

SEE PAGE 11 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.



It's a fall to remember!

As Nora's Home turns 10 this November we can't help but feel nostalgia for all the memories made with our supporters, volunteers, and cherished friends who have helped us get us to where we are today. They say, "It's not the destination, it's the journey" and we couldn't agree more. We celebrate this milestone year with a record-breaking Nora's Home Golf Classic presented by our friends at Satterfield and Pontikes Construction, Inc. There's more to come and we hope you enjoy these season's highlights!

Natalie Lencioni
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOME HAPPENINGS

Statistics

2013 – October 2023

1,727

GUESTS SERVED



60,000

NIGHTS OF ACCOMMODATION



13,755

MEALS SERVED
as of January 2018



7-14 Nights

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY



\$2,867,244

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!

SUNFLOWER SCOOP

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!



We provide a haven, YOU make it happen!

We provide a haven, YOU make it happen!

Join us and make an impact
in the lives of those staying
at Nora's Home.

Your gift to the **Welcome Home Annual Fund** is belief in our mission and allows us to offer affordable accommodations to patients and their families on all stages of their solid-organ transplant journey.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we are honored to have been a part of so many lives in this last decade. Serving over 1,700 guests and providing over 60,000-night stays is no small feat and this couldn't have happened without the support of our generous donors. Thank you for allowing our four walls to be a safe haven, a source of support and an immediate community of love and family to our guests.

To learn more and make a donation,

[visit norashome.org/give/whaf](https://norashome.org/give/whaf)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ann Arceneaux



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

A: I first learned about Nora's Home as I was passing by. I happened to stop in and inquire about the home as I was looking for a part-time position. God blessed me when I received a job here. What attracted me to the mission was my love of God and my love of the people that I have had contact with here and their families. Knowing that Nora's Home can provide affordable living while they are going through their hospital stays and doctor's appointments is amazing.

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

A: I enjoy knowing that I can be a part of what the families are going through and can give encouraging words knowing God is able to see them through this difficult time. I also look forward to all the activities throughout the year and knowing that our staff handles everything with class.

Q: Do you have any favorite hobbies?

A: I enjoy traveling, reading, singing, attending church and cooking.

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: I am a loving wife of 43 years and a mother to two beautiful daughters. I also love working at Nora's Home!

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

A: Trust the Lord with all your soul and Heart, and do not lean on your own understanding; in all my ways submit to Him and he will make my path straight. Love one another and always be very kind to others because we never know what a person is going through.

“Knowing that Nora's Home can provide affordable living while they are going through their hospital stays and doctor's appointments is amazing.”



Organ Recipient Meets Donor Family at Nora's Home

A teary but joyful reunion took place at Nora's Home over the summer as organ recipient Bill Riggs and his wife Virginia, were privileged to meet Bill's heart donor's parents, Maribel and Jesus Garcia, for the first time.



After five years of both the Garcias and Riggs families trying to connect, they were finally able to get in touch. With the aid of LifeGift, the local organ procurement organization that helps facilitate transplants in the Houston area, Bill was able to talk over the phone with Maribel, the mother of his donor, Christian Garcia, and coordinate a visit in Houston.

They planned to meet at Nora's Home where the Riggs' were delighted to show Maribel and Jesus around the home and introduce them to other guests like themselves who are also on a transplant journey. The encounter was so special for both parties and the Garcias were happy to see both how well cared-for the transplant patients were at Nora's Home and how much hope, healing and joy organ donations can bring to the recipients. It was monumental for the Garcias to see the impact their son's donation of his heart on Bill's life, granting him at least an additional five more years of life he wouldn't have otherwise enjoyed.



CHRISTIAN AND BILL SIDE BY SIDE BOTH AT THE AGE OF 18 YEARS

Both families visited for a while, swapping stories about Bill and Christian. A pinnacle part of the whole encounter was when Maribel got to listen to Christian's heart beating in Bill's chest – a moment neither will soon forget. At the conclusion of the visit, the families had become so bonded that they have since agreed to coordinate visits with each other during the holidays and other times throughout the year as they feel like they are a very special part of each other's lives, even family.

