

Aurora House News

The light of a new day...



Summer 2023 Newsletter Volume 16 Issue 2

Patient and families served: 1,416

Age Range: 6 wks - 103yrs

Average Length of Stay: 35 days

Students & Community #: 8,957

Community Conversation Series

For over 15 years, the Aurora House Foundation has provided compassionate care to individuals and their families as they approach the last stages of life. Our vision is that everyone can approach end of life with peace. This vision includes the person who is dying as well as their loved ones. The death of a loved one is a life-changing experience with many nuances people may be experiencing for the very first time. Aurora House believes it is important to involve our community in the discourse of death, and give access to the resources and support they may need in their End-of-Life (EOL) journey. We are privileged to present our newest series, the Summer 2023 Community Conversation Series: End-Of-Life Planning Sessions.

The series will focus on important matters related to end-of-life planning for families and individuals in the RGV community. The goal of this series is to engage in meaningful conversations about what to expect when a loved one is in the final stages of life, how to determine the best financial and healthcare decisions for you/family member, and providing access to local resources to help throughout the process. Monthly programs on End-Of-Life will consist of: caregiving education & support, bilingual adult bereavement groups, children grief support groups, sessions on advance directives, estate planning, life insurance, group directed discussions, and more.

"Thank you for offering the session [Adult Bereavement Support Group] in Spanish & English. This is the ONLY spanish session/group I found in the valley. The lighting was great and the snacks were a great thought!"

"Gracias por preocuparse por tocar estos temas tan sensibles." (Thank you for touching on such sensitive issues)

-2023 Bereavement Group Guests

End-of-Life planning gives the opportunity to be in charge and play an active role in the decision-making process. We were prompted to begin this series from witnessing the issues that arise and negatively impact families that do not know what to expect when a loved one is in the last stages of life. The general public lacks information on end-of-life affairs and is often ill-prepared and alone during these challenging times. There is a need for these services in the community and we hope in developing this series we are able to provide guidance and support in all aspects related to end-of-life.



Aurora House News

Some prestigious sites in Paris have played host to the "DeJuener En Blanc" over the years including the Pont des Arts, the Eiffel Tower, the Château de Versailles, the Esplanade de Notre-Dame, and in 2023 Knapp Conference Center can be added to the list. A French inspired luncheon with guests all dressed in white celebrated our administrative professionals who are crucial to the everyday operations in a variety of industries in our local community. Aurora House honors their efforts every year by celebrating them and giving 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 "DeJuener En Blanc" event had some wonderful 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 Ceremonies, Kirk Bloomquist and Ryan Vaughan, who kept the guest engaged, and our 2023 Weslaco Royal Court for their help in selling raffle tickets. Our community helped us raise over \$60,000 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!



- Advantage Health Care Consulting, Inc
- A Healing Touch Hospice
- De Sela Consulting
- Davis Equity Realty
- First Care EMS
- Lackey Financial
- Lone Star National Bank
- Montalvo Insurance Agency
- P.A.C.E. Health Care, Inc
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- Western Southern Financial Group
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- Burton Companies
- Economic Development Corporation Mercedes
- Economic Development Corporation Weslaco
- Frost Bank
- Greater Valley Hospice
- SJ Hospice
- Rainbow Pediatric Clinic
- Robert & Margaret McAllen
- Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
- San Martin De Porres Catholic Church
- Smith Security & Fire
- Texas Regional Bank

A Community Celebrates



Music Therapy: Healing through the Power of Music

The Aurora House Foundation has partnered with Institute for Music Evolution and RGV Music Therapy & Wellness Center to connect professional musicians and music therapy students with Aurora House residents and their families. Music therapy is the clinical and evidence based use of music intervention as part of a patients care/treatment. Music therapy offers a wide range of benefits for individuals of all ages and backgrounds by promoting relaxation and emotional expression to reduce stress and anxiety. Music Therapy allows individuals the opportunity to process their feelings and experiences in a non-verbal manner. Overall, music therapy harnesses the power of music to promote physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being, making it a valuable therapeutic approach in various healthcare and educational settings.



What are the benefits of Music Therapy?

