

# Aurora House News

*The light of a new day...*



**Fall 2022**

**Newsletter Volume 15 Issue 3**

Patient and families served: 1,308

Age Range: 6 wks - 103yrs

Average Length of Stay: 35 days

Students and Community #: 7,638

## The Power of Compassion

To have Aurora House take care of Blanca for over a year means a lot to Blanca's family. Jaime, Blanca's son, stated he feels grateful for the continuous compassionate care given to his mother. He is impressed and grateful for the nonprofit programs in the Rio Grande Valley willing to help his family and others like it.

Jaime would describe Blanca as a loving and caring mother. When recalling memories, Jaime mentioned when they were migrant workers, his mother would wake up early in the morning to make sure his siblings and father were fed. He described her as jovial and strong in her Catholic belief, always praying and always loving.

"Mom loved celebrations! Any excuse for a get-together!" said Jaime. Which fit in with one of her favorite hobbies, cooking! When Blanca cooked menudo all her family would gather to enjoy her delicious cooking. As Thanksgiving and Christmas rolled around each year, Blanca was always happy as can be. These holidays are all about spending time with your loved ones and having her family together is what makes Blanca truly happy.

Blanca's story has yet to end. Aurora House is blessed to continue providing her with comfort care. Blanca enjoys watching Telenovelas, Animal Planet, and keeping up with local and global news. We will continue to provide the quality care so that they may be in comfort till the end.



Mr. Isidoro was a hardworking, energetic, and strong man. "My uncle loved to dance and listen to his favorite corrido "El Califa" by Antonio Aguilar" Milda, Mr. Isidoro's niece, described him.

Mr. Isidoro liked to help people and was a very respectful person. He loved to be united with his family and enjoyed parties. "His laugh was contagious" stated Milda, laughing. His favorite food was Menudo and Chile Rellenos, never failed to make him happy and full.

After his wife passed away, Mr. Isidoro lived alone. Once he became ill, he needed the appropriate care and Aurora House was there with open doors, ready to provide the quality care and comfort he needed.

"It was a miracle for him to have Aurora House care for him. The staff was caring and loving. I am grateful for the staff at Aurora House" Milda stated. She said her uncle was very comfortable and happy because the staff treated him so well.

Mr. Isidoro was a Catholic and to his last days was strong in his belief and prayer. Towards the end a Catholic Priest came in to pray with him. "I am so thankful for Aurora House because they were able to provide my uncle with his last wish of seeing a Priest," said Milda. He said he didn't want to leave Aurora House. Milda stated she is grateful for all the love and care they gave her uncle.

**Aurora House gives residents and families the time to spend their days together focusing on love, care and respect as life is nearing the end—and your donations make all the difference. Please consider donating TODAY!**

## At patients' bedsides, students learn what Textbooks can't teach



For over 12 years Aurora House has provided training in Palliative Care, Hospice and End of Life Care studies for students across the Rio Grande Valley. Students who visit range from high school to university. By spending time at Aurora House they learn patient care protocol, treatments and philosophies from doctors, nurses, chaplains, and social workers who partner with Aurora House to provide the best possible care for those that entrust us with their care. There is minimal education on death and dying in undergraduate nursing programs, leaving the students unprepared to provide sufficient care to dying patients and their families. In our effort to bring awareness to the need for palliative care we have established partnerships with South Texas

College, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, South Texas ISD, Valley Grande Institute, and Our Lady of the Lake to bring together real patients at the end of life in clinical sessions and internships with students enrolled in their health care programs. "What we offer here is hope; hope for families and patients to get the compassionate caring they need at one of the most difficult times in life," said Dr. Rodriguez, Medical Director for Aurora House.



*I feel the most important lesson learned is that palliative care/hospice care is all about providing comfort and being light in the patients and patients family at one of their hardest/darkest moments.*  
- STC Student

## Healing Your Holiday Grief

When we lose someone the holidays seem a little bleaker. These special times we usually spend with our loved ones seem a little emptier. It's like the loss is a little stronger. This is the time when we should lean towards our feelings of grief, don't avoid it. Grief isn't just about the pain, it's about love.

"Grief & The Holidays." Grief.com, <https://grief.com/grief-the-holidays>  
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### Ways to cope



Remembering your loved ones during the holidays isn't the easiest thing to deal with. But remembering can help ease the pain. Here are a few ways to make lost loved ones part of your holiday season.

