



NORA'S HOME
10 years of transforming lives

SUMMER 2023

VOL.3

ISSUE 2

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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!

Welcome to the summer edition of Nora's News, and halfway through celebrating our 10-year Anniversary! As you peruse the newsletter, note many recent happenings and upcoming events that have us in celebration mode. Above all, we celebrate our community and share our accomplishments with you.

Summertime is one of reflection and checking in on your goals. It's meant to be enjoyed! I hope you immerse yourself in your favorite hobby, bask in the sun (with sunscreen of course!) and take time to unplug. We are gearing up for an exciting fall and will have more to come.

Here's to 10 years, Nora's Home!

Natalie Lencioni
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOME HAPPENINGS

Statistics

2013 – April 2023

1,642

Guests Served



54,973

Nights of
Accommodation



13,232

Meals Served
as of January 2018



\$2,621,546

Adopt-A-Family Funds
Awarded



NORA'S HOME
10 years of transforming lives

Happy Birthday Nora's Home!

It's a grand year for Nora's Home as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary! Follow along with us this year as we celebrate the home, the stories, the milestones and the people that make it what it is! Nora's Home has and continues to transform the lives of all who step foot inside our doors. Visit norashome.org/10th-anniversary for videos, how the home came to be, our timeline and photos!

AAHOA

Nora's Home recently joined board member, Jerry Babu Patel in Los Angeles for the 2023 AAHOA Convention & Trade Show. AAHOA (Asian American Hotel Owners Association) is the largest hotel owners association in the nation; members own 60% of the hotels in the United States. The annual conference is the nation's largest event exclusively for hotel owners. The home had a vendor table and shared the mission and work we do, as well as our gratitude. Many AAHOA members have generously supported the home from its early days until now – from helping to solicit donations, to providing materials like flooring, fixtures, paint and case goods! We are grateful to have AAHOA as part of the Nora's family!



HOME HAPPENINGS

Now Serving 5 Countries!

The influence of Nora's Home is expanding globally – we're excited to announce that we've now served patients from FIVE other countries. We have welcomed guests from the Bahamas, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and now GUAM! We're grateful that we're able to serve so many patients from all over the world, much thanks to our supporters and hospital partners who have brought us to this incredible milestone!



Guests Tell Their Story

When you're at the home next, make sure to look at our newest piece of art – our very own Guest Quilt! You can see this beautiful handmade quilt hanging in our Phase 1 Family Room. This project was coordinated by Becky, who is one of our guests and a loving caregiver to her daughter. Becky has made many beautiful quilts as a hobby and helped make a quilt for her daughter's former organ procurement organization. She brought many ideas, talents, and skills to help our guests make their perfect quilt block.

Guests were encouraged to create a block to be placed on the quilt that would show who they are and their transplant story. Fabrics, embellishments, paints, and much more were used! One guest even used a special t-shirt his friends had made for his lung transplant. The Nora's Home staff contributed a block too, each member made a sunflower with their thumbprints. Becky enlisted the help of a friend to put the quilt together and we are grateful for this donation of time, talent and treasure.

We look forward to having this adorned on our walls for many years and using it to show who made Nora's their home away from home!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Carmen Alferez

Carmen, an El Salvadorian native, started as the sole Housekeeper for Nora's Home when we opened in 2013. It didn't take long to realize how vital her bilingual skills would be for our Spanish-speaking guests. Although we have two other bilingual Guest Service Representatives, Carmen personally handles the majority of the incoming reservations from our Spanish-speaking guests while assisting in keeping the home running as the Housekeeping Manager. More than a housekeeper, Carmen also performs a lot of the home maintenance and is Marilda's right-hand gal for many aspects of the home operations.

When she's not busy keeping the home in tip top shape, Carmen enjoys cooking and is a natural at Salsa dancing! She also enjoys spending time with her son and visiting family back in El Salvador.



Luisa Cabrera

Luisa is a longtime member of the Nora's Home family and has worked in Housekeeping since we opened our doors in 2013. She started out as a part-time team member. When we opened the Phase 2 addition in 2018, she began working full-time to help keep up with the doubled workload. Her bilingual skills have also proved an asset to the home.

