

# Guest Spotlight

Age: 11 years old  
Transplant: Kidney & Liver  
Hospital: Texas Children's Hospital  
Hometown: New Orleans, LA

Julia



**Transplant Journey:** While Julia's mother, Vanessa, was pregnant the doctors noticed the baby was not getting any amniotic fluid. Julia was delivered at 36 weeks, weighing 6 lbs., and diagnosed with Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease (ARPKD). ARPKD causes enlarged kidneys and liver fibrosis, but Julia remained strong and has grown into a beautiful 11-year-old. In December 2019, she began dialysis and almost a year later, had a double nephrectomy continuing dialysis treatment three time a day. On August 15, Julia celebrated the gift of life receiving a new liver and kidney!



**What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home?** The community --- it is family! There are many amazing people here and I've enjoyed getting to know them. It's been fun to cook together, share celebrations, have game nights, sew together, pray together and have karaoke competitions. I also liked to go outside and play putt-putt.



**What is your favorite place at Nora's Home?** I have two favorite spaces -- the library where I could have quiet time, read and play Xbox and the kitchen! I love to cook and bake! I made waffles for guests, popcorn, chocolate cake and helped make dinner with my mom. By the way, popcorn is very popular here!



**What is the first thing you want to do when you get home?**

I want to play with my dogs and run in the yard. I want to see my friends. I've been in virtual school while in Houston, so I've seen my friends on the computer. Home is at home, but Nora's Home is a great place to be!

**What do you wish for Julia?**

I want her to enjoy being a child! I want her to have the same dreams and opportunities that other children have. I'd love for Julia to live life to the fullest and aim for the sky -- dream big! She has gone through so much and I want her to keep the innocence that a child has and be a healthy young girl.

