

Aurora House News

The light of a new day...



**Summer 2022
Newsletter Volume 15 Issue 2**

Patient and families served: 1,280

Age Range: 6 wks - 103yrs

Average Length of Stay: 35 days

Students and Community #: 7,245



Celebrating 15 YEARS of Caring 2007-2022



Legacy of Caring 2007-2022

The story of what makes Aurora House so special is the *LOVE* that created this house. Dr. Rafael Rodriguez, then a Medical Director for a local hospice, in his service for his patients -many of whom were living in extreme poverty and without resources or families who could take care them, dreamed of bringing end of life comfort and peace to the most vulnerable in our community. Through the generosity and dedication of many donors and volunteers, the dream of Aurora House became a reality. And now 15 years later, we have evolved into a ten bedroom Licensed Special Care Facility providing a home-like environment with quality care for the terminally ill and educational opportunities for students through our Education Center for Palliative Care. *Caring for patients and their families at the end of their lives is truly a privilege for us.* There is something about someone entrusting you with the last months, weeks, days of their lives that is very profound and moving – it is not taken lightly, and we at Aurora House have cared for over 1200 patients and their families from all over the Rio Grande Valley. Aurora House gives families moments and memories, *creating better endings* since our doors opened in 2007.



As we celebrate 15 years at Aurora House, we so grateful for the support from our community, our amazing staff, and Board of Directors through the years. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful village of businesses, organizations, and individuals who give us the support to continue our mission in helping patients and families face end of life with peace, now and in the future. Thank you to everyone who has supported Aurora House – from donors to volunteers to caregivers – we couldn't do this without you!

A Community Celebrates

All Aboard!! On April 27 & 28th the Aurora House Foundation set sail at our annual Administrative Professional's Day held at Knapp Convention Center. This year's theme, "Let's Sail Away" looked to usher in a more festive Spring after a very long and cold Covid season! Our community support was seen at each table as we had a variety of business and organizations from our Mid-Valley Area attending our luncheons as they celebrated their Administrative professionals. Administrative professionals are crucial to the everyday operations in a variety of industries and Aurora House honors their efforts every year by celebrating them and give the rest of us the opportunity to recognize all the hard work they do.



The silent auction featured some great local stores, who graciously donated items to help our cause. Our "Let's Sail Away" event had some wonderful tropical dishes prepared especially for Aurora House by Chef Roberto Torres. Many thanks to our wonderful community leaders who volunteered their time to be our beverage servers. Their warmth to our guests made all the difference. The style show, a favorite part of the event, featured models wearing Lionel's Western Wear and Boutique clothing and a show of stunning Consuela bags and accessories.

A huge thank you to our Masters of Ceremony, Kirk Bloomquist and Rosemarie Ellis, who kept the guest engaged, and Junior United World Little Miss USA (Violet Kerr) for her help selling raffle tickets. Our community helped us raise over \$40,000 to help continue our mission and we are truly grateful for all of the support. Thank you to all of our Diamond, Gold, Silver, and Bronze Sponsors.

Thank you!
TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



Donations

ADL Services
Alejandra Montenegro
Alejandro L. Estrada
Alexis De Sela
Ana Alejos
Andrew Hernandez
Andrew Levine MD, PA
Angel Valdez
Annette Rios-Barrera
Annie Cerda
Anthony (Ryan) Vaughan
Arnold Moreno
Aurora Saenz
Barbara Haschmann Williams
Betty Lou Vitek
Beverly Wagner
Bonnie Houger
Carolyn & Maynard Edwards
Celia Hinojosa
Charles & Lucille Richardson
Christopher & Minerva St. John
Clarice A. Fodness Nystrup
Cobank
Community Foundation Lyster Family Foundation Fund
Corina Rodriguez
Craig Wiegand
Cristina Vela
Dallas & Mary Lou Johnston
David D. & Sandra Norlin
Dennis L. & Sharon M. Sejkora
Dennis Slavin
Diana Gonzalez
Dimas or Consuelo Martinez
Edward & Anne Barrett
Elizabeth Villa
Eric L. Polzin
Eugene Michael Andrew Paul Ksepka
Eugene R. Vaughan
Fanny & Buddy Ross
Father Steve
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
First Presbyterian Church
Frances Tovar
Geovanni Sandoval
Gerald Gieseke