A quiet soul by nature, Luisa is adored by the staff and many guests for her sweet temperament and genuine concern for others. Luisa is a dog lover at heart and enjoys walking her dog when she is not working in her garden.



TRANSPLANT STORIES

Donate Life Month Recap

Nora's Home spent the month of April celebrating "National Donate Life Month" with our guests.

Our community came together for several events to help us celebrate and raise awareness of organ donation! Not an organ donor? Take time to register today at organdonor.gov!



Our team enjoyed participating in Houston Methodist's Annual Celebration of Life Event. We were able to share our mission and encourage volunteerism. Thanks to all who stopped by our booth to say hi!



Living kidney donor, Myra Castaneda, organized a group of motorcyclists as part of a National Donate Life Month Charity Ride through the Texas Medical Center. The home was a stop on the route! The ride not only raised awareness of organ donation, but the proceeds raised were donated to our Adopt-A-Family program.



Our guests were treated to a delicious dinner by our dedicated chef volunteers, Pat Cernoch and Claire Haueter before a reading of *Clayton Sparks Leaves a Mark*. Abby Gray authored this children's book that celebrates the life of her husband, Reid, a liver recipient and his organ donor, Clayton Sparks. The book inspires readers to always be kind to others and to be an organ donor.



Mark Scotch, a living donor, stopped by Nora's Home along his Organ Trail. He rides his bike on a tour across the United States to raise awareness of living organ donation. Nora's Home and our community partners, LifeGift and The Living Bank, enjoyed hearing Mark's story before sending him off to the next stop on his Organ Trail.

FEATURE STORY



WISH GRANTED! ANNUAL GALA RAISES OVER \$1 MILLION

Supporters gathered under the stars Friday, March 24th at the beautiful McGovern Centennial Gardens in commemoration of The Gift of Life and Nora's Home at the 2023 Nora's Home Gala: Wish Upon A Star.

Thanks to this year's Gala Chairs, Carla & Cole Dawson and Neva & John Dawson, we were able to raise a stunning \$1,194,650 (or 15,292 night stays) for Nora's Home guests!

The gala setting was enchanting with a picturesque Texan sunset that set a pleasant ambiance along with violin music while guests enjoyed a cocktail reception. As twilight approached, guests were welcomed to the event by Lisa Malosky who served as the emcee for the event and David Gow provided an invocation to open the evening. The twinkling lights of the canopy reflected romantically on the garden pools and sitting among the flowers, guests joined in celebrating the home's 10th anniversary and raising needed funds for the Adopt-A-Family program that ensures no guest is ever turned away due to the inability to pay.

Adding to the magic that night, Nora's Home guests and transplant recipients, Bobby and Faith, were engaged. The couple met while both were staying at Nora's Home and were thrilled to be a special part of the program as they shared their experience about the home with the crowd.

Cole Dawson further warmed everyone's hearts as he shared his personal transplant story of hope as he is now celebrating five years post-transplant after suffering heart failure brought on by his cancer treatments. At the close of Cole's comments, the guests welcomed Nora's Home patients who were in attendance and were charmed by a surprise performance from The Three Waiters who serenaded the crowd with gorgeous love songs intermixed with playful banter.

To close the evening, we were humbled by the fantastic Paddles Up and live auction that demonstrated enthusiastic support for the mission of Nora's Home. We add our special thanks to Paula Hern & Tom Barbour as well as Carole & Jim Looke who generously matched the Paddles Up donations and truly made the night magical. Guests then danced the night away under the stars to DJ Greene.

We thank all the gala chairs, host committee, underwriters, guests, volunteers, and other supporters who granted our wish that night for the continuation of the mission of Nora's Home in providing transplant patients and their families an affordable place to stay where they can find support and share experiences with others in the comfort of a home-like environment.

