



Aurora House News

Volume 7 Issue 1

Spring 2013

Of Special Note

Since Inception June 21, 2007

- # of Patients and their Families Served: 418
 - Age Range: 17—97
 - Avg. Length of Stay: 35 Days
 - # of Cities served: 14
- Oct 2012—March 2013
- # of Volunteers: 48
 - # of Volunteer Groups: 3
 - # of Volunteer Hours: 520

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Join The Fun 6th Annual Aurora House Luncheon

The **Aurora House Spring Luncheon and Style Show** will be held April 24 at the Knapp Conference Center.

This much-anticipated fundraising event for Aurora House raised over \$24,000 last year.

The event includes a silent auction and very nice door prizes from business throughout the Mid Valley.

Lionel's Western Wear and Wells of Weslaco will stage the style show this year and feature vacation attire.

The theme is **Poolapalooza** — and will be decorated as a “tropical poolside getaway” providing guests with a relaxed spa atmosphere for a couple of hours.

This year's luncheon is being chaired by Patti Dittburner and Rhonda Garza. Their committee includes:

Tickets: Rhonda Garza/Kathy Scheuerman

Publicity: Alicia Aguilar

Sponsorships: Kathy Scheuerman

Decorations: Mary Helen Yzaguirre/Margo Sunderland

Catering: Norma Montalvo/Lana Marie Paris

Styleshow: Sulema Cuellar

Waiters: Ryan Vaughan, Richard Vaughan, Sergio Garcia

Silent Auction: Melissa Beckwith, Sonja Ortega, Esperanza Garza



“Aurora House does not receive money from Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance or any other governmental resources. Community support of this event has been tremendous and is so appreciated.” said co-chair Rhonda Garza.

Local businesses are encouraged to honor their staff by sponsoring a table at the luncheon.

Sponsorship Levels available include \$5,000 Diamond Partner; \$1,000 Gold Partner; \$500 Silver Partner and \$250 Bronze Partner.

Single tickets for \$50 are limited, please call Aurora House (956)973-9690 to put your name on a waiting list. Last year's event sold out.

3rd Annual Walk-a-Thon

It was a beautiful day, just the right temperature for a walk. After a lively warm up led by Sherry Danache, co-owner of Health Club 722, the walkers were energized and ready when city volunteer Howdy Smith fired the starting gun. After a brisk walk to Eighth Street and back, the walkers were treated with fruit and water sponsored by Valley Grande Manor and Academy. Boy Scout Troop #41 also manned a water station at 18th Street and Westgate.

The Bucket Auction drawing was exciting. Each walker received tickets according to the amount of money raised and there were many great prizes. Our thanks go to TJ Max, Olive Garden,

Chili's, Cinemark, Bugambillas and the Blue Onion.

Margo Elementary, Weslaco East High School and Central Middle School were recognized for their walker participation.

Since Aurora House opened its doors on June 21, 2007, there has been great support from many organiza-

tions and individuals throughout the community. This generosity has made it possible for us to serve our residents, who are in the final stages of life, with compassionate care in a home-like atmosphere. Our many volunteers help our well-trained staff meet the needs of our patients and help make their families feel welcome and comfortable.

Special thanks to our great sponsors who helped us raise \$17,000

Platinum Sponsors:
RGV Adult & Internal Medicine Specialists; Burton Auto; The Corkery Family

Gold: SWG Consulting Engineers; Valley Grande Institute; Villa de Cortez; Valley Grande Manor; South Texas Training

Silver: Elsa State Bank; Security First Credit Union; Margo Elementary; G2 Roofing; Joli's Shoes; Excellence in Teaching; Pulmonary and Sleep Center of the Valley; Gulf Coast Paper



Team from Margo Elementary, Weslaco

Boy Scouts from Troop 41 man the water station.



Diego Davila raises \$175!



