



Guest Spotlight Wayne

Transplant: Double-Lung
Hospital: Baylor St. Lukes
Hometown: New Orleans, LA



Transplant Journey: In his 40's, Wayne experienced respiratory issues and was diagnosed with exercise-induced asthma and given an inhaler. In 2008 he took a trip to Aruba and was hiking. He was having issues breathing and a tourist came to his aid who was a doctor. She told him he was in respiratory distress, when he told her he had asthma, she replied with "this is not asthma!" Once home, he went to the doctor where they took an x-ray and noticed a spot on his lung. He was sent home with prednisone for 10 days with no change. He spent years visiting doctors, having procedures and on oxygen until one visit to the doctors' office changed his life. A representative from Baxter Laboratories was showing a new device that tested for Alpha 1. Although his doctor said he didn't have this diagnosis or need to take it, Wayne volunteered. He was diagnosed with Alpha 1 after a misdiagnosis of asthma and years of emphysema. He was placed in care at Ochsner Hospital until it closed its lung program last year leading Wayne to seek care elsewhere. Working with Blue Cross Blue Shield Louisiana and Blue Cross Blue Shield Texas, an agreement was made for him to seek care at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. Wayne received his new lungs on July 29, 2021. Aside from this, after Wayne learned his diagnosis, he became a patient advocate for Baxter, helping patients, speaking at events, and visiting doctors' offices.

What was the first thing you wanted to do after receiving your transplant? I want to ride my bike! I enjoy riding and want to get back on the bike once I'm home.

What is your favorite place at Nora's Home?

The Healing Garden! I enjoyed sitting outside and taking in the greenery and beauty. I also loved seeing the butterflies! I ended up planting the same plant once I got home so I could enjoy them in Louisiana.

What would you want to say to your donor? That they are an angel both literally and physically. This person saved my life and I am so grateful for their selflessness.

What would you say to someone considering being an organ donor? Just do it!!

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home?

The people...the community! I enjoyed being around other transplant patients as we can relate to one another. I also enjoyed the facility and how beautiful and clean it is. And the activities – there was much for us to do like game nights, playing bingo, support groups and sewing quilts! I am proud of my quilt that I made. The main focus is my t-shirt!



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