- Music therapy can enhance cognitive function, including memory, attention, and problem-solving skills.
- Improve motor coordination and speech development in individuals with physical or neurological impairments
- Music can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression by promoting relaxation and emotional expression.
- Music therapy fosters social interaction, communication, and self-esteem, particularly in group settings. It provides a creative outlet for self-expression and emotional release

Donations

Donations

A Healing Touch Hospice GRPP, LLC
ADL Services
Adrian Farias
Advantage Healthcare Consulting
Alejandra Montenegro
Alejandro L. Estrada
Alex Smith
Alexis De Sela
All Generations Health Care Inc.
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Dimas or Consuelo Martinez
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Donna Medical Clinic
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First Care EMS LLC
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Florentino Moreno
Flowers Primary Home Care LLC
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G/C Hauling LLC
Gastroenterology Consultants of South Texas
Germaine & Larry Plett
Gracia Hospice
Greater Valley Hospice
Guadalupe Cruz
Herbert & Tommie Sue Hicks
Hollon Oil Company c/o Steve Wilson
Howard Christopherson
Illiana Rivera
J & E McConnell
Jacqueline Galloway
James & Sondra Plowman
James Williams
James Wilt
Janice L. Earl
Jean M. Wilken
Jeffrey Stowe
Jennifer Zuniga
Jerry & Shirley Bartacheck
Jerry L. & Diana L. Bottomley
Jessica & Lowry McAllen
Jessica Levine
Jesus Seja
JoAnna Ybarra
John & Kathryn Antl
John & Penny Berry
John and Patty Ellis
Johnathan Crane
Juan & Maria Gonzalez
Juan Franco
Judy Kutugata
Karen Fike
Karen Heilman
Kathleen Ohlinger
Kenneth & Vicki Meine
Kenneth D. & Donna L. Longworth
Kerry Ritchie
Kim Fuller
Kindred Hospice (Curo)
Kirk Bloomquist
Knapp Community Care Foundation
Knapp Medical Center
Laura Jaramillo
Laura Lopez
Lauro & Irma Saldana
Librado Skyler Vega
Life Giving Outreach Ministries/Crossroads
Linda Graham
Literary Review Club
Iano Grande Lake Park Church
Lone Star National Bank

Loretta Barbee
Louis Tyler
Magic Valley Electric Coop
Margo Dittburner Sunderland
Mari Aviles
Maria Cruz
Marilew Lary
Marilew Sturges
Mario Salinas
Marissa Borrego
Marlene Davis
Marlene Vos
Martin Ziegler
Marvin & Lorna Glesne
Mary Brundige
McAfee Insurance Agency
McManus Development LTD
Melanie Riley
Melissa Hernandez
Melissa Neuhaus
Melissa Ramirez
Memorial Funeral Home
Michael & Karen Myers
Michelle Vargas
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Mutiat Adeoye
Myriam Guerra
Nancy Fratzke
Norma Martinez
Norma Olvera
Oralia Tafolla
P.A.C.E. Health Care, Inc.
Pamela Scott
Patricia & Alan E. Bortnem
Patricia Alexander
Patricia Long
Peggy James & Josie Zepeda
Pete & Jo Peters
Phillis Machen
Pitney Bowes
Priscilla Hawkins
R.S.B. & L.L.B.
Rafael Martinez
Rainbow Pediatric Clinic
Randall Summers
Raul Cabaza
Ray Quiroga

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.

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 78599

Donations

Regency Integrated Health Services
Renee Zachman
Residents' Assoc. of John Knox Village of the RGV
RGV ACO Health Providers, LLC
Ricardo Abreu
Rios of Mercedes
Robert & Margaret McAllen
Robert Antonacci
Robert Donalson
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory of the RGV
Roselinda G. Flores
Rosie Molina
Rosita Jones
Roxie Correa
Sally Ross
San Martin De Porres Church
Sandra Rocha
Sharon Sadusky
Sheryl L. Henry
Shirley Knutson-Nelson
Siesta Village Worship Hour
SJ Hospice Services LLC.
Smiriam Limon
Smith Security & Fire
Snow to Sun RV Park
Southern Comfort Chapel
Southern Comfort Park
Stacey Olivarez
Stephen R & Dawn M Jones
Texas Mutual Insurance Company
Texas Regional Bank
The Estate of Norma Ann Round
The Martinez Family
Theodore & Barbara Wire
Theresa Palafox
Thomas and Sharon Newcomer
Trails End RV Park
Tu Vida Medical Transport, Inc
Valerie Reyna Farmers Insurance
Vantage Bank Texas
Villalobos & Villalobos Law Firm
Violanda Cantu Abrego
Virginia Rodriguez De La Garza
Weslaco Economic Development Corporation
Yesenia Vidarrui
Yolanda Ramos & Leticia Robert
Yolanda Salinas
Yvonne Castillo
Zefra Mascorro