Central Middle School Team



Volunteers sitting l to r: Cristina Aguilar, Rita Yzaguirre
Standing l to r: Adriana Montalvo, Mary Helen Yzaguirre



Memorials September 2012 — January 2013

In Memory of Josefina Alvarado

Monse & Norma Montalvo

In Memory of Patricio Briones

Rachel Cruz Briones
Reymundo Briones

In Memory of Nancy Camina

Rebekah Hamilton

In Memory of Ed Corkery

Patricia L. Marschel

In Memory of Ruth Crawford Leavens

Arlene C. Crawford

In Memory of Duane Crawford

Art Asplund
C. Bauer
Alan C. Bonsen
Golda V. Bowers
Bonita Cahoon
Arlene C. Crawford
Philip A. Day Jr.
Betty, Steven & Eric Dirks
Patti & Larry Dittburner
Eugene & Jeanette Fredick
Dave & Nancy Gustafson
Frank & Kay Hidalgo
Roy & Vi Heinlen
Jack & Barb Kirkpatrick
William & Beverly Kreatz
Judy Kruse
Patricia L. Manahl
Dorthea Martin
Robert & Jo Anne Degener
Julie A. McAninch
Love of Christ Lutheran Church
Roy & Debbie McGregor
Mr. & Mrs. Roger McKner
Myra Merfeld
Mary Ann Mudge
Gordon & Verda Nelson
Bonnie Peterson
Sandra Robison
Jean Rothfusz
Patricia Ryan
Daniel & Linda Servais
Frank S. Sisson
Daisy Spronk
Clarence & Marlene Stupka
George & Carol Tinker
Joseph P. Vaughan
Darlene R. Vose
Robert & Evelyn Waters
Dick & Jean Wegner
James & Anna Whitney



Leland & Evelyn Wickwire

In Memory of Pauline Fox

Donald H. Vogel

In Memory of Fred Fry

Andy & Lavonne Anderson
Dave & Jean Fry
Jeaneen Fry

In Memory of Rodolfo Gonzalez

Maria Gonzalez
Gonzalez Family
Virginia Lopez

In Memory of Jay Derrick Heilman

Devin & Klayne Brown

Ann I. Edwards
Harlen Edwards
Roberta Edwards
Melissa Engleman
Morgan Harbison
Fred & Betty Jones
Bobby & Judy Lackey
John Lackey
Bill Massey
Raye Massey
Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen
Dr. & Mrs. Leo Neal
Namken
William & Sally Roach
Andy & Pam Scott
Ben F. Vaughan III
Craig & Marguerite Wiegand

In Memory of Herman Henry

Joe & Loretta Barbee
Doug & Mary Ann Brundige
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.
A. Laverne Henry
Clara Hill & Family
David & Eugenia Graham
Bennie & Charles Thompson
Weslaco Elks Auxiliary
Georgia Whal

In Memory of Francisco Jalomo

Jimmie & Maria Garcia
Gumecinda T. Gomez

In Memory of Iola Kalvig

Duane & Arlene Crawford

In Memory of Roy Edward Keath, Jr.

Jean A. Mitchell
Linda J. Reagan

In Memory of B.W. Kirsch

Dottie & Cyndy Kirsch

In Memory of Enrique Ledesma

Alicia Ledesma

In Memory of Mama Jo Lehman

Patti & Larry Dittburner
Roy & Debra McGregor

In Memory Ted Long

Patricia A. Long

In Memory of Maria D. J. Longoria

Gumecinda T. Gomez

In Memory of Raquel Lozano

Oscar & Noemi Lavenant
Ramon Martinez
Bonnie Naranjo
Jose & Lidia Ramos
Gerardo Sanchez
Craig & Marguerite Wiegand

In Memory of Jack L. McClendon

Nancy Brinkley
Frank & Rebecca McClendon

In Memory of Julie Norland

Robert & Evelyn Waters

In Memory of Eva Peña

Mr. & Mrs. A. Hinojosa

In Memory of Sam Reed

Richard Lehman

In Memory of Jack Roehr

Ruth Bailey
Gene & Marilyn Borchardt
Eleanor Buerster
David Bure
Reece Caslavka
Cynthia Chace
Rick & Pat Diecke
Don & Maryann Digman
Greg Eischeid
Vernice & Sharon Fassee
Bob & Lynn Gallipeau
Don & Marilyn Geesaman
Shirley Godsil
Gary & Sue Gress
Chuck & Joann Hansen
Steven & Connie Hix
Margaret Jennings
Brandon & Carrie Kammeyer

Memorials, Honorariums & Donations

Jarvis & Liz Kirschuk
Harvey & Billie Knox
Louis MacDougall
Jeannie & Larry Madsen
Rich & Gloria Macke
Gray & Judy Meyers
Sherrie Moore
Rich Nieman
Merle & Dona Pierce
Dick & Marra Plummer
Herschel & Kay Pratt
Mary Roehr
Thomas & Janice Schmitt
Shirley & Cy Stark
John & Barb Welbring