Glenda & Ronald Hall
Hayden Ellis
Herbert & Tommie Sue Hicks
Hollon Oil Company c/o Steve Wilson
Innette Ortiz
J & E MC Connell
Jacqueline Galloway
James Fuller
Janice L. Earl
Jaqueline Pena
Jean Adams
Jeanne Wiegand, MD
Jenny Smith
Jerry L. & Diana L. Bottomley
Jesus Hernandez
Jesusa Villarreal
JoAnna Ybarra
Joella & Terry Barbee
John & Patty Ellis
John Damalas
Johnathan Crane
Jose Ramos
Karen Heilman
Karla Chavez
Kenneth & Vicki Meine
Kenneth D. & Donna L. Longworth
Kirk Bloomquist
Knights of Columbus Council 3098
Laura Lopez
Llano Grande Lake Park Church
Loretta Barbee
Los Ebanos Study Club
Louis Bartscher
Louis Tyler
Love of Christ Lutheran Church
Magda Escandon
Marcela Martinez
Margo Dittburner Sunderland
Marissa Borrego
Mark Alan Schilling Gillian A McClure
Mark Anthony
Marlene Davis
Martin Ziegler
Mary Free
Mary Kasella
Mindy Brown
Mitty Reyna

Mr. & Mrs. John & Melissa Lackey
Mr. & Mrs. Rhonda & Robert Garza
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald D & Carmen Hicks
Ms. Jeanne M. Creasy
Mutiat Adeoyo
Myriam Guerra
Myrna Ochoa
Neighborhood Grants Fund, Starbucks Foundation
Nina Enriquez
Norma Martinez
Norman L. Wessel
Oralia Tafolla
Patricia & Alan E. Bortnem
Patricia Alexander
Patricia Long
Pete & Jo Peters
Phillis Machen
Phyllis D. Hartwig
Priscilla Rawson
Rachel Gil
Regina Moreno
Renee Zachman
Robert & Jodi Janik
Robert & Lynn Gallipeau
Robert & Margaret McAllen
Robert & Mary Ester Losoya
Rodrigo Reyna
Rosalinda Rodriguez
Ruben & Augustina Saenz
Sally Ross
San Martin De Porres Church
Sandra Funk
Shelbi Salinas
Sheryl L. Henry
Shirley Knutson-Nelson
Siesta Village Worship Hour
South Texas Electric Cooperative, INC
Southern Comfort Chapel
Southern Comfort Park
Stephen R & Dawn M Jones
Steve Urbina
Thomas and Sharon Newcomer
Verna Tiefenthaler
Violanda Cantu Abrego
William E. & Betty Locke
Yolanda Salinas
Zurlo's All Electric

\$150,000 MATCH CHALLENGE

YOU Can achieve 2X the IMPACT today!



X2 =



DONATE TODAY!

Your donation to Aurora House allows us to continue the rich legacy of compassionate care for those facing the end of life and those learning to live with the loss of a loved one.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, a matching gift of up to \$150,000 will be donated to Aurora House to help us continue to provide compassionate care for those in our community who need it most. We are challenging our friends, family, and supporters, to help us do something amazing and reach our goal! We cherish every donation* and work hard to ensure every dollar is put to work providing compassionate care to our residents. But we need your help!

Every dollar you donate will be matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling your donation and doing twice as much good! If you donate \$10 your donation instantly becomes \$20! If you donate \$500 your donation will become \$1,000!

In Kind

Ana Mata
 Antonia Hernandez
 Belinda Saenz
 Betty Lou Vitek
 Bianca Moreno
 Brigida Garcia
 Central Middle School NJHS
 David Gorham
 Dolores Trevino
 Elaine Blume
 Elaine Wilczynski
 Gail Wanner
 Garcia & Trevino Funeral Home

Genevieve's HOPE Foundation
 H.E.B.
 Harbor Hospice Foundation, Inc
 Iglesia Bautista Southside
 Jesus Weaver
 John Hunnicutt
 John Knox Village
 John Sunset Sales Counselor
 Knights of Columbus Council 3098
 Linda Cardenas
 Love of Christ Lutheran Church
 Maria Guerrero
 Mark Alan Schilling & Gillian A McClure
 Mark McCaleb

Maureen & Bob Keppe
 McAfee Insurance Agency
 Noble Texas Builders LLC
 Only Love Hospice
 Rancho Village
 Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
 Scott Bric
 Siesta Retirement Village
 Siesta Village Worship Hour
 SJ Hospice Services LLC.
 Southern Comfort Park
 United Migrant Opportunity Services Inc.
 Weslaco Lions Club