Following the visit, the Riggs' shared about their visit with the Garcias and on the impact Nora's Home had in the whole transplant process. LifeGift Aftercare Coordinator, Shannon Lenox shares, *"It's always a privilege to support our families. If interested in setting up a meeting with your donor family or recipients – please contact us at aftercare@lifegift.org."*

FEATURE STORY

10th Annual Golf Classic is One to Remember



Golfers had a wonderful day on the links on October 20, 2023

at Wildcat Golf Club with Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc. (S&P) helping to raise \$191,967 for the Adopt-A-Family program. It was another record-breaking year for the tournament with two courses filled with 240 players all supporting the guests staying at the home.

The day started with a putting contest sponsored by Minyard Sons Services, Inc. where participants took a chance at the "You Hit, You Get" game, hoping to hit a bottle of spirits with their putt. The fun continued with another amazing raffle with prizes valued from \$170 to \$1,000 with many eager to win. Golfers checked-in with our amazing volunteers and enjoyed breakfast tacos provided by Houston Methodist J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center. George Pontikes welcomed the golfers before they hit the links and thanked them for their generous support over the years. The golfers headed out and enjoyed the sunny weather with beverages sponsored by Hart Plumbing and No Label Brewing. A fun place to stop along the course were the cook tents that had delicious bites and fun sponsored by Unify Energy Solutions and Eyesite Surveillance, Inc. Before the day ended, players were able to get a professional team photo taken on the course to remember their game sponsored by Ace Services, Inc.



2023 10TH ANNUAL
**NORA'S HOME
GOLF CLASSIC**

S&P

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



AUTODESK
TITLE SPONSOR

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS

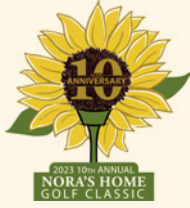
ADS MARTIN
CEMEX
COKINOS | YOUNG
D&H MASONRY, INC.
FISHER ENERGY
JOMAR
LECS

LOCKE LORD
MEMORIAL HERMANN
MILLION AIR | AMERICAN JET
SAN ANTONIO TILE
SENDERO INDUSTRIES
TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
TUMLINSON ELECTRIC, LLC

COOK TENT/PUTTING SPONSORS



FEATURE STORY



WHAT

10th Annual Nora's Home Golf Classic

WHEN/WHERE

October 20, 2023 at Wildcat Golf Club

Event Features

SPONSORED BY

Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc.

RAFFLE, SPIRITS PULL,
PUTTING CONTEST &
LIVE AUCTION

TO DATE THE TOURNAMENT
EFFORTS HAS RAISED

\$963,967

240 Players

RAISED A RECORD

\$191,967

At the end of the tournament, the golfers returned to the Clubhouse to enjoy a delicious lunch provided by HERC Rentals, and listen to Casey King, Nora's Home guest, share his transplant journey. King is a loving caregiver to his wife, Lonna, who had a double-lung transplant. He thanked all for their support and talked about his stay at the home for many months while Lonna was recovering in the hospital. He shared that it was truly a home away from home to he and his wife as they relocated from Austin, TX. Nora's father and Nora's Home Board Chair, Dr. A. Osama Gaber, also addressed the attendees and expressed his appreciation of their support. Dr. Gaber and Natalie Lencioni, Executive Director, presented S&P with a special commemorative paver that will be placed at the front entry of Nora's Home.

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 S&P for the best ten years of Golf Classics. This annual tournament has raised to date \$963,967 for the home, affording over 12,853-night stays for transplant families.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

WE ASKED EACH OF THESE VOLUNTEERS THE SAME QUESTION.

How has Nora's Home transformed your life?