- **Light a candle for your loved one.** Choose a specific scent or decorate it in a way that reminds you of your loved one. You can burn the candle each night or save it to reuse for years to come.
- **Send a message on a lantern.** You and your family could write a personalized message to your loved one, light it up, and watch as it drifts off with your well wishes.
- **Make their favorite recipes.** By making one of your loved ones favorite meals it'll feel like they're there with you.
- **Set up a memory jar.** This will allow family members to let out a smidge of their grief and remember the loving memories. You can set aside a special day to open the jar and reminisce.
- **Make a remembrance item from their clothing.** You could make a stuffed animal, pillow, blanket, etc. The ideas are endless. These are items you could keep with you forever. You'll always be able to have a physical part of them with you.

"Miller-Wilson, Kate. "25 Creative Ways of Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas." LoveToKnow. LoveToKnow.  
- no copyright infringement is intended

### Donations

ADL Services  
 Adrian & Samantha Garcia  
 Alejandro & Beatriz Martinez  
 Alejandro L. Estrada  
 Alexis De Sela  
 Andrew Hernandez  
 Anne Flowers  
 Anthony (Ryan) Vaughan  
 Atanacio Jr. Hinojosa  
 Barbara Diedrich,  
 Betty Lou Vitek  
 Carmel Reyna  
 Carol Ann Rosiere  
 Carolyn & Maynard Edwards  
 Chandee Searcy  
 Christopher & Minerva St. John  
 Craig Wiegand  
 Crossroads Community Church  
 Daniel Garcia Jr.  
 Debbie McDonald  
 Dennis Exman  
 Dennis Martinus  
 Dimas or Consuelo Martinez

Edward & Merrilyn Massey  
 Eugene Hufford  
 Eugene R. Vaughan  
 Gary & Jeanne Fears  
 Gene Gay  
 Geraldine Shields  
 Hollon Oil Company c/o Steve Wilson  
 James Fuller  
 Jay Madden  
 Joan McCowan  
 Johnny Broshears  
 Knights of Columbus Council 3098  
 Larry & Gillian McClure  
 Life Giving Outreach Ministries/Crossroads  
 Linda Beltran  
 Liz Free  
 Mercedes Lions Club  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rhonda & Robert Garza  
 Mutiat Adeoye  
 Norma Martinez  
 Oralia Tafolla  
 Patricia Leon  
 Patricia Long

Pete & Jo Peters  
 Rebecca Jean Palomino  
 Residents' Assoc. of John Knox Village of the RGV  
 Rio Bank  
 Robert & Lynn Gallipeau  
 Roderick Franklin & Gillian McClure  
 Sally Ross  
 San Martin De Porres Church  
 Sheryl L. Henry  
 Shirley Knutson-Nelson  
 Snow to Sun RV Park  
 Stephen R & Dawn M Jones  
 Tom and Sheila Shidler  
 Vernon & Cindy Cooley  
 Weslaco Elks Lodge 2057  
 Weslaco Rotary Club  
 William & Constance Roesch  
 William E. & Betty Locke  
 Yolanda Salinas

### In Kind

AMARA Hospice  
 Amber Bustos  
 Araceli Cantu  
 Carolyn & Maynard Edwards  
 Roberto Garza  
 Eva Gonzalez  
 Hilda Gonzalez  
 Leyda Leggett  
 Magic Valley Electric Coop  
 Mark McCaleb

Palmhurst Animal Shelter  
 Rebecca Jean Palomino,  
 Christina Perez  
 Tina Ramirez  
 Residents' Assoc. of John Knox Village of the RGV  
 Louann Rodenbach  
 San Martin De Porres Church  
 Tony Santos  
 Siesta Retirement Village  
 Snow to Sun RV Park

*Thank you!*



A huge thank you to the **Knapp Medical Center** and **Weslaco Rotary Club** for their \$15,000.00 donation to Aurora House. We could not have continued to provide our service for over 17 years without our "Village".

