

5



3



2



4



1



SEE PAGE 10 FOR PHOTO STORIES

# 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.



## 2023 is a very special year...We are turning 10!

Since opening our doors in fall of 2013, Nora's Home has been a beacon of hope, a place for healing and a home for those on their transplant journey. We have been entrusted by our hospital partners to care for their patients and offer critical resources such as lodging and support and have celebrated many milestones over the past decade.

Reflecting on 10 years brings forward many fond memories and we hope you'll read on and share in our joy and accomplishments. Above all we believe that lives are transformed at Nora's Home. You'll hear various perspectives throughout this year on how our mission has impacted their lives for the better.

Please join us on March 24th to celebrate this year's "Wish Upon A Star" Gala. It will be a fairy tale evening under the stars at McGovern Centennial Gardens. A night not to be missed!

**To our faithful supporters and friends: thank you for the love and support you bestow on our guests. Together, we make "dreams come true!"**

**Natalie Lencioni**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# HOME HAPPENINGS

## Statistics

2013 – December 31, 2022

1,578

Guests Served



51,973

Nights of  
Accommodation



12,857

Meals Served

as of January 2018



\$2,486,359

Adopt-A-Family Funds  
Awarded



**NORA'S HOME**  
*10 years of transforming lives*

## Nora's Home 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Guess what...this new year brings a new milestone to Nora's Home! We are turning the BIG 1-0...that's two hands full of wonderful years!! The home has been in operation since 2013 and has welcomed transplant patients and their families from 38 states and 4 countries. In these years, we have grown from 16 guest suites to 32 guest suites, celebrated over 50,000 nights stayed, AND welcomed over 1,570 guests!

Nora's Home is a haven for many and is often called a "home away from home." We couldn't be happier for this golden year and look forward to many years to come in our future! Stay tuned this year for guest stories, videos, celebrations, flashback photos and more! Visit <https://norashome.org/10th-anniversary>

## Phase 1 Gets an Update!

Our guest suites in Phase 1 of the home recently got some updates and have a new look to the rooms. With furniture and items dating back to the opening of Nora's Home in 2013, it was time for these 16 rooms to get a revamp and a little TLC.

We'd like to give a big THANK YOU to the following supporters at AmeriTech, Carver & Associates, CleanBrands, Dickson Furniture, Sherwin Williams, and Welspun USA for being a part of this effort. Because of their generous donations, we outfitted each room with fresh paint, furnishings, TVs, and linens and we were able to convert four of our double-queens into single king suites for those requiring space to work remotely during their stay at Nora's Home!

We also want to thank our incredible Nora's Home Helpers and dedicated staff for their time and sweat in facilitating the total change-over of each of the rooms! Volunteers from Houston Methodist ICARES, Volunteer Houston, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Texas Children's Hospital Supply Chain Management and other community members were a taskforce like none other! It was no small feat, especially considering most of the work was done in one day! Thank you to all our dedicated supporters who help make this home a special place for our guests!

This donation also enabled us to benefit three other nonprofits – Houston Furniture Bank, the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity – by donating our gently used goods for other families in need.



# HOME HAPPENINGS

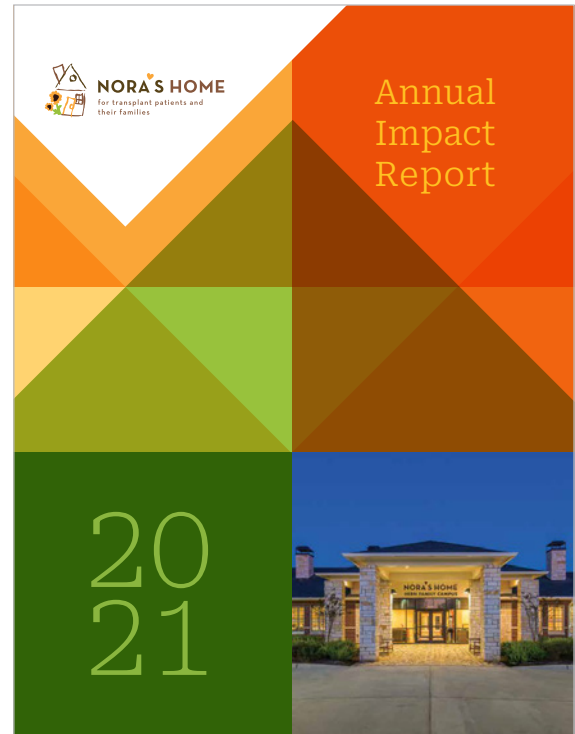
## Annual Report

Check out the Nora's Home Annual Report on our website! The report recaps 2021 and the accomplishments we had. While still in the midst of a pandemic, the home had a record-breaking fundraising year, welcomed many new transplant patients and their families and continued to be a home away from home.