In Memory of Enrique Rodriguez
Juan & Carol Rodriguez

In Memory of Howard O. Roman
Della Cross Roman

In Memory of Bill Russell
Anthony & Dotty Brunnemann

In Memory of Sonya Sherbiak
Kathryn Ostrosky

In Memory of Harley Stubbe
Kenneth G. Gerver
Karen A. Macking
Richard & Betty Paradise

In Memory of Geneva H. Taylor
Patti & Brenda Huston

In Memory of Thomas Taylor
Norma Jean Taylor

In Memory of Kally Vick Thompson
Walter & Sherry Thompson

In Memory of Douglas Vern Carlson
Robert & Sherre Odum

In Memory of Russell Vos
Alfred & Velma Dirks
Hidalgo Country Emergency
Bob & Martha Veach

In Memory of Dorothy Walker
John & Patti Ellis

In Memory of Doris Waters
J. Thurber

In Memory of Orson Whited
Mary A. Bell
Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen

In Memory of William Woodruff
Mary R. Woodruff

In Honor

In Honor of Santiago Alvarez
Olga Oberwetter

In Honor of Lynn Carter
John & Pamela Lemp

In Honor of Patti & Larry Dittburner (50th Wedding Anniversary)
Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen

In Honor of Mamie Ferguson
Hazel A. Manley

In Honor of Javier Garcia
Lucy Fernandez

In Honor of Bernadine & Fred McCaleb (50th Wedding Anniversary)
Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen

In Honor Richard Vaughan
James & Julie Vaughan

Monetary Donations

ADL Services
John & Ellen Allen
Auxiliary to McAllen Medical Center & Heart Hospital Scholarship fund
Logan & Margie Beggs
Beta Sigma Phi
Raul & Cinthia Cabaza
Norma Cantu, C.V.E.
Country Sunshine RV Park
John Corkery
Joseph Corkery
Carolyn S. Davis
Mary Anne Doyle
Kenneth & Deborah Eilers
Magda E. Escandon
First Baptist Church- (The Gladden Sunday Class) Weslaco

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Mary E. Free
Alonzo & Elvira Garcia
Armando Garcia
Patti Gerres
Jim & Judy Hill
Hochheim Branch 39
Hollon Oil Company
Kenneth & Janelle Hood
Carol J. Hulke
Robert & Virginia Janik
John Knox Village (Bake Sale & Cards Sale)
Marjorie H. Johnson
Patricia A. Klase
Eugene J. Koliba
Subram & Elizabeth Krishnan M.D.
Max Kruse
Llano Grande Lake Park Church
Rudy Leal
Jean D. Lehman
Gary Light
Love of Christ Lutheran Church
Mr. & Mrs. Don McDaniel
Diane McMordie
Hector & Gloria Mejia
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Walt Piper
Mary Ann Powers, THP
David Register
Margaret T. Resendez
Joe Rodriguez, CMDR
Fanny & Buddy Ross
Sam Reed Estate
Glen & Lousie Seamster
Siesta Village Worship Hour
Margaret A. Smith
Snow to Sun Church
Southern Comfort Activities Group
STC HVAC Students
TJX Foundation
Texas Department of Public Safety
Gale N. Turner
Lynette Villarreal, HP
Weslaco Elks Auxiliary
Weslaco Lions Share & Care Club
Weslaco Woman's Study Club
John Terrence Wolkerstorfer
Arturo Zamarripa
M.R. Zink, Inc.
Paul & Donna Zopfi

Honoring Therese Corkery by Arlene Crawford

There was a knock on my door and in walked a lovely little lady ready to join me for a cup of coffee and some lively conversation while sharing her life story. Her name – Sister Therese Corkery, a 73 year young “Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Mary”. She has been with the community for 54 years. Why am I telling you her story? She has been with Aurora House since the beginning and after 5 years of faithful service she is leaving for Bolivia. Many patients and family members have been blessed by her caring and prayers and now it is time to honor her before she leaves Texas for Bolivia.

Sister Therese was the 12th child born in a family of 13 children. Her father was Irish and her mother was German. She was born and raised on a farm near Fairbank, Iowa and attended a Catholic school there. Since most of her siblings were older and had left home she spent a lot of time helping with cooking and other household duties. That may be why she naturally was motivated to become a Home Economics teacher when she graduated.

