO Donor Remembrance Day: Honor loved ones by posting a tribute <a href="http://www.aopo.org/donor-remembrance-day/remember-your-hero/">www.aopo.org/donor-remembrance-day/remember-your-hero/</a>

**Saving More Lives Together**  
Visit our Facebook page each day throughout April.

## Social Workers Day

Nora's Home counts themselves lucky to have social workers as part of our team! We visited the transplant centers at Baylor St. Luke's in the Medical Center, Memorial Hermann, Houston Methodist and Texas Children's Hospital to recognize and show appreciation on National Social Workers Day! We treated them to a cookie and a cup of coffee on us to thank them for all of their work!





## Volunteers Beautify the Home



Springtime brings an added sense of serenity and wonder while enjoying the outdoors. This is especially true when walking the healing garden found at Nora's Home. Located just two miles from the Texas Medical Center, guests at Nora's Home enjoy the welcomed peace and quiet surroundings while recovering along their solid organ transplant journey. There seemed to be just one thing missing from the garden...a little privacy from the neighboring warehouses.

Upon a site visit from well-known arborist and Trees for Houston Executive Director, Barry Ward, a project began to take shape with a generous donation of 23 thoughtfully picked native tree varieties to serve as a barrier to the adjacent industrial park.

Trees for Houston is a non-profit organization whose mission is to plant, protect and promote trees throughout the Greater Houston area. Since being founded in 1983, more than 600,000 trees have been planted across the southeast Texas region.

"Trees reduce stress and exposure to nature and green space benefits our social, psychological, and physical health," said Ward. "I can't think of a more worthy place to invest than right here on the grounds of Nora's Home."

The only missing puzzle piece became mobilizing volunteers during the Coronavirus pandemic to take part in the implementation. Enter two longtime friends, Siler Fisher and Kennan Jones, both juniors at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory and members of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 211, in pursuit of their prestigious Eagle Scout award.

On March 6th, more than 25 volunteers were called upon to dig, plant, mulch, and further irrigate the newly minted trees. "One of the best things about Nora's Home is the sense of community you feel here," said Fisher. "It was wonderful to experience and support their mission." Jones added, "We'd like to express our gratitude to the folks at Nora's Home, as well as to the hardworking volunteers who contributed to this effort."

The lifelong organ failure to transplant journey inevitably brings patients and their caregivers back to the Texas Medical Center, and to Nora's Home, throughout the years for treatment. Guests staying at Nora's Home have thoroughly enjoyed the "fruits" of the Scout's labor as they spend more time admiring the new scenery and look forward to being part of the tree's growth for years to come.



Nora's Home is fortunate to have a committed Board of Directors that work to further our mission. In each issue of our newsletter, you'll get to know one of our lead volunteers.

## Babu "Jerry" Patel

Hotel Owner/Developer, AAHOA Lifetime Member

### Q: How were you first introduced to Nora's Home?

**A:** I was introduced to Nora's Home from my friends Jay and Reena Patel. Jay had a liver transplant and they became familiar with the mission of the home while he was in the Texas Medical Center. I was so excited to get involved and serve the mission of Nora's Home. I have also had the opportunity to introduce AAHOA (Asian American Hotel Owners Association) to the home and raise awareness of the good work being done.

### Q: What does serving on the Board mean to you?

**A:** I really enjoy working alongside a talented group of Directors. We strive to serve Nora's Home with a primary collective goal of helping each and every individual guest. I feel truly honored to serve with some of the best doctors in the world.

I also feel honored to work with the Nora's Home team – Natalie, Marilda, Laurel, and Morgan – who bring lots of love to our home and the guests.

### Q: What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

**A:** Giving back to your local communities and helping others is the best gift one can give. Always stay humble and keep a pure heart!



### Q: Share any hidden talents you may have!

**A:** Helping to raise funds! I will continue to use my talents to break down barriers and convince others to help great causes in which they believe. I was honored and pleased with the success achieved helping with the procurement of furniture and fixtures for the Phase 2 Building at Nora's Home. It's been a privilege to help Dr. Gaber, former Executive Director Kayla Lehmann, and current Executive Director Natalie Lencioni when critical items have been needed at the home.

Raising funds for Nora's Home and other non-profits during a global pandemic takes convincing others to think with their hearts during challenging times!!

**|| Giving back to your local communities and helping others is the best gift one can give. ||**





## Community Pantry Wish List

The guests at Nora's Home are always appreciative of our community pantry being filled with items they can use for meals and snacks. Here are our wish list items. For more information please contact Marilda Daniels, Operations Manager, at [marilda@norashome.org](mailto:marilda@norashome.org) or 832-831-3720.