"More than 540 volunteers participated in activities that brought comfort to our guests with 10,000+ meals served!"

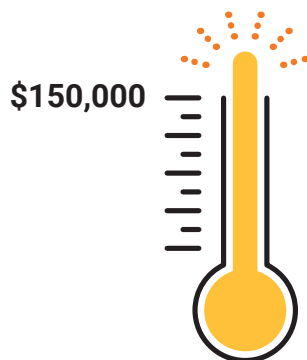
**NATALIE LENCIONI**

FROM THE 2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



We provide a haven, YOU make it happen!

## \$270,429



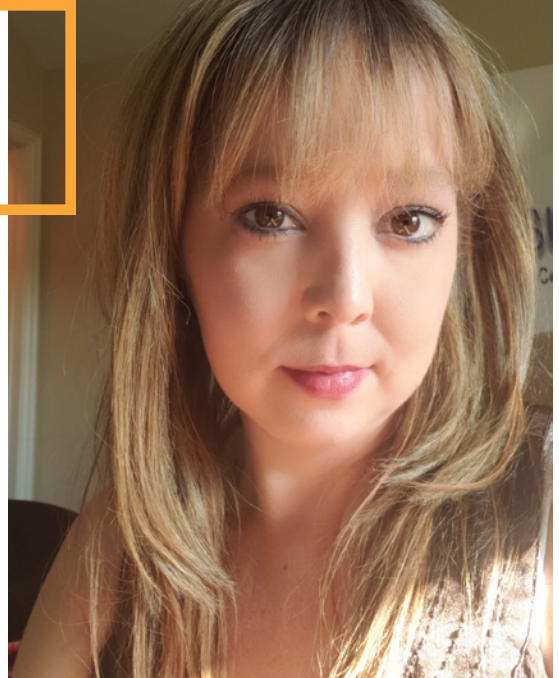
## Fundraising Update

We are thrilled to report that we have exceeded the goal for our end of year Welcome Home Annual Fund! Thank you to all of our wonderful donors! Your generosity truly makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our current guests and helps to secure the future of Nora's Home. We want to provide generations of transplant patients with the warmth, tranquility, strength and community that makes our home so special.

The Welcome Home Annual Fund campaign raised a total of \$270,429! We are thankful for our committed donors, as well as the many new donors we welcomed to the Nora's Home family!

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Jenny McFarlane



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

**A:** After I received my double lung transplant, I became an Ambassador of Hope with LifeGift. Right before COVID hit, they had a Chef of the Day event at Nora's Home, and I signed up for it. I had never heard of Nora's Home and didn't know what they did until I pulled into the parking lot. When I walked in, I was in awe and knew right then what a wonderful place this was. During that event, I got to talk to a few people who were staying there, and I could see how grateful and relieved they were that there was a place like this.

**Q: What do you enjoy about being a part of Nora's Home?**

**A:** I love being able to sit and talk with the guests. I have often felt like I inspire some of the pre-transplant guests because they can see how well I am doing after my transplant. When guests learn that I had a double lung transplant, they all seem to be surprised that I am doing well and am working at Nora's Home. I also love seeing the progress of the guests who come to Nora's Home and then get to return home. It warms my heart when I see people ring that bell.

**Q: You are a transplant recipient. Can you tell us about your journey?**

**A:** I was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) as a baby and grew up with the usual hospitalizations and medications anyone with a chronic disease had. I didn't let that stop me though. I had a normal childhood and didn't really feel the effects of CF until I got much older. I was in my 30's when my CF started to progress and need a transplant. I lived in Albuquerque, NM, my whole life, but once I needed a transplant, I moved to Houston to be closer to the transplant hospital. I got the call in 2018 and went in for surgery. Only 11 days later, I got to come home. I did extremely well with my transplant recovery, and I am blessed to still be doing so well. Now I just try to take advantage of being able to live my best life for as long as I can.

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

**A:** My favorite hobby right now is being a podcaster. I started a transplant podcast a few years ago called, *The Pre to Post Transplant Podcast*. I interview so many people from the organ donation community and I get to hear about their journeys. It gives me comfort knowing there are people going through the same things I did, and I love that so many people can listen to it and learn about organ donation.

**Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?**

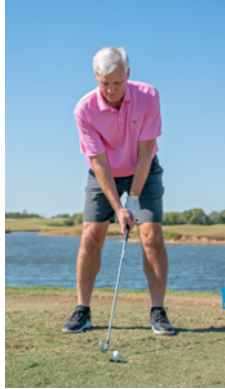
**A:** I am a Christmas fanatic! I absolutely love Christmas and every year my husband and I turn our house into a dancing Christmas light show. I listen to Christmas music all year and before I moved to Houston, I even had a Christmas non-profit organization that helped families in need give Christmas presents to their children. If you ask me if I have any Christmas tattoos, I might just say yes!

