



Aurora House News

Volume 6 Issue 2

Fall 2012

Of Special Note

Since Inception June 21, 2007

- # of Patients and their Families Served: 389
- Age Range: 17—97
- Avg. Length of Stay: 35 Days
- # of Cities served: 14

Mar 2012—Sept 2012

- # of Volunteers: 85
- # of Volunteer Groups: 6
- # of Volunteer Hours: 1,300

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3rd Annual Walk-A-Thon to be held January 26

The Aurora House, a personal care home for the terminally ill, is planning their 3rd Annual Walk-A-Thon. This year's fun and healthy event will take place on January 26, 2013 at Harlon Block Park located on 18th St. near Westgate Blvd.

Participants are encouraged to sign up donors who will support their walk. Free t-shirts will be given to those who raise \$25.

We'll have our Bucket Auction again this year. You'll automatically get one ticket for every \$10 raised starting at \$50. For example: you will get 5 Bucket Auction tickets for \$50 raised; 6 tickets for \$60 raised; and so on. There will be great prizes in the Auction this year.

Norma Montalvo, chairperson, announced that the following sponsorships are available:

\$1,000 Platinum—Logo on T-shirt; 5 signs on track; Display banner (supplied by sponsor) and 10 t-shirts

\$500 Gold — Listing on T-shirt; 3 track signs and 5 t-shirts

\$300 Silver: 2 t-shirts, Logo on 1 sign

Sherry Danache, owner and personal trainer at Health Club 722, will lead walkers through a lively series of stretches to get ready for the walk. Participants will learn about the importance of warming up muscles to prevent joint injuries and muscle strains while exercising.



Many thanks to the City of Weslaco for the use of the park and the fine police officers who help keep the walkers safe.

Last year over \$15,000 was raised and it was fun for all. Join us!

For more information about the walk or sponsorships, please call Aurora House at 973-9690.

Aurora House Honors Its Volunteers

Aurora House wants to thank the many volunteers who give countless hours to assist the staff and provide comfort and caring to the Aurora House patients.

From gardening, to cleaning, to washing towels to preparing meals to sitting with patients—our volunteers are the best and we can always count on them!

Marie Stratton 46 hours

Maria Barrera 125 hours

Paula Pena 106 hours

Joanna Lopez 98 hours

Melba Ayala 36 hours

Kathy Damalas 53 hours

Karen Macking 67 hours

Emma Donfry 25 hours

Oscar Araiza 37 hours

Oscar Quintana 18 hours

Matthew Judge 40 hours

Transitional Program 71 hours



Memorials March 2012 - September 2012

***Jose Almaguer**

Maria Almaguer

***Robert Bagwell**

Bobbie P. Bagwell

***Jane & Joe Butcher**

David Butcher

Tom Butcher

***Carmilita Campbell**

Betty Lou Vitek

***Jack Dorholt**

W.C. & Jeanne E. Anderson

Lyle C. Banta

Virginia Dorholt

Flora L. Ellefson

Leroy & Mildred M.

Ericson

Duane L. Lilja

Ronald & Carolyn

Martinson

The Meister Daughters

Verla Olson

Carol M. Sandstrom

***Jason Epperly**

Robert & Sherre Odom

***Enriqueta Estrada**

Flores

Gertrudis Estrada

***Blanca Guerrero**

Noelda Rodriguez

***Bette Fasano**

Tom and Lynn Carter

***Bill Griffin**

Darlene Griffin

***Geneve Kornele**

Jim & Sondra Plowman

***Ted Long**

Patricia A. Long

***Patricia Luitjen**

Frank John Schuster

Raul & Dorothy Valdez

***JoAnn Maurer**

C.J. & Allye Taylor

***Mary Joyce McClellan**

Franklin McClellan

***Jack McClenden**

Mr. & Mrs. Gene M. Correll

Janice & Balfour Correll

Mary Ann D. Correll

***Pat Moran**

Lorraine Dailey

S. Dalton

***Eva Peña**

Rio Rico Construction Company

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Swinnea

Brad Swinnea

***Jesus Quintanilla**

Hair Trix Daniel Her-

nandez

***Zenaida Reyes**

Ann L. Edwards

***Marvin Schwarz**

Mr. & Mrs. A. Hinojosa

Jr.