### FOOD ITEMS

- **Pasta** (boxed)
- **Jarred Sauces** (marinara, alfredo, etc.)
- **Boxed Desserts** (cookies, cakes, brownies)
- **Protein shakes**
- **Cooking oil spray** (Pam)
- **Coffee K-cups**
- **Sugar, cream, sweet-n-low, coffee stirrers, 16 cup filters**
- **Condiments** (ketchup, Maya, mustard)

- **Breakfast foods** (individual packets): bars, cereal, pop tarts, grits, oatmeal
- **Canned Goods:** soup, meats, fruit, beans, vegetables
- **Snacks (individual bags):** cookies, nuts, crackers, chips, granola bars, pudding, brownies, chex mix, goldfish

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- **Dishwashing liquid**
- **Dishwasher tabs**

- **Laundry detergent** (pods)
- **Disinfectant wipes and spray**
- **Dryer sheets**
- **Plastic storage bowls**
- **Garbage bags** (tall kitchen)
- **Cleaning Products:** toilet bowl cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, window cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom cleaner
- **Paper Goods:** plates, bowls, table napkins, toilet paper, paper towels,

- Kleenex, cups (8oz.) & (16oz.)
- **Silverware** (individually wrapped)
- **Ziploc bags:** 1 gallon, quart, and sandwich size

### WISH LIST

- **Hand mixer**
- **Strainer**
- **Frying pans**
- **Dish towels**
- **Dish cloths**
- **Potholders**

## Host a Pantry Drive

### GET STARTED!

Are you looking to safely volunteer during this COVID-era? Consider hosting a Pantry Drive to benefit the guests staying at Nora's Home. This is a great way to gather items to help keep our shelves stocked with staple items. You can organize a drive with your work, school, church, or group of friends. This is a fun way to get people involved!

### THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

You can focus your drive on pantry needs or themed drives...like collecting breakfast or household items. Consider getting the word out and naming your drive --- decorate boxes to collect items, make signs, send emails and post on social media. You can tag Nora's Home on social and we'd love for you to share photos with us!

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Morgan Fuhrman, Outreach Coordinator, at [morgan@norashome.org](mailto:morgan@norashome.org).

## Be A Virtual Chef of the Day

There is nothing like coming home to a delicious, hot meal! We are seeking individuals or groups to sign up to be a Chef of the Day by providing or catering a meal to the families staying at Nora's Home. Due to COVID-19, we're not able to have volunteers in the home but the guests still appreciate the gesture. For more information please contact Morgan Fuhrman, Outreach Coordinator, at [morgan@norashome.org](mailto:morgan@norashome.org).

## NORA'S GIFT FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

### OFFICERS

**A. Osama Gaber, M.D.**  
CHAIRMAN, FOUNDING DIRECTOR

**Lillian Gaber, M.D.**  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR

**Ellis Tudzin**  
FIRST VICE-CHAIR

**John Zerr**  
TREASURER

**Michael Rose**  
SECRETARY

### DIRECTORS

**Imad F. Abdullah**  
**Cathy Cooney**  
**M. Waleed Gaber, Ph.D.**  
**Matthew Giroto**  
**Mark Hobeika, M.D.**  
**Kayla Lehmann**  
**Gabriel Loor, M.D.**  
**Arshad Matin**  
**Jerry Patel**  
**Timothy Schroeder**



VOLUNTEER DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY PANTRY

# SAVE *the* DATE!



## HOMECOMING

Nora's Home  
and YOU...  
Our Winning Team

## CELEBRATING *from* OUR HOME *to* YOURS

*Virtual Homecoming • April 22, 2021 • 7:00 pm*

### *Honoring Gala Chair Alumni*

2011 Pat & Ben Bono • 2013 Caroline & Dr. Salim Dabaghi

2014 Anne Whitlock & Michael Skelly | Kathleen & Pat Wood

2015 Lisa & Rudy Beeching | Anita & the late Tom Richards

2016 Brigitte & Bashar Kalai • 2017 Dr. Sippi & Ajay Khurana

2018 Paige & Todd Johnson | Ashley & Curt Langley | Ann & John Smither

2019 Nick & Vicki Massad • 2020 Susie Cunningham | Chelsea Cunningham McDermott



### NORA'S HOME

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For more information contact  
Laurel Keller, Director of Development  
832.962.8065 or laurel@norashome.org



## WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES **5K AnyWay**

Make plans to join the Nora's Home team and  
participate in the World Transplant Games—5K  
Anyway, you can register at:

[runsignup.com/RaceGroups/93112/Groups/814470](https://runsignup.com/RaceGroups/93112/Groups/814470)

### What's a 5K AnyWay?

Think about racing 3.1 miles or 5 km anyway you choose between  
May 28 and June 4, 2021. Walking. Running. Swimming. Rowing.  
Dribbling a basketball. Playing a round of golf. Throw a cricket ball  
140-or-so times. Score 200 soccer goals from the 25-meter line. You  
get the picture.

# SAVE THE DATE



## 8TH ANNUAL NORA'S HOME GOLF CLASSIC

Friday November 5, 2021

WILDCAT GOLF CLUB

S&P

SATTERFIELD & PONTIKES  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



# NORA'S HOME

for transplant patients and  
their families



## Mission Statement

Nora's Home provides affordable lodging for organ transplant patients and their families in the comfort of a warm, home-like environment.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu,  
MD, MPH, FACPM**  
Former United States Surgeon General



**A. Osama Gaber, MD, FACS, FAST**  
Chair, Department of Surgery,  
Houston Methodist Hospital



**Kevin Myer, MSHA**  
President & CEO, LifeGift

# TRANSPLANTATION

THE PAST. THE PRESENT. THE FUTURE.

**APRIL 29TH 5PM CDT**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94178583640>

Meeting ID: 941 7858 3640

Webinar brought to you by:



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The Military and Hospitalier Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem  
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**LIFEGIFT**

