

Aurora House News

The light of a new day...



**Spring 2020
Newsletter Volume 13 Issue 1**

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE HELP FROM OUR COMMUNITY



WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT AURORA HOUSE HAS SERVED MORE THAN 1,000 PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Compassion was the key ingredient spurring the movement to establish Aurora House. Our legacy began in 2007 with a group of community leaders who compassionately laid the foundation for a house filled with love to offer a haven for people who are at the end of their lives. In 2015, Aurora House opened its Center for Palliative Care to provide students with a hands-on learning experience into palliative and hospice care. Because of these community leaders, compassionate caregivers, and dedicated volunteers, and YOU our community, Aurora House has continued to provide this important service. We have served over 1000 individuals and their families from 23 cities in the Rio Grande Valley and over 3000 students have completed their clinical hospice rotation with hands on patient care. We are so grateful to our community for your encouragement, support, and help. All services of Aurora House are offered free of charge through the generosity and kindness of our community, friends, and neighbors. Donations, memorials, grants, and fundraisers allow us to provide this gift to our community.

We recognize that it is our connection with others that allows us to have a sense of belonging and feeling valued, so we at Aurora House want to emphasize the value of community and say THANK YOU. Our legacy is your legacy and we hope to provide our service for many years to come.



Patient and families served: 1,056

Age Range: 6 wks - 103yrs

Average Length of Stay: 35 days

Students #: 3,177

2646 W. 18th Street P.O.Box 976 Weslaco, Texas 956.973.9690 www.AuroraHouse.org

A Celebration of Giving Thanks



On behalf of everyone at Aurora House, we thank you so much for your support and for joining with us to celebrate the holiday season at our Celebration of Giving Thanks event! We had such an exciting event at The Valley Nature Center – great food, music provided by Mercedes High School Quintet, silent auction, raffle and fellowship!

Our guests in attendance learned more about Aurora House and why your support is so important. Aurora House founder, Dr. Rafael Rodriguez, told the story of why Aurora House was established and how it has changed lives in our community.

“We are so appreciative to have the loving support of our truly generous community here in the Rio Grande Valley,” said Mark McCaleb, Aurora House Board of Directors President. “The money raised from this event allows us to continue to provide critical services to our community, during periods of life that are both vulnerable and sacred. We are ever grateful for the support.” The silent auction and raffle featured items such as a six-night getaway to Belize, Santa Fe Dinner, Kendra Scott Jewelry and other amazing items that were generously bid on. Guests generously funded Aurora House to continue to support compassionate care for those who need it the most in our local communities.

Thank you

San Martin De Porres Church
Weslaco, Texas

Elara Caring  Knapp Medical Center 

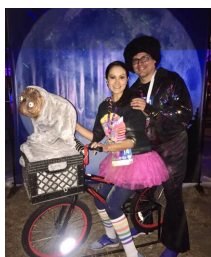

MERCEDES OUTLETS 5001 E. EXPRESSWAY 83, SUITE 331 956-565-7725
PALMS CROSSING SHOPPING CENTER 3300 EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 170 MCALLEN 956-631-3800
LA PLAZA MALL, SUITE C-75 MCALLEN 956-217-5937



Advantage Healthcare Consulting Allstate Hospice The Beckwith Families Burton Companies
Dr. Pena, MD Del Angel Funeraria John Knox Village Kindred Hospice Dr. Andrew & Mrs. Levine
McAfee Insurance Agency McCaleb Funeral Home Noble Texas Builders Dr. Pedro Penalo, MD
Dr. Rafael Rodriguez, MD Rio Bank RGV ACO Health Providers RGV Adult & Internal Medicine Rios of Mercedes
Boot Company Dr. Jose T Sandoval MD PA Shepard Walton King Insurance Selah Hospice Care
Jones, Galligan, Key & Lozano DHR Health Texas Regional Bank Donna Medical Center
State Farm - Julian Garcia Instasigns Weslaco Muesum

Aurora House News

80's Retro Run Vol. 4



On Saturday evening, February 22nd, Marisela Gonzalez, Aurora House Executive Director, exclaimed, "It's a gorgeous day, and we're all excited!"