### \$150,000 MATCH CHALLENGE

**YOU Can achieve 2X the IMPACT today!**



**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 Loving Memory

- Al Smith**  
Anna Smith
- Arlys Patterson**  
Teresa Mize
- Barbara Radford Watson**  
Veda Freeman
- Bob Weltz**  
Betty Lou Vitek
- Byron W. Jones, Jr.**  
Ingelise Jones  
Liselotte Pinkerton  
Veda Freeman
- David Chastain**  
James and Linda Williams
- Diana Salazar**  
Sheryl L. Henry
- Dianne Tanner Becker**  
Allen & Janet Zander
- Doris Jacobson**  
John & Doris Jacobson



- Douglas Brundige**  
William Gillum
- Eleanor "Joyce" Stewart**  
Alvin & Bernadette Ohlhauser  
Robin Moore
- Felipe Garcia**  
Mr. Faustino Villanueva Jr.
- Ilda Vasquez**  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Zurlo
- John C. Allen**  
Rola Pease
- John Inert**  
Joann Streiff
- Margaret "Peggy" Whitley**  
Camille Jones
- Maria Gomez**  
Jose & Hilda Gonzalez
- Mary Wade**  
Anna Smith
- Oscar Dupre**  
Ingelise Jones
- Pragedis Samudio**  
Felix & Maria Hernandez
- Shirley Ann McElroy**  
Carolyn Bell
- Thomas Oungst**  
Robert & Maureen Keppy  
Sandra Madden
- Tyler Martin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Zurlo
- Victor R. Garza**  
Anna Smith  
Eugene R. Vaughan
- Zoe Sherry Gray**  
John and Patty Ellis

## In Kind

- Bessie Olson**  
Anna Wright
- Byron W. Jones, Jr.**  
Ingelise Jones
- Hilda Vasquez**  
Joe Vasquez
- Janie Garza Whitehouse**  
Anonymous

## In Honor of

- Isidoro V. Hernandez**  
Isidoro Hernandez  
Jesus Valdez  
Nilda Melendez
- Polly Lovell & Myrna**  
Elizabeth & Subram Gopal Krishnan, MD



## In Kind

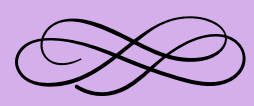
- Isidoro Valdez**  
Milda Melendez
- Jaque Dyer's Birthday**  
Jennifer English
- Micaela Gonzales**  
Anonymous
- Olga Luna**  
Cassie Montalvo
- Olga Martinez**  
Leyda Leggett
- Raul Solis**  
Israel Solis

## 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](http://www.aurorahouse.org/donations) and click on MONTHLY with your credit or debit card. One time donations are greatly appreciated.

## Thank you

TO ALL OUR COMPASSIONATE GEMS

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](mailto:aurorahousefoundation@yahoo.com)



# Aurora House News

*Día de los Muertos represents a time dedicated to honoring those who have passed away, and a way of celebrating their life. It is believed that having happy spirits will provide wisdom and protection for their families. The focus on celebrating life, and honoring the legacy of those who have passed away is an ideal platform to honor and remember those who passed at Aurora House.*

*Today, in honor of Día de los Muertos, we encourage all those in our community to take the time to acknowledge and honor the legacy by donating in memory of loved ones so that we can continue to provide care and support to those who need us most.*

**Celebrate with Aurora House by donating  
in Memory of your special loved one**

## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

### 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
- 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

### 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

### Our Most Needed Items

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue
- Air Freshener (sprays)
- Kleenex
- Windex
- Disinfectant wipes
- Adult size wipes
- Clorox
- Floor Cleaners (Fabuloso/Pine Sol)
- Powder Cleaner (Ajax)
- Napkins
- Dish Soap

## Wish List

*Donating wish list items is a great way to help Aurora House. These items are essential in providing our patients and their families with the comforts of home so that they can focus solely on their loved one.*

*When you donate from our wish list, you help us continue our mission and provide much needed comfort and care for our patients and their families.*

You are welcome to drop items off during our open hours and/or if you would prefer to have it shipped directly to us, our shipping address is 2646 W 18th St. Weslaco Texas 78596

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

# 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](mailto:mari@aurorahouse.org) or by phone at 956-973-9690 for a Sponsorship Opportunity!

## Aurora House Foundation Board of Directors

- Mark McCaleb**  
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- Melanie Riley**  
Vice President
- Stephen Charlton**  
Treasurer
- Rhonda Garza**  
Secretary
- Yoli Salinas**  
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- Mitty Reyna**
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- Juanita Espinoza**
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- Vanessa Limon**  
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!