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

**A:** I heard someone say once, "Don't take the little things for granted." I never really paid much attention to that until after my transplant. Every now and then, I will stop what I'm doing and take a deep breath in and as I slowly let it out. I remember what it felt like to do that before my transplant. I silently thank my donor for giving me that gift and try to remember to not take anything for granted, big or little.



# FEATURE STORY



## Another Record Year for the Golf Classic!

The 9th annual Golf Classic was filled with fun and sunshine at Wildcat Golf Club with Satterfield & Pontikes Construction Inc. (S&P) helping to raise **\$186,940** for the Adopt-A-Family program. The third record-breaking year in a row, S&P filled two courses with 65 teams all supporting the folks staying at the home.

The day started with a Putting Contest (sponsored by The Living Bank), Raffle Prizes (shout-out to Tool Mart Inc. for being the Mega-Raffle sponsor), and a Spirits Pull (sponsored by D&H Masonry) while eager golfers checked-in and enjoyed a breakfast sponsored by Houston Methodist J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center. After George Pontikes and John Marshall welcomed the golfers and thanked them for their support, everyone joined in a hearty "Happy Birthday" to George for his 70th birthday. Then the teams hit the links and enjoyed the sunny weather as well as beverages provided by Hart Plumbing and snacks sponsored by Ace Services. Unfortunately, no golfers this year were able to scoop up that Hole-in-One private helicopter ride provided by Million Air, but we hope they'll have better luck next year!

At the end of the tournament, the golfers returned to the clubhouse and enjoyed a delicious hot lunch and listened to LifeGift Ambassador of Hope and transplant recipient, John Miller, share his transplant story and thank all for their support of the home. Raffle prizes were drawn, and the annual live auction was held for the coveted "Best Little Hunt in Texas" in Maverick County.

We add our thanks for all of our sponsors and the teams who came, but especially S&P for their generosity to the home for these past nine years. This annual tournament has raised to date **\$765,440** for the home, affording **over 10,200 night stays** for transplant families.



PRESENTED BY  
**S&P**  
SATTERFIELD & PONTIKES  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

### PLATINUM SPONSOR



### GOLD SPONSORS



ACE Services, Inc.  
American Contract Excavation Services, Inc.



### SILVER SPONSORS

ARCHITECTURAL IMAGE SYSTEMS  
APPLIED FINISH SYSTEMS  
AVADEK  
CEMEX  
CFI MECHANICAL  
COKINOS  
DERRYBERRY'S L.P.

DIVERSIFIED THERMAL  
FISHER ENERGY  
JOMAR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS  
JOSLIN CONSTRUCTION  
LD SYSTEMS  
LECS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

LOCKE LORD  
OPENSACE  
PALMETTO  
PROCORE TECHNOLOGIES  
SUNSET GLASS TINTING  
UPSTREAM ENGINEERING

# FEATURE STORY



## Holidays at the Home



We want to give a BIG THANK YOU to all of the fantastic people who participated in our **Brighten the Home for the Holidays** efforts. Many guests are away from their family and home during the holidays and Nora's Home invites our community to help spread cheer. Guests got in the spirit with a door decorating contest as they decorated their suite door with holiday themes and helped trim the trees with gingerbread men ornaments.

Our volunteer community gave the gift of their time, talent and treasure to decorate the home, host family nights, pantry drives and delicious meals. Nora's Home was truly bursting with holiday cheer! We appreciate all of the support this season!

### THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS

**Sherrariam's Landscaping –  
Christmas Wreath Donation**

**Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church –  
Pre-Thanksgiving Meal (a week  
before tradition!)**

**Richard & Mary Keller – Meats and Sides for  
Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Pat Cernoch & Houston Methodist Department  
of Pathology and Genomic Medicine –  
Dinner & Holiday Decorating**

**LifeGift Ambassadors & Staff –  
Tree Trimming**

**University of Houston MVP Group –  
Wreaths for Guest Suites**

**Nora's Home Staff – North Pole Party & Dinner**

**Angels of Destiny – Holiday Sunflower Sacks**

**Marcia Kearns & Friends – Tamale Dinner &  
Wreath-making**

**Avetta – Toy & Game Drive**

**OES Queen Esther – Houston Chapter –  
Pantry Donation**

**Ronnie & Krista Smith –  
Donation of Ham and Turkey**

**CareDX – Christmas Eve Dinner**

**Houston Methodist J.C. Walter Jr.  
Transplant Center – Pantry Drive & Christmas  
Day Brunch**

**Dr. Hisham Sherif – New Year's Eve Dinner**



# OUR TRANSPLANT CENTERS



## Thank You

We are grateful for our transplant center partners and the care and service they provide to our guests while at the hospital. We are also grateful when they carry this dedication over to Nora's Home where many of their patients stay.

