



NORA'S HOME
for transplant patients and
their families

HOLIDAY 2021

VOL.1
ISSUE 4



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.



NORA'S HOME TEAM



*Wishing you
good health and
happiness in 2022!*

HOME HAPPENINGS

Statistics

2013 – November 30, 2021

1,436

Guests Served



42,603

Nights of
Accommodation



10,602

Meals Served



8

COVID-related
Patients



\$1,982,068

Adopt-A-Family
Funds Awarded



New Website Debut

We're excited to share that we've recently revamped our website! Thanks to LIMB

Co. for their expertise in this upgrade—it looks great! The goal was to have a user-friendly and engaging site where our guests, hospital partners, donors and volunteers could easily access the information needed.

On the new site, you'll find a few new pages like "Our Impact" that highlights guests served and how the home is serving transplant patients on their journey and a "Transplant Learning Center" page that lists resources with information and financial resources.

Enjoy the new look!



LUCY AND RANDY, COVID-SURVIVOR AND DOUBLE LUNG & HEART RECIPIENT

Brighten the Home for the Holidays

Help Brighten the Home for the Holidays for our guests! You can provide holiday food, games, or entertainment to help make guests feel at home while they're away from their home. We've trimmed the trees and hung our stockings on the fireplaces!

Consider serving as a Chef of the Day or providing a catered meal for our guests to enjoy on Christmas Day dinner and/or New Years Eve dinner. For questions, please contact Marilda Daniels, Operations Director, at mdaniels@norashome.org.

Presently we can allow up to 8 fully-vaccinated individuals within the home for group service. Please visit <https://norashome.org/volunteer> to view our current protocols.



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HOME HAPPENINGS

Fundraising Update

Annual Report

Check out Nora's Home inaugural Annual Report.

The report recaps 2020 and the accomplishments we had. It was a tough year dealing with the pandemic, but the home triumphed through and continued to serve guests on their transplant journey.

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



*For every challenge faced,
we found strength in knowing
our community was here
to support us every step
of the way.*

Inaugural Appeal Kicks off

In the fall, we launched the Welcome Home Annual Fund, our inaugural appeal. Gifts to the Welcome Home Annual Fund ensure the financial health and longevity of Nora's Home. This fund provides for the items that create a home – 24-hour staff and housekeeping; functional goods such as kitchenware, linens and paper goods; sanitation protocols that make the home safe; and professional services that keep the house running – as well as the resources necessary to secure our future.

Gifts provide financial assistance to guests in need and will ensure the doors of Nora's Home always remain open. We welcome gifts of any size; every contribution makes a difference in the lives of our guests!



We provide a haven, YOU make it happen!

Please visit our website
for more information or to
make a donation.



SIGN UP FOR The Sunflower Scoop!

Make sure to sign up for our blossoming monthly e-blast, the **Sunflower Scoop**! 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://www.norashome.org)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Natalie Lencioni

Executive Director

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

A: I was introduced to the mission within a few months of moving to Houston in 2014. Through networking, I was introduced to the executive director (Kayla Lehmann) at the time and started as an eager volunteer. As a "transplant" myself from Chicago, I too found my home away from home at Nora's Home. I was captivated immediately by the mission and learning more of the organ transplant journey.

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

A: The people, the people, the people. We have a great staff, incredible guests, and our community of supporters are simply the best. I also find it uniquely rewarding to know what role we play in supporting patients on their transplant journey – whether that's guest services, hospital relationships, fundraising or raising awareness, we get to do it all.

Q: Do you have any favorite hobbies?

A: I enjoy being outdoors, playing golf, taking my dogs on road trips, and hiking.

Q: Do you like to cook? What is your favorite Houston restaurant?

A: Yes! I am taking a Masterclass with Yotam Ottolenghi and have loved trying his style – the shakshuka is delicious! Houston has so many amazing restaurants. My favorite so far is Coltivare in the Heights.



Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: Soccer is my first love – played through college and after. Before the 2010 World Cup, I spent six weeks as a volunteer in South Africa coaching 10–12-year olds in the poorer areas. It was fascinating to see the country prepare for the world stage and how it impacted the youth. Cape Town is a special place for me.