In Loving Memory

Alfredo Martinez
 Scott Jenkins
Americo De La Paz Jr.
 Americo De La Paz III
Anna Garton
 Matthew Hess
Arene Doerfler
 John & Ellen Allen
Ben & Rose Soto
 Elizabeth De La Rosa
Daniel "Danny" E. Arnold
 Andy Scott
 Barry Dickerson
 Don Vogel
 Mr. & Mrs. Art Beckwith
Denys Powell
 Betty Powell
 Don & Amy Van Deest
Dionicia De La Paz
 Americo De La Paz III
Elida Hinojosa
 Carlota Reigner
Ginger Vaughn
 Mr. & Mrs. Art Beckwith
Gregoria Rodriguez
 Dalia Carpenter
Ignacio Melendez
 Esther Garza
James "Jim" Rogers
 Carolyn Bell
 Lana Marie Paris
Janis Ramsey
 George Ramsey
Jesus Covacevich
 Anthony Covacevich
Josefa Covacevich
 Anthony Covacevich
Mabel Lowdema Hanks
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reed
Maria Gomez
 Becky Gonzalez
Melinda Ramirez
 Mr. & Mrs. Art Beckwith
Merrill "Ronnie" Round Jr.
 George Ramsey
 Camille Jones
Michelle Yates
 Liselotte Pinkerton

Milly Pinkerton Brack
 Liselotte Pinkerton
 B. W. & Ingelise Jones
Nancy Moshier
 Lionel's Western Wear Inc
 San Martin De Porres Church
Noe G. Garza
 Esperanza Garza
Nona Chapin
 Jesse Chapin
Petra M Rodriguez
 Bill Swinnea
Rob & Sue Peterson
 Rodolfo & Margaret Perez
Robert Garza
 Atanacio Jr. Hinojosa
Ron Geisler
 Ervin & Lois VonSprecken
Rosemarie Graham
 Mary Brundige
 Robert & Jodi Janik
Stacey Kolarik
 Priscilla Peralez
Theodore Wipf
 Delores Wipf
Thomas Oungst
 David & Karen Greeder
 Deena Oungst
 Delores Nelson & Jim Thalacker
 Don & Amy Van Deest
 Howard Christopherson
 Jim & Karen Jasensky
 Kathy Mahnke
 Mel & Carol Brenner
 Shirley L. Handschke
Utah Dickerson
 Barry Dickerson
Vangie Martinez
 Atanacio Jr Hinojosa

In Kind

Denys Powell
 Betty Powell
John Wilczynski
 Elaine Wilczynski
Rex Sanford
 John Knox Village
Rita Gardner
 Anonymous

In Honor of

Abelardo Guerrero
 Abelardo Guerrero Jr.
Anna Garton
 Kenneth Wayne Garton
Darell Blevins
 Jo Blevins
Isabel Gorham
 Mr. & Mrs. Etherige
Jo Summers
 Frost Bank
Joe Ritchie
 Joe & Janet Ritchie
 Kurt & Katherine Anstaett
Mirthala Salinas
 Rosa Ayala
 Tommy Ayala
Reverend D.J. Tuohy
 Catholic Daughters
 of the American Court
Sulema Cuellar's Birthday
 Bernadine McCaleb
Victor Garza
 Isabel Salazar

In Kind

Bertha E. Castillo
 Aaron Castillo
 Belinda & Vanessa Mata
Isabel Gorham
 David Gorham
 Evaristo Gorham
Jannie Varela
 Maria Gonzalez
Joe Ritchie
 Chris Herd
Linda Kitchen
 Anonymous
Mirthala Salinas
 Maria Lopez

Pavers/Bench

Bench for Jose "Joe" De Los Santos
 Knights of Columbus Council 3098
Paver in Memory of James "Jim" Rogers
 Eugene R. Vaughan



Memorial Gifts

Friends and family members of a hospice patient remember a loved one in various ways: sometimes with flowers, a card, and sometimes it is with a more lasting tribute in the form of a memorial gift.

Through memorial gift-giving you remember your loved one in a very meaningful way and at the same time you help other hospice patients in need.

To make a donation visit <https://aurorahouse.org/donations/> or use the envelope provided with the newsletter.



Give Online - Visit www.aurorahouse.org/donations and click on MONTHLY with your credit or debit card. One time donations are greatly appreciated.



Aurora House News

Your commitment through monthly or quarterly giving is vital to Aurora House's ability to continue to serve our community and ensures that our residents spend their last days surrounded by compassion, dignity, comfort, and peace.

Giving Made Easy

An Easy Way to Give Your Support

You can schedule monthly or quarterly gifts through ACH (Automated Clearing House) debits.

ACH debit allows you to make your donation electronically. It is a more efficient, cost-effective program for both you and Aurora House.