Gonzalez was referring to the 4th Annual Retro Run 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Walk, presented by RGV ACO Health Providers, that was about to begin. This popular event was organized with a Race committee, Snap Pix, and a dozen volunteers. In past years, the event brought hundreds of people to the City of Weslaco, and thanks to diligent planning by the Race committee and a host of generous sponsors, it was once again a bounding success.

The event began with a Zumba work out and then over 500 Runners of all ages dressed in leisure suits, striped tube socks, funky wigs, big sunglasses, bell bottoms jeans and tie-dye and took to the course and were immediately drenched in glow in the dark paint. To pump up the crowd, the DJ played the top tunes from the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

Dressed in ultra-groovy, super-retro running outfits, Pablo Pena Park was filled with community members from all over the Rio Grande Valley enjoying photo opportunities with Slimer from Ghost-busters, a huge Rubik's cube, and a photo booth by Snap Pix. Local business, such as Navy Army Community Credit Union and Knapp Medical Center, had booth displays with goodies for our runners and their families. Age group awards were awarded for overall top three female and male participants.

It was truly a community event!

TO OUR SPONSORS *Thank you*

- Legacy Home Health IBC Bank Top Golf
- Frank Venecia Insurance Kindred Hospice
- Knapp Medical Center Justice Raul Gonzalez
- MVEC SJ Hospice
- Valley Baptist Micro Hospital
- A Healing Touch Hospice Jason's Deli
- Chick-Fil-A Navy Army Community Credit Union
- Villalobos & Villalobos Law Firm



In Loving Memory



Al Smith
Anna Smith

Lloyd D. May
Deborah May

Daniel Rodriguez
Josefina Cantu

Lucio Tovar
Frances Tovar

Elida Barbee
David A. Barbee

Maria E. Salinas
Richard Vaughan

Elida Salinas
Brian Humphreys

Minnie Ramirez-Ramos
Yolanda Salinas

Gertrudis Estrada
Alejandro L. Estrada

Tom Gossow
Locke, William E.

Guadalupe Maldonado
Jose Maldonado

Hosea Toms
Ona Gray
Sharon Hill
Jesse Toms

Dolores Rios
Roberto Rios

Jackie Joe "JJ" Gatton
Liselotte Pinkerton
George Ramsey

John Wilczynski
Elaine Wilczynski

Ann Stokes
Robert Janik

Mark Farber
JoAnn Farber

Joe Brymer
Mr & Mrs. Art
Beckwith

Ramiro Beltran
Sylvia Beltran

John Wilczynski
Marsha & Earl
BeDen
Julia Silcox
Robert A. Tacy
Stacy Andrews
Voccia
Elaine Wilczynski
Christopher Wilson