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

A: "Courage doesn't always roar, sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'"



NATALIE AND GUEST WAYNE, A DOUBLE LUNG RECIPIENT

Courage doesn't always roar, sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'

FEATURE STORY



8th Annual Golf Classic Bring in Record Fundraising!

November 5th was jam-packed with fun and sunshine at Wildcat Golf Club with Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc. (SatPon) helping to raise \$140,051 for the Adopt-A-Family program. Another record-breaking year for the tournament, two courses were filled with 53 teams all supporting the guests staying at the home.

The day started with a putting contest, raffle prizes, and a spirits pull (sponsored by Occucare International) while eager golfers checked-in and enjoyed a breakfast provided by the Houston Methodist J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center. After Charlie Fote welcomed the golfers, they hit the links and enjoyed the cool, but sunny weather as well as beverages provided by Hart Plumbing and No Label Brewing. Many tried, but no one was able to scoop up that Hole-in-One private helicopter cruise for 6 provided by Million Air.

At the end of the tournament, the golfers returned to the Clubhouse to enjoy a delicious lunch provided by Veritex Community Bank, and listen to Randy Tillotson, Nora's Home guest, share his transplant story and thank all for their support of the home. Said Randy, "I would like to thank the donors to Nora's Home whole-heartedly for supporting a good cause and helping families during a time of need. Nora's Home is doing a great thing and I can't happen to not think of Nora, as well as the impact her legacy has made in the lives of so many as well." Nora's father and Nora's Home Board Chair, Dr. A. Osama Gaber, also addressed the attendees and expressed his appreciation of their support.

We add our thanks to our many volunteers for helping with a great day and to all of our sponsors and the teams who came, but especially SatPon for their generosity to the home for these past eight years. This annual tournament has raised to date \$578,500 for the home, affording over 7,714-night stays for transplant families.



2021 8TH ANNUAL
**NORA'S HOME
GOLF CLASSIC**

PRESENTING SPONSOR
**SATTERFIELD & PONTIKES
CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

UNDERWRITING SPONSOR
AUTODESK

PLATINUM SPONSOR		
		
GOLD SPONSORS		
		
		
SILVER SPONSORS		
AVADEK BAYLOR ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER BOWEN, MICLETTE & BRITT GRANT MACKAY DEMOLITION IVP DISTRIBUTION JOMAR ELECTRICAL MCCUNE ELECTRICAL SERVICES	MYREX INDUSTRIES NEWCASTLE MASONRY SYNERGEN TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL THE LIVING BANK UPSTREAM ENGINEERING	



OUR TRANSPLANT CENTERS

Thank You!

Because of the dedicated service from our social workers to our guests, this year we have...

Provided over
5,109
Nights Stayed



Served over
233
Families



Since opening, we have...

Provided over
41,862
Nights Stayed



Served over
2,789
Families



Thank you for all you do for our guests! Nora's Home wouldn't be the same without you!

Home Feature: The Healing Garden

The Healing Garden is an important feature of the home, providing tranquil green space in spite of our semi-urban location. Guests often use the garden to visit with friends and family, play a game of putt-putt, meditate and enjoy the fresh air.

This outdoor area also includes

- Two umbrella tables
- Shaded pergola sitting areas
- Two patios for outdoor dining
- Smoker and propane grill
- Putting green



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Sunflower Sacks

Nora's Home kicked off a new volunteer opportunity this past fall called, Sunflower Sacks.

It has been full steam ahead as many have jumped on board and embraced being able to support our guests. The idea came about as many guests spend long days in the hospital and at appointments and might miss a meal or can't make it to the cafeteria. A Sunflower Sack helps provide an easy snack for them to bring with them and enjoy! Volunteers are asked to write motivational messages or draw pictures on paper sacks and fill them with a water bottle and various snacks like fruit, bars, snack packets, etc. They have been enjoyed by the guests and they often grab one on their way out for the day.

This opportunity is open for groups, families or individuals to help NH from afar. It's a safe way to volunteer and distance during this pandemic. For questions or more information please contact Morgan Fuhrihan, Outreach Coordinator, at morgan@norashome.org.