Several of the centers took part in spreading holiday cheer at the home! From serving as Chef of the Day and serving a tasty Taco Tuesday and Christmas Day brunch, to hosting pantry drives for much needed pantry, cleaning and kitchen items, we are thankful.



### HUGE SHOUT OUT TO:

**Houston Methodist Transplant Department**

**Memorial Hermann Abdominal Transplant Team  
including outreach, manager, scheduler, patient  
advocate and ICU nurses**

**Society of Critical Care Medicine Texas Chapter**

# VOLUNTEER CORNER



## Weekley Warriors Make a Difference

Our friends at David Weekley Homes recently spent a full day working on various maintenance and repair projects around the home. A fan-favorite have been the much needed cabinetry and shelving to our community pantry, front desk and guest laundry room.

A HUGE thank you to Danielle Marriott, Randall Rowlett and team of "Weekley Warriors" for their hard work! What a transformation!





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.

## R. Patrick Wood, M.D. FACS, CTBS

Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at LifeGift



|| I am honored to be on the board and to have a chance to support Nora's Home... ||

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

**A:** As the chief medical officer for Lifegift and a former liver transplant surgeon, I have worked closely with Dr. Gaber and through him learned about the Nora's Home project and the tragic story of their loss of Nora.

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

**A:** Nora's home provides a vital service to all of the transplant programs in the Texas Medical Center (TMC). I am honored to be on the board and to have a chance to support Nora's Home as a board member and through my participation on the board to support all of the transplant patients in the TMC.

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

**A:** Life is far too serious to take too seriously, keep your sense of humor.

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

**A:** I am an expert dishwasher loader and dish washer despite what my wife might say!

# HOME HELPERS



## Calling All Chefs!

Kick off your winter as a Chef of the Day!

Spend the winter months as a Chef of the Day! Your volunteer efforts could help our guests relax after a long day at clinic by providing something scrumptious to come home to! Check out our calendar for a day you could come by and cook or drop something off for our guests to enjoy. You can visit, <https://norashome.org/volunteer> for more information.

Need some creative inspiration? Check out these culinary holidays:

### FEBRUARY 2

Tater Tot Day

### FEBRUARY 4

Homemade Soup Day

### FEBRUARY 9

Pizza Day

### FEBRUARY 21

National Sticky Bun Day

### FEBRUARY 28

National Souffle Day

### MARCH 7

National Cereal Day

### MARCH 9

Meatball Day

### MARCH 18

Sloppy Joe Day

### MARCH 21

Crunchy Taco Day

### MARCH 25

International Waffle Day

## NORA'S NEWS VOL 3 COVER

- 1 The Gaber family visiting home's construction site
- 2 First guests to stay at Nora's Home
- 3 Aerial view of construction beginning on Phase 2
- 4 Volunteer placing guest tiles on the tile wall
- 5 Celebrating 50,000 nights stayed

Treats, snacks, meals, or something fun for a culinary holiday twist—all are welcome and appreciated!

## NORA'S GIFT FOUNDATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

#### DIRECTORS

Imad F. Abdullah  
Matthew Giroto  
Mark Hobeika, M.D.  
Kayla Lehmann  
Gabriel Loor, M.D.  
Arshad Matin  
Amy McCall  
Jerry Patel  
Nancy Patel  
R. Patrick Wood, M.D.  
Timothy Schroeder

#### OFFICERS

A. Osama Gaber, M.D.  
CHAIRMAN, FOUNDING DIRECTOR  
Lillian Gaber, M.D.  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR  
M. Waleed Gaber, Ph.D.  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR  
Ellis Tudzin  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR  
John Zerr  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR, TREASURER  
Michael Rose  
SECRETARY



# JOIN US

## Wish Upon A Star

An Evening Celebrating  
*Nora's Home*

Friday, March 24, 2023

McGovern Centennial Gardens

*Co-Chairs*

Carla & Cole Dawson and Neva & John Dawson



**NORA'S HOME**

for transplant patients and  
their families

To reserve your table/sponsorship, please visit  
<https://one.bidpal.net/norashomegala/welcome>

## Patient Profile

Pre-  
Evaluation



Pre-  
Transplant



Waiting For  
The Call



Immediate  
Post-Op



Post-  
Transplant  
Follow-up