Raul Rios
Antonio Gracia

Josefina Alaniz
Alaniz Family

In Honor of

Lela Mae Wiegand
James and Linda Williams

Chap Ross
Fanny & Buddy Ross

Fanny & Buddy Ross
Sally Ross

Mark & Leyda Leggett
Fanny and Buddy Ross

Patti & Joe Ross Loya
Fanny & Buddy Ross

Rita Gardner
Robert Gardner

Randall & Brittany Leggett
Fanny & Buddy Ross

Sally Ross
Fanny & Buddy Ross

Sofi & Dan Moss
Fanny & Buddy

Sr. Therese Corkery
Lois Bartscher

Sue Leggett
Fanny & Buddy Ross

William Leggett
Fanny & Buddy Ross

In Kind

Alan Farkas
Noemi Moya
Stephanie Frank

Cleo Hinton
Michael Rivera

June Hick
Kenneth Moore

Leonel Guerra
Contigo Hospice

Olga Lopez
Maria Toledo

Santos Balderas
Dolores Balderas

Donations

Adeoye, Mutiat
ADL Services
Advantage Healthcare Consulting
Alexander, Patricia
Allen, John
A-SJ Properties
Barbee, Terry
Beckwith, Mr. & Mrs. Melissa & Benton
Beckwith, Mr. & Mrs. Art
Briones, Rachel
Cantu, Araceli
Castellon, Elia Robledo
Chapman, James
Charlton, Stephen
Clugston, Shannon
Compton, C.J
Contreras, Becky
Davis Equity Realty
Davis Real Estate, RGV, L.L.C.
Davis, Carolyn
De La Paz III, Americo
De Leon, Rosemary
DeVita Weslaco Renal Center
Doctors Hospital at Renaissance
Donna Lions Club # 1297 District 2-A3
Donna Medical Clinic
Dr. R. E. Margo Elementary
Elizabeth and Gopal Limited Partnership
Escandon, Magda
Fitch, Gloria
FREEDOM Bank
Galvan Insurance Agency, Inc.
Garza, Alma
Garza, Esperanza
Garza, Josefa
Garza, Rhonda & Robert
German, Lyle
Gieseke, Gerald
Gonzalez, Celina
Gonzalez, Diana
Graham, Linda

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.

Aurora House News

Memorials & Honorariums

Donations

Grohs-Stroschein, Francis M. & Amy
Guerra Insurance
Hart, Gragg
Hartley, Kenneth
Hernandez, Andrew
Hinton, Daniel
IBC Bank Accounting Dept.
Jimenez, Rosa
John Knox Village of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
John Knox Village Residents
Community Foundation Lyster Family Foundation Fund
John Knox Village/ Patio Homes IV Ladies
Jones, Stephen R & Dawn M
Kendra Scott Design
Klinek, Steven
Knapp Medical Center
Lavin, Helen
Legacy Home Health Agency, Inc
Levine Andrew MD, PA,
Life Giving Outreach Ministries/Crossroads
Literary
Review Club
Llano Grande
Lake Park Church
Long, Patricia
Losoya, Robert & Mary Ester
Love of Christ Lutheran Church
Maldonado, Oscar
Martinez, Javier
Martinez, Norma
McAfee Insurance Agency
McAllen, Robert & Margaret
McCaleb Funeral Home
Mead, Gayle
Meiners, Carl
Mercedes Lions Club
Mize, Teresa
Montalvo, Ramon
Nelson, Verda
Noble Texas Builders LLC
Noriega, Andres
Novoa, Eloy
Olivarez, Rhut
Ortegon Insurance Agency LLC
Ovalle, Jose
Paradise Betty & G. Richard
Pariser, Judy
Penalo MD PA, Pedro J.
Peterson, Susan
Plowman, James & Sondra
R.G.V. Adult & Internal Medicine Specialists
Reyna, David
Reyna, Sandra
RGV ACO Health Providers, LLC
Riley, Melanie
Rio Grande Valley Educational Secretary Assoc.
Rodriguez, Rafael
Ross, Fanny & Buddy
Salinas, Yolanda
San Martin De Porres Church

Sander Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, P. A.
Scott, Andy
Selah Hospice Care Inc
Southern Comfort R.V. Park
Steiner, David W
Summers, Jo
Sunderland, Margo Dittburner
Todd, Raymond
Torres, Karen
Trails End Part Church
Trails End RV Park
Turner, Edward
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Inc
United Way of South Texas
Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation
Valley Baptist Micro Hospital Weslaco
Valley Nature Center
Vanderbeck, Gloria
Vaughan, Anthony (Ryan)
Villanueva, Ruben Jr.
Waters, Bob
Weslaco Elks Auxiliary
Weslaco Fire Fighters Association
Weslaco High School NHS
Wiegand, Craig

In Kind

A Healing Touch Hospice
Contigo Hospice
Aguilera, Gilberto J.
Alvarado, Anissa
Aranda Family
Balderas, Dora
Balderas, Obed
Barrera, Eugenia
Becerra, Antonio
Cantu, Araceli
Carr, Diana
Davis, Douglas
De La Cruz, Christina
Dominguez, Fernando & Delia
Dominguez,
Veronica
Elsa Civic
& Study Club
Epsilon Eta Beta Sigma PHI
Farias, Adrian
Firan, Familia
Garcia, Cassie
Del Toro, Fidenco
Garza, Nolda
Gonzalez, Juan
Rios, Roberto
Gray, Ona
John Knox Village Residents
Juan Diego Academy
Knights of Columbus Council 3098
Toledo, Maria
L & G Concrete Construction
Los Ebanos Study Club