In Loving Memory

Anne Barrett
Betty Lou Vitek
Priscilla Rawson
Resident's Assoc. of JKV of RGV

Arene Doerfler
John & Ellen Allen

Bill & Betty Locke
Elizabeth & Subram Gopal Krishnan, MD

Bill Summers
Bob & Jerady Hawkins
Jo Summers
Tom & Lynn Carter

Craig Wiegand
Anne Flowers
Don McDaniel
Eugene R. Vaughan
Ronald D & Carmen Hicks

Dale Bruining
Patricia Bruining
William Bruining

Daniel "Danny" E. Arnold
Emmett L Bills
Ervin Cockrell

David Gomez
Anna Smith

Doris Jacobson
John Jacobson

Elida Hinojosa
Carlota Reigner

Ervin VonSprecken
Carol Hicks
James & Sondra Plowman
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Henning

Fernando Saenz
Ruben & Augustina Saenz

Gloria Villarreal
Lourdes Tolentino

Gordon Dull
Lois Tryggestad

Howard Bloomquist
Charmain Bradford
Martin Werries
Vicky Ortiz

Janis Ramsey
George Ramsey
Jesus & Josefa Covacevich
Anthony Covacevich

Joe Ritchie
Janet Ritchie
Kelly Dilodovico

Jose Campos
Roxana Campbell

Kathleen Stevenson
James & Sondra Plowman

Lee Roy Veland
Anthony Ryan Vaughan
Camille Jones
Eugene R. Vaughan

Lloyd D. May
Deborah May

Margaret Sterk
Anonymous

Mark Eoff
Audrey Eoff

Orfelinda Cavazos
Anna Smith

Patricio Briones
David Briones
Rachel Briones

Robert Arthur Hulteen
Sonja Shepherd

Robert Javier Garza
Anna Smith
Liselotte Pinkerton
Mary Brundige

Ron Schroeder
Karen Schroeder

Scott Martin Jr.
Don McDaniel

Stanley Wiegand
Eugene R. Vaughan
Literary Review Club
Tom & Lynn Carter

Vangie Martinez
Javier Martinez

Willis Meisenheimer
Karen Heilman

In Honor

Concepcion Vallejo
Francisco Vallejo
Ruben Vallejo

Edward Brown
George Stiedle

Floyd Baber
Karen Baber

Guadalupe Gomez
Esteban Gomez
Family Ramones Gomez
Jose Cruz Gomez
Juan Pablo Matias
Luna Family
Ricardo Gomez

Hipolita Reyes
Anonymous
Clementina Gonzalez

Jose Elizararras
Elizabeth Mata

Jose Garcia
Maribel Garcia

Juan Prado
Marlene Prado

Leonel Anzaldua
Oscar Anzaldua

Lou Vitek
Eloy & Marisela Gonzalez

Matilde Walker
Anita Castaneda
Robert & Otilia Perez

Melanie's Birthday
Facebook Payments Inc.

Paige Prickett
Lewellyn
Piper Jackson
Ron & Roberta Jacobson

Richard Vaughan
Gene Vaughan

Sulema Cuellar's Birthday
Facebook Payments Inc

Thank you!

In Kind

AllState Hospice
 Alma Garza
 Anabelle Cardona
 Angel Wings Hospice
 Anonymous
 Araceli Cantu
 Betty Lou Vitek
 Celia Velasquez
 Charlotte Jimenez
 Christina Perez
 Craig Wiegand
 Denise Bell
 Diamond Divas
 Elara Caring
 Ernesto Villanueva
 Esthela Ramos
 Florentino Moreno
 Gail Wanner
 Grandma Snow
 Greater Valley Hospice
 James Fuller
 Jesus Calderon
 John Knox Village Residents
 Jose Carpe
 Josie Trevino
 Juanita Espinoza
 Maria Escobar
 Maria Montano
 Maria Munoz
 Mark McCaleb
 Mark Probst
 Mary Zamora
 Ministerio Hispano El Valle District UMC
 Monarca Care
 Omar Saldana
 Only Love Hospice
 Peggy Hulteen
 Rachael Garcia
 Residents' Assoc. of John Knox Village of the RGV
 Rio Valley Estate Worship
 Rosales
 Siesta Village
 Siesta Village Worship Hour
 Snow to Sun RV Park
 Southern Comfort Park
 Southside Baptist Church
 Trails End RV Park
 United Migrant Opportunity Services Inc.
 Vero Ramirez
 W Carr
 Waylon Udencio
 Weslaco Lions Club
 Weslaco Rotary Club