For more information, please contact
Marisela Gonzalez
956-973-9690 or
aurorahousefoundation@yahoo.com

Thank you

TO ALL OUR COMPASSIONATE GEMS



Healing Corner

Summer is a time to make memories. However, for those going through a loss, it brings back memories. It's important to remember that enjoying yourself does not mean that you are not grieving. You are alive. Enjoy living. Healing takes time and so will moving forward.

Summer themed grieving tips:

- **Feel your pain.** Recognize that grieving is an important part of healing. Stuffing your feelings down will only prolong your grief. Allow yourself the room and time to feel at ease, as much as emotionally possible.
- **Choose wisely.** You don't have to attend every summertime get-together. Choose the events you can handle and say "no" to the ones you can't. You are the only one who knows how you feel. Don't feel pressured, take it at your own pace.
- **Have an escape plan.** Be sure to drive yourself if you can so you can leave when you want or need. Have the Uber or Lyft app as another option readily available. Your comfort is of utmost importance, don't feel burdened to stay if you can't deal with it.
- **Honor your loved one.** Find new ways to keep your loved one's memory alive during the summer. You could make their favorite dish or release lanterns into the sky. Anything that will commemorate your loved one.

Kilcauley, D. K. (2019, July 2). Tips for dealing with grief around Summertime Holidays. Integrative Psychology Services, PLLC. No copyright infringement is intended

Wish List

Household

- Plastic Cups
- Paper Plates
- Disposable Utensils
- Foam Cups 8 oz.
- Antibacterial hand soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Laundry Detergent (HE Only)
- Foil Paper
- Parchment Paper
- Plastic wrap
- Coffee filters
- Garbage bags- 13-gal/ 30 gallons
- Freezer bags gallon sizes
- Ziplocs 1 gallon & 1 quart
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue
- Air Freshener (sprays)
- Light Bulbs
- Kleenex
- Windex
- Disinfectant wipes
- Adult size wipes
- Latex Free Nitrile gloves Medium
- Clorox
- Floor Cleaners (Fabuloso/Pine Sol)
- Powder Cleaner (Ajax)
- Napkins
- Dish Soap

Groceries

- Fresh Fruits/Seasonal Fruits
- Fresh Vegetables
- Meats - Chicken/Beef
- Frozen Juices
- Butter/ Margarine
- Milk
- Eggs
- Instant Tea (sweet & unsweetened)
- Tea bags
- Coffee mate
- Coffee: regular & decaf
- Soft Drinks: all flavors
- Lemonade Mix
- Bread
- Lunch meat
- Artificial Sweetener
- Sugar Substitutes
- Sugar
- Oatmeal
- Potatoes
- Rice
- Pinto Beans/ Lentils
- Olive Oil
- Vegetable Oil
- Cooking Spray
- Bread Crumbs
- Garlic Powder/Garlic Salt
- Crackers: Ritz, Saltine, Club
- Flour
- Cake Mix/Frostings
- Mayonnaise
- Pancake Mix/Pancake Syrup
- Honey
- Peanut Butter/Jam/Jelly
- Fruit snack cups
- Apple sauce
- Pudding Cups

Our Most Needed Items

Gift Cards to HEB, Walmart, & Home Depot Are Appreciated.

Community Spotlight

\$3,500.00 donation from
Snow to Sun and Crossroads
Community Church



New Mail Box donated by
Noble Texas Builders



\$5000.00 donation from South
Texas Electric Cooperative



Over \$2000.00 In Kind
Donations from John Knox
Village, Love of Christ Lutheran
Church, and Lou Vitek

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Aurora House Events

Upcoming Events



Save the date

Aurora House Foundation Celebrates

All Is Bright



Friday, December 2, 2022

7:00 pm – Midnight

Villa De Cortez

260 S Texas Blvd – Weslaco

Enjoy Food, Drinks, Dancing & Fabulous Auction Items!

~Live Music by Cleo, Evey & Emmanuel~



Please contact Mari Gonzalez at mari@aurorahouse.org or by phone at 956-973-9690 for a Sponsorship Opportunity!

Aurora House Foundation Board of Directors

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Stephen Charlton
Treasurer

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Lincoln Talbert

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House and Grounds Supervisor

Araceli Cantu
Caregiver Supervisor

Alma Garza
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Christina Perez
Chris Martinez
Cynthia Vasquez
Hilda Gonzalez
Juanita Espinoza
Melissa Calderon
Fatima De Leon
Vanessa Limon
Sanjuanita Espinoza
Caregivers

OUR MISSION

To provide compassionate care for persons in the last chapter of life, in a home-like setting, so they can approach a peaceful death with comfort and dignity.



OUR FUNDERS

Thank you!