November 2019- January 2020

Love of Christ Lutheran Church
Lynncare Hospice Services
Magic Valley Electric Coop
Maldonado, Javier
Meiners, Carl
Memorial Elementary School
Mid River Christian Centre
Newcomer, Thomas and Sharon
Nicho Produce Co. INC
Ovalle, Jose
Padilla, Atanacio
Pena, Jessica
Rektorik, Jennifer
Reyna, Alfredo
Reyna, Sandra
Rio Grande Valley Educational Secretary Assoc.
Wilczynski, Elaine
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory of the RGV
Rodriguez, Richard
Rosales, Jolynn
San Martin De Porres Church
San Miguel, Connie
Farber, JoAnn
Moya, Noemi
Scott, Andy
Moya, Noemi
Balderas, Dolores
Senger, Cindy
Smith Security & Fire
Southern Comfort Park
Moya, Noemi
Gracia, Antonio
Rivera, Michael
Balderas, Dolores
St. Pius X Catholic Church
Student Nurses Association
T Ghost BBQ
Terveen, Melvin
The Weslaco Museum
Trails End Club
Trails End RV Park
Trevino, Francisco
Weslaco Elks Auxiliary
Weslaco Fire Fighters Association
Weslaco Lions Club
Beltran, Sylvia
Frank, Stephanie
Moore, Kenneth
Wilczynski, Elaine
Yanez, Rosalinda
Moore, Kenneth

YOUR IMPACT

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.

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

Aurora House News

To Our Community:

Aurora House is dedicated to the health and safety of its patients and the overall health of the community. We are monitoring this evolving situation and following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of Health. We have made necessary in-house precautions to prevent the spread of illness by limiting visitors in our house setting. Our staff are taking every necessary precaution to protect our patients from the spread of illness. We are monitoring our staff closely and continuing to educate them as guidance changes.

We are committed to our mission to provide compassionate care and dignity at the end of life for those in our community who are in most need. With your continued support and generosity Aurora House is able to continue to serve our community.

A monthly or annual pledge from you can change everything - your commitment can make all the difference!

The gift of loving care that Aurora House offers has become a unique hallmark of our community's compassion. Quality end-of-life care in a one-of-a-kind, warm and cozy home is provided 100% free to dying people in need. With your support, we have worked together to provide this service since 2007.

Aurora House remains dependent on the generosity of our families, friends and sponsors to help raise over \$700,000 needed each year to maintain the operations of the house. Your commitment through monthly or annual 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, comfort, and peace.

Give Online

- Visit www.aurorahouse.org/donations and click on MONTHLY with your credit or debit card.

Donate by Check

- you can also write a check to Aurora House and specify Annual Giving in the memo line. Check can be mailed to P.O. Box 976, Weslaco, Texas 78596

Aurora House Foundation Board of Directors

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Melanie Riley
Vice President

Stephen Charlton
Treasurer

Rhonda Garza
Treasurer

Yoli Salinas
Mitty Reyna

Dr. Rafael Rodriguez
Rosemary C. de Leon

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Kevin Bloomquist
Oralia Taffolla

Annette Rios- Barrera

Marisela Gonzalez
Executive Director

Diana Gonzalez
Administrative Assistant/
Volunteer Coordinator

Becky Contreras
House and Grounds Supervisor

Araceli Cantu
Caregiver Supervisor

Alma Garza
Mary Bazan
Ann Marie Alegria
Celina Gonzalez
Linda Sanchez
Jasmine Guerra
Yessica Villanueva

Caregivers

OUR MISSION

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

Thank you!

On behalf of the Aurora House Foundation Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers we would like to extend a heart-felt THANK YOU to John Knox Village for their generosity and continued support. The support of caring friends like you truly makes a difference for those in our care.