Jose Luis Garcia
 Anonymous
Marlene Gutierrez
 Anonymous
 Erica Gutierrez
Nicolasa Valladares
 Delia Valladares
Reymundo & Maria T. Sanchez
 Diana Ochoa

In Honor of

Blanca Martinez De Olivarez
 Jaime Olivarez
Concepcion Vallejo
 Francisco Vallejo
 Ruben Vallejo
 Anonymous
Eduardo Garcia
 Flor Garcia
 Anel Herrera
Efrain Rivera
 Anonymous
Hipolita Reyes
 Anonymous
Jose Anselmo Hernandez
 Lourdes Rivas
Jose Elizarraras
 Lorena Garcia
 Elizabeth Mata
Leonel Anzaldua
 Oscar Anzaldua,
Lloyd Brown
 Dee Coppinger
Sally Judd
 Anonymous



Thank you!

How You Can Help

Become a Sponsor

By choosing to become a sponsor for Aurora House you'll be allowing us to continue providing compassionate end-of-life care for those in need in our community.

Contact Marisela Gonzalez at
 (956) 973-9690 or (512) 865-8085
 or email mari@aurorahouse.org

Corporate & Business Partnership

Get your company involved to raise funds for Aurora House by sponsoring an event.

Contact Marisela Gonzalez at
 (956) 973-9690 or (512) 865-8085
 or email mari@aurorahouse.org

Planned Gifts & Legacy Requests

Including Aurora House in your will or trust can create a lasting legacy to help the community for years to come.

Contact Marisela Gonzalez at
 (956) 973-9690 or (512) 865-8085
 or email mari@aurorahouse.org

Monetary Donations

Aurora House does not receive any government aid or funding from national or state humane societies and relies entirely on private donations to fund our program. To donate, visit

www.aurorahouse.org/donate

Volunteer

Our work depends entirely on the support of our dedicated volunteers. Many opportunities are available for youth, adult and groups in our program and for events.
www.aurorahouse.org/volunteer

Contact Aymara Ortez at
 (956) 973-9690 or email
aymara@aurorahouse.org

In-Kind Donations

To help reduce costs, our program is always in need of items to support our activities - from blankets and wipes for the patients to office supplies. Visit our Wish List to see what you can help with.

www.aurorahouse.org/wishlist

In Loving Memory

Deacon Roberto Cantu
 Anonymous
Felix Garcia
 Mercedes Quintero
Frank Garrett
 Cheryl Garrett

Aurora House Events

Upcoming Events

AURORA HOUSE FOUNDATION HOLIDAY GALA

All is Bright

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023
PALACIO DE DESTINEE EVENT CENTER
1502 N BORDER AVE, WESLACO, TX 78596

SAVE THE DATE

For more information on tickets or sponsorships,
please call (956) 973-9690 or email Mari@Aurorahouse.org

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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.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SERIES CALENDAR



Aurora House Foundation | 2646 W. 18th St Weslaco, TX 78596 | (956) 973-9690



End-of-life planning offers peace of mind, a sense of security, and positive outcomes for individuals and their families. Join us and start the conversation.



August 2023

Friday August 11, 2023
12:00pm-1:30pm

"Power of Attorney, MPOA, SDPOA"
Jean Pena, Amedisys

Saturday August 19, 2023
10:00am-12:00pm

RGV Death Café:
"Cafe, Conchas, & Corpses"

Friday August 25, 2023
6:30pm-7:30pm

**El Duelo: Grupo de Apoyo/
Adult Bereavement Group:**
"The 5 Stages of Grief"
(BILINGUAL)

September 2023

Friday September 1, 2023
6:30pm-7:30pm

"Caregiving 101: Pain Management"
Caregiver S.O.S

Saturday September 9, 2023
10:00am-12:00pm

RGV Death Café:
"Death & Donuts"

Session Break:

**El Duelo: Grupo de Apoyo se
reanuda en octubre**
**Adult Bereavement Group will
resume in October**

October 2023

Friday October 6, 2023
6:30pm-7:30pm

"How to Prepare a Will"
Benavidez Law Firm

Saturday October 21, 2023
10:00am-12:00pm

RGV Death Café:
"Dia de los Muertos"

Friday October 27, 2023
6:30pm-7:30pm

**El Duelo: Grupo de Apoyo/
Adult Bereavement Group:**
"The 5 Stages of Grief"