Harold John & Deborah

Zurlo

***Carl Shoemaker**

Shirley K. Moore

***Dorothy Schulz**

Arlene Crawford

***Encarnacion Solis Jr.**

FelCor Lodging Trust Inc.

*** Thomas Taylor**

James & Lodema Alsip

Bob & Edwina Arington

Brian Bailey

Bobby & Marilyn Carter

Jerry & Maxine Ellet

Floyd & Jacqueline Foulk

Rodney & Kari Gholson

Phillip & Rose Morris

Sally Summers

Gregory Taylor

Norma J. Taylor

Susan Wells

Rex & Betsy Wright

*** George Tenwall**

James & Mary Durand

Carol Eldredge

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin R. Johnson

Roger D. Lundquist

Gary & Dianne Pickle

***Kally Thompson**

Rodolfo & Margaret Perez

Walter & Sherry C. Thompson

***Chip Vasquez**

Joe & Ilda Vasquez

***Edna Villarreal**

Monse & Norma Montalvo

***Jane Zbinden**

Richard & Betty Paradise

***Josefina Alvarado**

Monse & Norma Montalvo

***Patricio Briones**

Raquel Cruz Briones

Reymundo Briones

***Eduvijas Cedillo**

Alma Cedillo

***Mamie Ferguson**

Hazel A. Manley

***Honore Flores**

Cementerio La Piedad

Mr. & Mrs. Alberto Guerra Jr.

***Fred Fry**

Andy & Lavonne Anderson

Dave & Jean Fry

Jeaneen Fry

Edward & Beth Lewis

***Hilario Garcia**

Dolores Garcia

***Adelina Guerra**

Audelia Alegria

Elena Guerra

***Donald Johnson**

Jeff Johnson & Family

Roy & Debra McGregor

Eleanor Schroer



Memorials, Honorariums & Donations

***B.W. Kirsch**

Dottie & Cyndy Kirsch

***Raquel Lozano**

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

***Ruth MacNeill**

A.R. Griffith

***Rafael Martinez**

Olivia Martinez

***Jack McClendon**

Nancy Brinkley
Mr. & Mrs. Gene M. Correll
Janice & Balfour Correll
Mary Ann D. Correll

***Lino Milano**

Kathryn S. Cain
Alfred & Velma Dirks
Mr. & Mrs. Neal G. Galloway

***Julie Norlin**

Duane & Arlene Crawford

*** Leonor Palomo**

San Juana Palomo

***Kathryn Patterson**

Alfred & Velma Dirks

***Sam Reed**

Richard Lehman

***Rodolfo Sanchez**

Ofelia Sanchez
San Juanita Sanchez

***Carl Shoemaker Jr.**

R.M. & D. J. Dempsey
Lanman Funeral Home
Shirley K. Moore
Richard Shultz
Rowena Snider

***Geneva H. Taylor**

James & Sue Crews
Randall & Carolyn Ennis
Madeline Laura Flocks

Hidalgo County Republican Women
The Richardson Families

***Orson Whited**

Mary A. Bell

***William Woodruff**

Mary R. Woodruff

Memorial Garden Pavers

***Betty Boyd**

Fred & Bernie McCaleb

***Eddy E. Brito**

Grisel Gonzalez

***Fred Fry**

Lois Fry

***Luis Hernandez**

Carmen Hernandez

***Don Johnson**

Johnson Family

***Omar D. Montalvo**

Patty & Larry Dittburner

***Victor Reyna Sr.**

Victor Reyna Jr.

***Carl Shoemaker Jr.**

Belvia Shoemaker

***Marvin Albert Schwarz**

Rev. Robert & Margaret L. McAllen

***Thomas Taylor**

Norma Jean Taylor

***Amada V. Torres**

Erica L. Mata

***Fran Tyner May**

Louella Russell

***Billy Woodruff**

Mary Woodruff

**In Honor of Larry & Patti
Dittburner (for their 50th
Wedding Anniversary)**

Charles & Carolyn Bell

In Honor of Patti Dittburner

Don Johnson Family

Honorariums

Carol Vaughan

The Vaughan Family

Candelario Marroquin

Candelario Marroquin Jr.

Teresa Mata

Maura Mata

Monetary Donations

AARP Chapter-1829

ADL Services, Inc.