Nora's Home has transformed my life by allowing me to come here and make some of the most incredible friends I could ever imagine. Coming here every two weeks is

really the highlight of my week. I work at one of the hospitals in the Medical Center and once I got here and started volunteering, I saw the vibrancy of the transplant community. I got to see a whole different side of the transplant journey. Nora's Home has totally transformed my way of thinking and this has been such a big component of my life the past nine years.

Pat Cernoch

9-YEAR VOLUNTEER

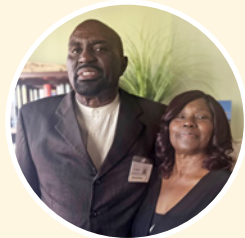


Volunteering at Nora's Home has made me a confident baker. I found a purpose for my love of baking through being here. Every time I come home from

volunteering I can't sleep. I keep reflecting on the guests who we have made happy, it is nice to recall their smiles. It is a wonderful feeling to help others with my talent.

Claire Haueter

9-YEAR VOLUNTEER



After my own medical scare, I was on a bus route when God put something on my heart to start a bible study at Nora's Home. That same day, I nervously asked

Marilda about the idea I had, and she said, "Yes, Praise the Lord!" Since then, my wife and I travel 45 minutes to an hour every Sunday to minister to the guests at Nora's Home and witness the change in their lives. I pray that everything I say and the joy I bring to people comes from Him. I also enjoy that we can do this together as a unit.

Elwood Wilson

7-YEAR VOLUNTEER



Nora's Home has transformed my life by making me appreciate good health, and the plight of others. When I get here and am around people who have had a transplant

it makes me appreciate life in general. I have so much compassion for those who are patiently waiting. I have made some amazing friends here at Nora's Home. Thank you to Bobby and Barbara for introducing me to Nora's Home. It is an honor to spend time here and give the guests something to focus on other than their situation for a couple hours whether they are waiting or healing.

Marcia Karns

3-YEAR VOLUNTEER

I am a retired nurse, so my experience here has really humbled me even more. I have so much compassion for Nora's Home because I see the guests who need hope, and I pray I can bring them that and joy.

Johnette Wilson

1-YEAR VOLUNTEER

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.

Amy McCall

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

A: My husband's business partner invited us to an award banquet where Drs. Osama and Lillian Gaber spoke of Nora's Home. During the transplant process we received more information about the services they provided. Having seen many families impacted by cancer and being able to contribute to them, it was extremely important to John and I that we help provide for the families of the transplant community.

Q: Tell us about your transplant connection?

A: My husband had been through four bouts with cancer; he also had two stem cell transplants. After receiving his last stem cell transplant, he ended up with a terrible infection that essentially fried his kidneys; his veins were shot too. We were told he would have to be cancer free for at least five years before he could be considered for a kidney transplant and that was if he made it that long. Without venous access, dialysis was a challenge and John wasn't willing to "live" in a dialysis center. So, with a lot of prayers and the pure will and determination to live, John made it through the five years. The next hurdle was to find someone that would take on his very complicated case and agree to do a kidney transplant. We went to several transplant centers for consultations, but when we got to Houston Methodist something was different...we had hope!

We first saw Dr. Yi and she went through the preliminary exam and looked at his history and like most of the doctors we've seen, she commented that with his complicated medical history it might be difficult. On paper John looked like he shouldn't be walking around, but to talk with him and see him, you would never know he was sick. So instead of saying they would review his case, she pulled in Dr. Gaber to meet John. Like most who meet John, he makes an impression! Dr. Gaber said it wouldn't be easy and we still had obstacles to overcome but agreed to do the transplant. Now he needed a donor. So that's where I come in.

The doctors asked if anyone had been tested as a possible donor. I went that day and got tested. I was a match and agreed to give him my left kidney. Now the doctors had to figure out how to plumb the kidney with little access. The femoral artery was the only access for IV he had, and it was currently housing a power port for infusions. We were then introduced to Dr. Pedin. He met with us and said he would do a trial procedure that essentially roto routers the veins so John would hopefully have a port that could be used for infusions and the femoral artery could be used for his kidney.



