



Aurora House Foundation

Aurora House News

Volume 11 Issue 2

Fall 2018

Of Special Note

Since Inception June 21, 2007

- # of Patients and their Families served: 860
- Age Range: 6wks -103
- Avg. Length of Stay: 35 Days
- # of Cities served: 23

May 2018 - July 2018

- # of Volunteers: 82
- # of Volunteer Groups: 4
- # of Volunteer Hours: 571

Since 2010

- 2,059 students have received training in Palliative Care, Hospice and End of Life Issues at Aurora House

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For easy online donations:
www.aurorahouse.org
 Look for the Donation Button

Tea Party with The Mad Hatter

The annual Aurora House Administrative Professional's Day Luncheon held on April 25 was great fun with AH staff and board members dressed as Alice in Wonderland characters.

The Mad Hatter Tea Party theme was carried out beautifully from the elaborately decorated entrance-way to the fabulous table decorations to the delicious lunch catered by Chef Roberto Torres, of Chef's Corner Café in Weslaco.

Guests enjoyed a Fashion Show highlighting Spring and Summer designs from Lionel's Western Wear and Wells of Weslaco. Snapix from Mercedes sponsored a photo booth with fun props to add to the merriment. Skillfully emceed by "The Mad Booter" aka Ryan Vaughan, great door prizes were given out and the silent auction was filled with a vast array of items on which to bid. Over \$29,000 was raised by this fun event.

Committee Chairs:

Event Coordinator - Rhonda Garza
 Event Assistant – Diana Gonzalez
 Decorations – Melissa Beckwith
 Silent Auction – Jennifer Rektorik
 Tickets – Yoli Salinas

Sponsors:

Diamond

John Knox Village, Knapp Medical Center



Gold

RGV ACO, Rios of Mercedes, J-III, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Sander Orthopaedics, Villa de Cortez, McAfee Insurance Agency, Robert & Margaret McAllen, Melicia Fuentes, MD, Payne Auto Group, Progreso International Bridge, Donna Medical Clinic,

Mid Valley Specialists PA

Silver

Montalvo Insurance Agency, Burton Companies, Thurmond Eye Associates, Frost Bank, Advantage Health Care Consulting, Texas Regional Bank, Highland Memorial Park & Funeral Home, McCaleb Funeral Home, Davis Equity Realty

Bronze

De La Garza Family Dental, Shepard Walton King Insurance Group, Dr. James & Julie Castillo, Valley Women's Specialists – Ronald Blanco, MD



More pictures
on page 2



"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"
'That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,' said the Cat.
'I don't much care where -' said Alice.
'Then it doesn't matter which way you go,' said the Cat.
— Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

A Celebration of Giving Thanks

Aurora House is excited to kick off the holiday season with our holiday event: **A Celebration of Giving Thanks on Thursday, November 15, 2018**, at Valley Nature Center, 301 South Border Ave., Weslaco at 6:30 p.m.

The event planners are already busy with menu selections, picking the music and deciding on a signature cocktail for the evening! Snapix from Mercedes will once again be joining in on the fun with a photo booth along with several vendors—including Kendra Scott—who will be setting up trunk shows so everyone can get an early start on their holiday shopping. And, as a bonus, each vendor will be giving a percentage of their sales back to Aurora House. Mark your calendars—November 15 at Valley Nature Center is the place to be!

We are looking forward to the festivities, and would love to have you join us! Tickets are available for \$100 per person, and a variety of sponsorships are still available.

If you are interested in attending, being a sponsor or vendor, please call Aurora House and ask to speak with Judy Pariser or Diana Gonzalez at (956)973-9690.



Successful Fundraiser

Aurora House had a most successful BBQ Chicken Plate Sale with the very generous assistance of the Knights of Columbus, Council #16917 of Weslaco.

The Knights of Columbus provided and BBQed the chicken at Pop's Drive Through on South Victoria Road owned by Jerry Garcia.

Donations by the Westgate and South Texas HEB stores provided other food items, and Aurora House staff and volunteers prepared and assembled 1000 BBQ plates.

The event netted over \$6,000. Many thanks to all who made this event a success!



Volunteer Angel Calderon and Araceli Cantu of AH helped assemble over 1,000 BBQ plates.