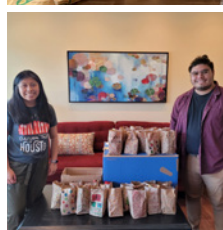


WHAT

Many of our guests spend long days in the hospital and at appointments. They might miss a meal or can't make it to the cafeteria. A Sunflower Sack helps provide an easy snack for them to bring with them and enjoy!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Purchase paper lunch bags (any brand).
2. Decorate them! Be creative, have fun, make them special! Add messages, artwork, stickers...You name it!
3. Fill them with items like:
 - Water Bottle (8oz)
 - Applesauce & Spoon
 - Beef Jerky Sticks
 - Fresh Fruit
 - Fruit Leather
 - Granola Bars
 - Oatmeal Packets
 - Sandwich Crackers
 - Mac n' Cheese cup
4. Drop them off at Nora's Home!
8300 El Rio Street
Houston, TX 77054



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.

Imad F. Abdullah AIA,

Principal/Owner, Landmark Architects Inc.
Member American Institute of Architects



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

A: We met Drs. Lillian and Osama Gaber soon after their relocation to Houston as my wife and Dr. Lillian were colleagues as pathologists. I was approached by Dr. Osama Gaber during a social function if I would consider becoming involved in his effort to establish Nora's Home in Houston and described the purpose. I didn't hesitate a second as it struck a chord of how noble the mission was. I served initially as liaison between Nora's Board and the contractor Satterfield & Pontikes in Phase 1, and afterwards I was asked to join the board and to design Phase 2 which was successfully completed and added substantially to Nora's Home capability to serve the patients and their families.

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

A: It is very uplifting to be on an all-volunteer board that has great commitment and is willing to do whatever it takes to guide the mission and make the project financially sound. The dedication of everyone on the board and the staff reflects the great inspiration we all get from the leadership and vision of Dr. Gaber. The members have great expertise in their respective fields and operate with great congeniality making it a wonderful experience to be among them.

|| I didn't hesitate a second as it struck a chord of how noble the mission was. ||

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

A: I read this somewhere and it validates itself everyday: The best asset one has is "Time." It is very precious and is to be used wisely.

Q: Tell us about yourself:

A: Ever since my days at the University of Houston where I served as the Student Senator from the College of Architecture. I have been involved in numerous organizations and I enjoy group dynamics. I served on the AIA Houston Board where I chaired the Business Practice Committee for five years offering Continuing Education Credits to my fellow architects. I am an original founder of the Arab American Cultural and Community Center in Houston and served as President and for many years on the board. As I became a Real Estate Broker in 1978, I am involved with several Real Estate organizations, and currently I serve on the board of the Foundation Performance Association and chair the Bylaws Committee. I wrote numerous articles on Urban issues in The Houston Chronicle and The Houston Business Journal, and in 2012 published a book titled "A Crystal Ball Visioning, Unfolding the 21st Century." On the personal level, my wife and I have been married for 41 years and our son Sammy got married last December and they had a baby boy in September, a truly new experience and bound to be rewarding and challenging.



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 or host a Culinary Holiday by providing or catering a meal to the families staying at Nora's Home. Due to COVID-19, we have updated our volunteer guidelines and small groups are welcome back in the Home. Volunteers can still opt to be a *virtual* Chef of the Day if you are more comfortable dropping off items! Our guests truly appreciate the gesture of a meal, snack or treat! For more information please contact Morgan Fuhrman, Outreach Coordinator, at morgan@norashome.org.



LADY LIONS DROPPING OFF DINNER

NORA'S GIFT FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

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Ellis Tudzin FIRST VICE-CHAIR	



NORA'S HOME BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT DECEMBER MEETING

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

NORA'S HOME GALA

HEROES AMONG US

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

Gala Chairs

CAROLE AND JIM LOOKE

LINDSEY AND STEVEN LOOKE

Honoring Our Hometown Heroes

DR. ERIC BOERWINKLE & UTHealth SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DR. MARC BOOM & HOUSTON METHODIST

DR. PAUL KLOTMAN & BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Location

THE POST OAK HOTEL, 1600 WEST LOOP SOUTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

For More Information

**Please Contact Laurel Keller at (832) 962-8065
or email laurel@norashome.org**



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