Two days before his kidney transplant, he underwent the procedure to roto router his veins and place a port. The day after the transplant I walked down to his room. I was told I was the poster child of what a donor recovery should look like! I climbed in his hospital bed, and we watched Hallmark movies. John loved watching the Hallmark channel..."There's always a happy ending!" I am so thankful for the entire team that made this truly miraculous gift happen!

John died on October 11, 2021, with a healthy functioning kidney. No regrets!!! I miss him every day and I am grateful for every moment I had with him!

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

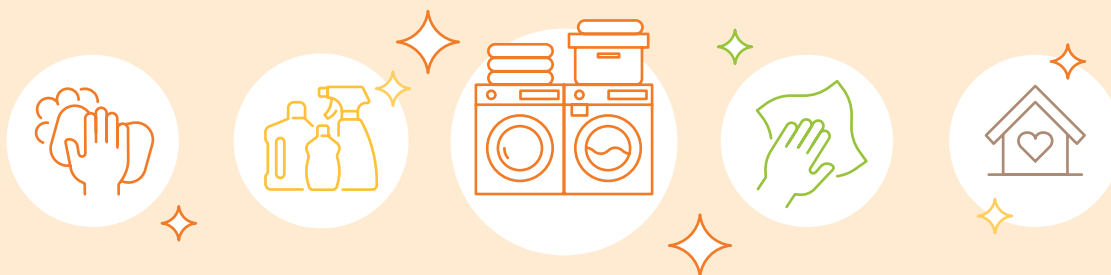
A: I look at the board members and their qualifications and it's pretty intimidating! I sometimes wonder why I was asked. I am honored to be a part of such a worthy cause. I am grateful for the opportunity and confidence the board has put in me. I only hope I can contribute and add value to this amazing organization.

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

A: I've been given a lot of good advice! John McCall was usually the giver! Here are my two favorites –

"Love everyone and let God sort 'em out" and "99% of what we worry about never comes to fruition! Don't be the one staying up all night worrying."

HOME HELPERS



Loads of Laundry | Items Needed

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detergent | <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric softer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detergent pods | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dryer sheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxi-Clean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bleach | |

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.

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

Brighten the Home

For the Holidays

**Make plans to
join us for the
holidays!**

Nora's Home will be kicking off our volunteer opportunities for the holidays and we'd love to have you be a part of the fun!

Our guests are away from home during this time and bringing cheer to our halls is appreciated.

VISIT NORASHOME.ORG-VOLUNTEER FOR MORE INFORMATION

SAVE *the* DATE

WORLD OF Wonder

Where Everyone's Family

An Evening Celebrating **NORA'S HOME**
Saturday, April 27, 2024 • The Revaire

Co-Chairs Shazma & Arshad Matin
Honoree Texas Children's Transplant Team



NORA'S HOME
for transplant patients and
their families

For more information please contact
Laurel Keller, Director of Development
832.962.8065 or email • laurel@norashome.org

NORA'S NEWS VOL 3 ISSUE 3 COVER

- 1 Gathering for the 2014 Golf Classic held at Hermann Park Golf Course
- 2 Student residency volunteers from Baylor College of Medicine
- 3 Second Servings dropping off their monthly food donations for our guests
- 4 The power behind Nora's Home - Ellis Tudzin, Kayla Lehmann, Judy Giroto, Dr. Osama Gaber and Ron Giroto
- 5 Celebrations for Nora's Home's 1st birthday!



SEE FRONT COVER FOR LARGER IMAGES

Patient Profile

Pre-
Evaluation



Pre-
Transplant



Waiting For
The Call



Immediate
Post-Op



Post-
Transplant
Follow-up