Memorials and Honorariums May - July 2018

Memorials

In Memory of **Myra Belcher**

Benton, Melissa, Will &
McLean Beckwith
Art and Nan Beckwith

In Memory of **Geoffery and Ashley** **McAllen**

Mr. & Mrs. James
William

In Memory of **William Hart** Gragg Hart

In Memory of **Rumaldo Villareal** Linda Villareal

In Memory of **Ona East** Allen East

In Memory of **John Leggett** Sally Ross

In Memory of **Felipe Garcia** Mr. Faustino Villanueva

In Memory of **Ted Long** Ms. Patricia Long

In Memory of **Carolyn Bauer** Ms. Lauri L. Novak

In Memory of **Gwen Westfall Preston** Denice Fugitt Robert & Loretta Eilers

In Memory of **Charles E. Plank** Eva L. Plank

In Memory of **J. R. Wade** Margaret Wade Barnes

In Memory of **Georgia May Krska Town-** **send** Michael & Cheyanne Zink



In Memory of **Betty Jones** Ingelise Jones

In Memory of **Ruth Kapraun** Hank Kapraun & Kathy Damalas

In Memory of **Nancy Rosiere** Randy Rosiere

Pavers

In Memory of **Federico Caballero** Dolores Holder

In Memory of **Vicki Bergstrom** Arlene Crawford

In Memory of **Betty Jones** Jo Summers

In Memory of **Robert B. Moyer** Randall Summers

Honorariums

In Honor **of Jessica Coy** Rigo Coy

In Honor **of Juanita Carrijo** Fred Carrijo

In Honor **of Maria De Jesus Rios** Maria De Jesus Rios

In Honor **of Jose Marco Luna** Felisa Luna

In Honor **of Judy Pariser** Trainor Evans

In Honor **of Federico Caballero** Maria Chavez

In Honor **of Juan C. Hernandez** Elvia Hernandez

In Honor **of Pedro H. Castillo** Licha Castillo Moron

In Honor **of Leonor Estrada** Blanca Figueroa David Figueroa

Donations May - July 2018

Donations

ADL Services Incorporated
 AT & T Donor
 Barb Diedrich
 Betty Lou Vitek
 Betty McCoy
 Betty Pilcher
 Carlota Reigner
 Carol Hicks
 Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Rev. D. J. Tuchy # 2215 of St Joseph Church
 Cheyanne Conner Zink
 Debbie McDonald
 Debra Knight
 Debra Stedman
 Dennis Martinus
 Vickie Bowers
 Elizabeth A. Button
 Elodia & Tereso Rocha Jr.
 Elsa Study Club c/o
 Andy & Pam Scott
 First Baptist Church
 The Gladen Class
 Gary & Jeanne Fears
 Gene & Gail Gay
 Gloria Macke
 Gloria Vanderbeck
 Inge Kuck
 Jacobson Rev Living
 Trust John & Doris Jacobson
 JC3 Group LLC c/o Jacob Cavazos
 Jean Rabenhorst
 Jeanne M. Diamond
 Jim & Becky Fuller
 John & Amy Damalas
 Johnnie Williams
 Jones, Galligan, Key & Lozano, L.L.P.
 Judy Pariser
 Kathy Damalas
 Kathy Hevirn
 Kelly Stence
 Larry Blegen
 Leisure World Community Chapel
 Leon Diaz
 Liselotte Pinkerton
 Love of Christ Lutheran Church
 Maria Delia Ramirez
 Marie & David Miller

Martha Chapa
 Mary Ann Mudge
 Mary Lou Kasella
 Melissa Teran
 Miriam T. Namken
 Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Wiegand
 Mrs. Helen S. Lavin
 Mrs. Verda Nelson
 Network For Good (Facebook Donors)
 Patricia Long
 Patty Depue
 Paula Morgan
 Pauline & Carol Kirkpatrick
 Pedro J. Penalo MD PA
 R. & F. Vaughan

In Honor of Maria de Jesus Rios
 Maria Rios' Daughter

In Honor of Juanita Ruiz
 Amalia Cowger
 Javier Ruiz
 Lupita Ruiz

In Honor of Leonor Estrada
 Blanca Figueroa

Ana Rios
 Armandina Garcia
 Betty Lou Vitek
 C. B. Shields
 Casas and Gonzalez Family
 Celia Rivera
 Del Angel Funeral Home
 Delyssa Weaver
 Dora Trevino & Robert Gonzalez
 Dr. Michael Sander
 Elodia Rocha
 Elsa Study Club c/o Andy & Pam Scott
 Estela Campos
 First Baptist Church
 Grace Episcopal Church
 Gragg Hart
 Heather Cox & Benny Lopez
 Janie Ramirez (Valley Land and Title Company)
 Jean Rabenhorst
 Jesus Calderon
 John Knox Village

(Christmas In July)
 Larry Blegen
 Luis Huerta
 Maria Salas
 Melinda Hernandez
 Minerva Rubio
 Pat Klase
 Pike Gymnastics
 Rodriguez Family
 Siesta Village
 Snow to Sun RV Park (Kathy Damalas)
 St. Pius X Catholic Church
 T J Maxx
 Texas Migrant Council
 Viviana Ortega
 Weslaco High CTE ECHS (Early College high school)
 Weslaco Lions Club
 Weslaco, Scholarship Donation
 Yvonne (Social Worker)

Dream Big in 2018
 Thank you, *each* donation is
 so appreciated!
 And remember, individuals
 who make a personal
 donation to Aurora House through
 Memorials, Honorariums and Donations
 will have those amounts matched 100%
 by our generous anonymous donor.
 Aurora House benefits twice as much.