THEME

Wish Upon A Star

CHAIRS

**Carla & Cole Dawson &
Neva & John Dawson**

EMCEE

Lisa Maloksy

EVENT FEATURES

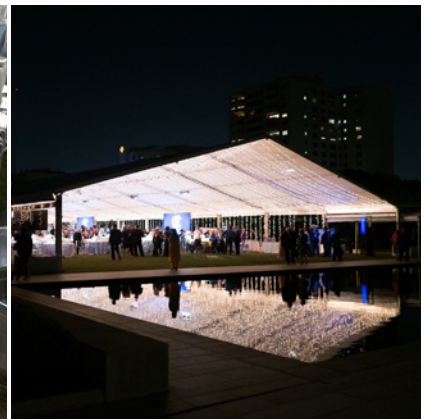
**Over 900 strands of twinkle
lights**

Tip or Sip Raffle

Live Auction

**Paddles Up for Adopt-A-Family
Program**

Entertainment & Dancing



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Eagle Scout Soars

Thanks to Alex Campbell for choosing Nora's Home as his Eagle Scout project.

After hearing our needs, Alex, an Eagle Scout and a senior at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, and Troop 993 spent over 128 hours planning, preparing and working on efforts to install shelving in our commercial laundry room/housekeeping area, as well as a permanent wall table in our front office. He oversaw 16 volunteers on project day, and they spent hours working away. We are truly grateful for their time and talent given to the home. These additions have added space for us to store items, keep supplies organized and fold laundry, like sheets and towels, in a designated space.



Students Make a Difference

Students at Northland Christian School invited Nora's Home to be a part of their 'Spiritual Renewal Day.'

This special day for their elementary school students focused on different service opportunities in their area. In their small groups, students created Sunflower Sacks for our guests. The students adorned the bags with sweet messages, artwork, and stickers and then filled the bags with snack items. They were a sight to see! Nora's Home was invited to present to the students and share more about the home and the work we do. The students made 185 bags for our guests to take along with them to their clinic appointments.



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.

Dr. Waleed Gaber

Professor, Baylor College of Medicine

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

A: I was one of the founders of the Board of Directors, together with my brother, Osama, and sister-in-law, Lillian.

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

A: I regard my service on the board as part of my relationship with my niece, Nora. I feel close to her this way. She was a caring young girl and I feel that serving patients and their families would please her very much.

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

A: To be always kind and forgiving and to advise others to be so.

Q: Share any hidden talents you may have!

A: Besides being naturally funny...I am an "okay" soccer player.



BOTTOM: OMAIMA & WALEED AT THE 2023 NORA'S HOME GALA

HOME HELPERS

Coffee Break Shopping List

Coffee Break | ITEMS NEEDED

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-cups | <input type="checkbox"/> Stir sticks/straws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk Coffee (i.e. Folgers) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual sweetener packs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filters | <input type="checkbox"/> Foam cups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Creamers | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual hot cocoa, tea or apple cider packs |



NORA'S GIFT FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

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Kayla Lehmann
Gabriel Loor, M.D.
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M. Waleed Gaber, Ph.D.
FOUNDING DIRECTOR
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FOUNDING DIRECTOR
John Zerr
FOUNDING DIRECTOR, TREASURER
Michael Rose
SECRETARY

SAVE THE DATE

2023 10TH ANNUAL NORA'S HOME GOLF CLASSIC

Friday, October 20, 2023

WILDCAT
GOLF CLUB

S&P

SATTERFIELD & PONTIKES
CONSTRUCTION, INC.



MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

NORA'S NEWS VOL 3 COVER

- ① Robert, a COVID survivor and double lung recipient, rings the Nora's bell as he is released to go home
- ② First Eagle Scout project at the home
- ③ Guests enjoying a Halloween-themed Family Night
- ④ The Tri-County Quilting Guild has donated quilts for over 8 years
- ⑤ Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church has served a pre-Thanksgiving meal since 2015



SEE FRONT COVER FOR LARGER IMAGES

Patient Profile

Pre-
Evaluation



Pre-
Transplant



Waiting For
The Call



Immediate
Post-Op



Post-
Transplant
Follow-up