I asked her about her decision to become a Sister and she said “I knew I was called to this vocation when I was in 4th grade.” I asked if her one brother, who is a “retired” Priest in Illinois, may have influenced her decision and she said it could be possible, but she just knew where God was leading her and has continued in God’s service, with “no regrets!”

She was commissioned out of Dubuque, Iowa and is a faithful Sister to this Irish founded community that was established in 1875. She was educated in Mason City and taught in Waterloo and Dubuque, Iowa and was a Department Head at Clark College for 2 years when she resigned so she could go to South America. She was convinced that she was destined to serve in Bolivia and since her brother was serving in South America, she took the opportunity to go to Lima, Peru for an extensive 3 month study of Spanish. She stayed across the street from her brother and in 1972 she was able to begin her “love affair” with her new home, Bolivia, where she stayed for the next 16 years.

She smiles and her eyes light up when she talks about the work and people she was involved with in Bolivia. She founded, and was the Director of, a Trade School in the little village of Entre Rios – which means “between Rivers.” There were about 1000 natives and she was busy teaching sewing, typing, embroidery and other handwork.



There were usually two Sisters sharing their home within an old church. They promoted good health and since they were a poor village there was much to be accomplished. The homes are made of adobe with thick walls and were centered around a patio. The homes had no water or electricity at that time and the adobe helped keep the homes cooler in summer and warmer in the cool and rainy weather. Travel and communication was difficult during those years and when her 83 old father died she didn’t receive word for several days. The telegraph was the only way to communicate.

After living and serving in Bolivia, she returned to the United States and has spent the last 25 years here. She tells the story about meeting Dr. Rodriguez, the founder of Aurora House, when it was still his dream. She was working at Comfort House and he came to look over the facility. She felt it was a blessing to meet him and became interested in serving at this new facility in the Mid-Valley. She has been a special gift sent from God and a blessing to many people for the past 5 years. Now, she feels it is time to return to her former home and service in Bolivia. She feels she can be of service and will help out in any way she can while she still has her health and energy.

Before we wish her “God Speed”, I want to share some of the fun things I learned about her... No surprise, she loves to cook. When she was in 8th grade she found a recipe for a special chocolate cake in the “Wallace Farmer” periodical, which won a blue ribbon and Sweepstakes award at the Fairbank Corn Show - to the dismay of many older women bakers! (I asked if she would share the recipe – she just gave me her cute little smile). She says a favorite food she has learned to enjoy while in Texas is Grapefruit Pie. She loves to read and a good friend gave her a Nook for Christmas and she is looking forward to using it. (They now have electricity in Bolivia and everyone has a cell phone so she’ll be able to use these more “modern” items.)

What does she do in her spare time? She reads and visits people in nursing homes who are under hospice care.

Aurora House is HER MINISTRY – She is the Care Giver that works with the residents, caring for them and helping them eat. She also helps with meal preparation and house-keeping. Her gift is helping the terminally ill “walk home.”

God puts special people in our lives and she has certainly given so much to so many around the world. Thank you Sister Therese – we pray you may have many more years in God’s service as you travel to your next destination.

AURORA HOUSE FOUNDATION

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 Weslaco, TX 78599

(956) 973-9690
 (956) 973-9705 fax

Please! Call us with your email address
 and we will email your newsletter — It will be in
 color and will save Aurora House po\$tage!!!



Aurora House recognizes dying as part of the normal process of living and focuses on respect and compassion in preparation for death. Its mission is to provide care for persons in the last phase of incurable disease, so they can approach death with dignity, comfort and peace.

**Aurora House Foundation
 2013 Board of Directors**

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Clerical AssistantEvangalina Gonzalez

Caregivers: Therese Corkery, Araceli Cantu, Alma Garza, Virginia Gonzalez, Diana Gonzalez, Sarah Barr, Becky Contreras

Newsletter Editors.....Mary Helen Yzaguirre, Lynn Carter

Nursing Students

Aurora House hosted another successful round of clinical rotation nursing students from South Texas College. During the program this semester 112 students had the opportunity to experience first hand what hospice care involves.

These students are in their 4th year of RN school and will graduate in May. Most of these students don't even know that a special care facility like this exists, so it's a blessing to be able to share our work about pain management and palliative care. We look forward to another exciting group.



Pictured above is Dr. Rafael Rodriguez, Founder of Aurora House and nursing students from South Texas College

Special Thanks

Aurora House especially wants to thank the following donors for their generous and continued support.

Hollon Oil Company

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