Rachel Cuellar
 Ray Rosiere
 Renate M. Chamberlain
 Robert & Sam Schmitt
 Rotary International
 Weslaco Rotary Club
 Shannon Clugston
 Sharon Newcomer
 Sheila Shidler
 Sue Harder
 The Jones Family c/o Ingelise
 Jones
 Trainor Evans

In-Kind Donations

In Honor of Juanita Carrijo
 Carrijo Family

In Memory of Ona East
 Jean Rabenhorst

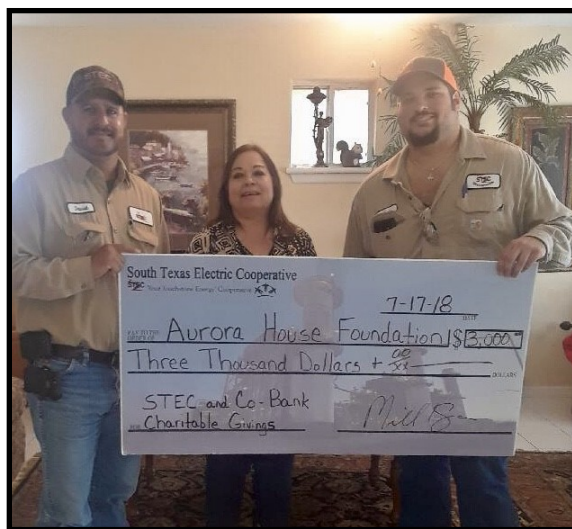
Community Support

Aurora House is a licensed Special Care Facility which provides a residence with a compassionate end of life focus and the patient never receives a bill for this care. This special house offers love and compassion through trained community volunteers and a staff of nursing assistants.

The care is provided in a home-like atmosphere with clean, comfortable, private rooms. AH is available to residents who have been diagnosed as terminal and have a life expectancy of less than three months. In collaboration with Hospice programs throughout the Rio Grande Valley, Aurora House provides shelter and personal care while the Hospice team provides medical care.

Aurora House follows Hospice protocol where the goal is not to cure but to alleviate and lessen the severity and pain of illness and embraces the end-of-life philosophy which targets the four different areas of pain: Emotional, Social, Spiritual and Physical.

We rely on the generous time, talents and monetary support of our community to provide this important mission.



David Perez and Chris Owens from South Texas Electric Cooperative present a \$3,000 check to Diana Gonzalez, Aurora House Administrative Assistant.



South Texas Electric Cooperative employees came to volunteer! From left to right: Octovio Sarrano, STEC; Loretta Gallaga, STEC; Nelly Cantu, Aurora House and Grounds Supervisor; Monica Bautista, STEC



Students from Rico Elementary School in Weslaco are shown here with Executive Director, Judy Pariser. Students collected canned goods for Aurora House. Organized by their teacher, Belinda Saenz, the students and their parents brought by the sacks of food (seen in the background) and proudly showed off their colorful posters.



AURORA HOUSE FOUNDATION

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(956) 973-9705 fax
Email: AuroraHouseFoundation@yahoo.com



www.AuroraHouse.org

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 2018 Board of Directors

Mitty Reyna, President	Yoli Salinas
Mark McCaleb, Vice President	Dr. Rafael Rodriguez
Trainor Evans, Treasurer	Jennifer Rektorik
Melissa Beckwith, Secretary	Erin Soliz
Mindy Lasater	
Dan Martin	Board Advisor: Richard Barr

Executive Director.....Judy Pariser, RN
Administrative Assistant /Volunteer Coordinator.....Diana Gonzalez
Supervisor/Caregivers.....Araceli Cantu
Caregivers: Becky Contreras, Jessica Coy, Alma Garza, Lorina Molina, Brittney Ramos, Mary Ramos, Linda Sanchez.
Supervisor/House and Grounds.....Nelly (Noelia) Cantu
NewsletterLynn Carter

News and Notes

Members of the Rotary Club of Weslaco along with staff members from Knapp Medical Center present a \$12,000 check to Aurora House which was generated during the 2nd Charity Golf Tournament co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Weslaco and Knapp Medical Center.

Pictured here L to R is Michael Swartz, Business Development and Marketing Manager for Knapp Medical Center; Mitty Reyna of the KMC Education Department and Aurora House Board Member; Judy Pariser, RN, Aurora House Executive Director; Hayden Ellis, President of Rotary Club of Weslaco and vice president for commercial operations for Smith-Reagan Insurance Agency; Margie Perez, treasurer of Rotary Club of Weslaco; and Scott Vaughan, out-going president of Rotary Club and president of Burton Companies.



Rene J. Lopez, CEO for Knapp Medical Center, said that the hospital is pleased to work with the Rotary Club on the charity golf tournament “as part of our continuing efforts to make a difference in the community.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Celebration of Thanks Holiday Event.....Nov. 15, 2018
5K 80's Retro Glow Run...Pablo Pena Park, Feb. 23, 2019
Administrative Professionals Luncheon.....Apr. 24, 2019