Auxiliary to McAllen Medical

Center & Heart Hospitals

Beta Sigma Phi

Catholic Daughters of the Ameri-
cas

Brian & Christie Fergus

First Baptist Church (The Glad-
den Sunday School Class) Weslaco

Armando Garcia

Maria R. Garcia

Teresa C. Gonzales

Margaret Jennings

Elsiebel Kasch-Noe

Rudy Leal

Llano Grande Lake Park Church

Los Ebanos Study Club

Gordon & Verda M. Nelson

Estela Olguin

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Paradise South Church- Mercedes

Sofia M. Peña

Dolores Peña Gomez

Walt Piper

Gerald & Margaret Raleigh

Margaret T. Resendez

Sisters of the Presentation

Margaret Smith

George & Carol W. Tinker

Weslaco Elks Auxiliary

Jean Anne Woodman

Memorial Service

Aurora House held a Memorial Service on October 14. Over 65 family members and friends gathered to pay tribute to their loved ones.

The service began with a welcome by Juan Salinas and lovely music was provided by Connie Dargel and Steve Chamblain from the First Baptist Church in Weslaco.

Linda Maupin shared a testimonial about the compassionate care given to her aunt by Aurora House staff. And Dr. Steven K. Parker from the Baptist Church gave a brief sermon.

Memorials were read by Therese Corkery and each family represented received a lovely Butterfly Card which held wild-flower seeds.

Refreshments were provided by Trails End RV Park.



On Butterflies' Wings

*Where I have gone I am not so small
My soul is as wide as the world is tall
I have gone to answer the call, the call
Of the one who takes care of us all
Wherever you look, you will
find me there
In the heart of a rose
In the heart of a prayer
On butterflies' wings, on wings on my
own
To you, I'm gone
But I'm never alone- I am home*

Simulation Staff Training

Staff at Aurora House recently completed simulation training provided by the Area Agency on Aging, a program of the Lower RGV Development Council.

Noemi Rodriguez, Caregiver Information Services and Mary Solis, Public Benefits Counselor conducted a hands on simulation of dementia, neuropathy, glaucoma, tinnitus, and arthritis.

Staff donned gloves, wore goggles smeared with vaseline, placed pinto beans in their shoes, and wore headphones which played static and noise and were asked to perform activities of daily living to help them understand the difficulties our patients have with performing even the simplest of tasks.



AURORA HOUSE FOUNDATION

2646 W. 18th St.
 P.O. Box 976
 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 postage!!!



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
 2012 Board of Directors**

Patti Dittburner, Chair	Bill Lowe
Norma Montalvo, Vice-Chair	Lana Marie Paris
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Delia Weaver	Lynn Carter

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Clerical AssistantEvangalina Gonzalez

Caregivers: Therese Corkery, Araceli Cantu, Alma Garza, Yvette Henkis, Damian Becerra, Sarah Barr, Becky Contreras

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

Fall Rotation

Seventy-eight 4th level South Texas Students from South Texas College participated in the Fall Clinical Rotation at Aurora House.

Students spend an entire day at Aurora House under the supervision of Kathy Damalas RN. Classes are conducted by Dr. Lares, Director Kathy Scheuerman along with several long distance learning classes taught by Dr. Rafael Rodriguez via the internet.

Students were appreciative of the opportunity to learn first hand about palliative care. This experience gives them greater insight into the signs and symptoms of the stages of death and the important role nurses play in providing dignified end of life care.

When asked about their experience, students shared the following:

“I really liked the environment that is so calm and soothing. I think having Dr. Rodriguez explain about pain management made me change my perspective and I will now have this clinical day in mind the next time I take care of a patient in pain.”

“Really enjoyed the time to focus on a palliative care and opening my eyes to a more profound way of caring for patients beyond and above the diagnosis.”

“I enjoyed my experience at Aurora House. It was extremely beneficial because it was a review of pain medications and helped me to understand the signs and symptoms of the stages of death.”

“This experience was an eye opener to a different field of nursing that we were not exposed to before.”

“It was great!! I learned so much from the presentations of Dr. Rodriguez. This has helped me become more of a better all around future nurse, to assess physiological, social and spiritual care.”

“I thought it was a very informative experience. It also reminded me that we are the patient’s advocate and that we should treat all patients holistically regardless of the facility to help improve their health status or, help them leave this world comfortably.”