



Aurora House News

Volume 9 Issue 1

Spring 2015

Of Special Note

Since Inception June 21, 2007

- # of Patients and their Families Served: 502
- Age Range: 17—103
- Avg. Length of Stay: 35 Days
- # of Cities served: 14

September 2014—Feb 2015

- # of Volunteers: 150
- # of Volunteer Groups: 6
- # of Volunteer Hrs: 1773

Since 2010

- 861 Nursing Students have received training in palliative care at Aurora House

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Aurora House Opens New Wing

Aurora House Doubles Capacity

In the fall of 2014 Aurora House received an anonymous donation which included a stipulation that 4 patient rooms be added. During the previous year Aurora House had been forced to turn away nearly 100 patients due to lack of beds and staff to take care of them.

Knowing the challenge was daunting, some friends of Aurora House came together to launch an aggressive two month expansion campaign to jumpstart this important project.

By no means is it the end of funding needs for Aurora House, but the Mid-Valley Community responded admirably to help the

Board furnish the patient rooms; pay off remaining construction costs; and assist with the initial staffing requirements.

Serving on the expansion committee were: Raul Cabaza, chair; Loretta Barbee, Charles Bell, Lynn Carter, Trainor Evans, Rhonda Garza, and Debby Rektorik. Thanks to all the many donors and volunteers who assisted to make this a successful campaign.



Ribbon cutting for new patient wing
January 2015



Small lounge for families and visitors located in the new patient wing which doubles the capacity of Aurora House to a total of 8 patient rooms.

The true worth of a man is to be measured by the objects he pursues
Marcus Aurelius Antonius

Administrative Professionals Luncheon

Breakfast at Tiffany's

Inspiration for the eighth annual Aurora House Administrative Professionals Luncheon comes from the 1961 romantic comedy film "Breakfast at Tiffany's" starring Audrey Hepburn.

This much anticipated Spring fundraiser for the Aurora House Foundation is to be held on April 22 at the Knapp Conference Center from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

A sold out event the last several years, employers who become sponsors will be treating their special Administrative Professionals and staff to a delicious lunch and an elegant atmosphere at Tiffany's. There are just a few tables left.

A limited number of single tickets are also available. Contact Kathy Scheuerman, Executive Director of Aurora House at 956-973-9690.

The event includes a catered luncheon with themed decorations, a Spring Style Show staged by Wells of Weslaco and Lionels; a silent auction and fabulous door prizes.

Chairperson for the event is Sulema Cuellar with assistance from a talented and energetic committee:

Tickets: Yolanda Salinas, Kathy Scheuerman

Publicity and Program: Alicia Aguilar

Sponsorships: Rhonda Garza, Yolanda Salinas

Seating/Greeters: Ginger Walker, Rhonda Garza, Esperanza Garza

Decorations: Billie Vanderveer, Bernie McCaleb, Sonja Ortega, Alicia Aguilar

Style Show: Ginger Walker

Catering: Melanie Riley

Waiters/Emcee: Ryan Vaughan

Silent Auction: Melissa Beckwith

Door Prizes: Esperanza Garza

The fundraiser is especially important this year because Aurora House recently added 4 additional patient rooms which allows Aurora House to now serve eight patients and families at any given time. With that blessing comes double the need for staffing, and a myriad of additional supplies, utilities and food, etc.

Aurora House does not charge a fee for its patients and it receives no government funding. Aurora

House is a Licensed Special Care Facility that provides compassionate end of life care which is provided in a home like atmosphere with clean and comfortable private rooms.

Aurora House provides both the patient and family with companionship, home maker services, and compassionate support.

As a private non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, Aurora House does not receive any form of government funds and relies fully on community donations to provide care for the patients.

Aurora House also relies on the gifts of time and talents from the many volunteers who reach out to serve the patients. They are a much valued asset.



Volunteers help maintain the physical property of AH inside and out. They help prepare meals; assist with laundry and cleaning; visit with patients and are available to assist family members.

Contact Diana Gonzalez, Volunteer Coordinator at 973-9690 to see how you may become an important part of Aurora House.

Memorials September 2014—February 2015

***In Memory of
Maria Inez Contreras***

Kurt Fisher
S. & Carmen Gutierrez
Rosie Hernandez
Jerry Eileen Lichtenberg
Amy Myers
Jose & Sandra Quintanilla
Ainslie Tatum
Robert & Martha Veach

***In Memory of
Josefina Covacevich***
ACC

***In Memory of
Leroy Curtis***
Ray & Lowery Dyer

***In Memory of
Joe Barbee***
Loretta Barbee
Barry & Linda Dickerson
Louella Russell
Weslaco AAttic IV

***In Memory of
Ruby Bonds***
Danny & Karen Arnold

***In Memory of
Kaye Brown***
Randall & Patricia McClelland
Barbara Chenck
Stacy Singh

***In Memory of
Dr. Pie Wen Chang***
Dr. & Mrs. Allen Dunkel

***In Memory of
Joe De los Santos***
Armando Garcia

***In Memory of
Casey DeMink***
Dr. & Mrs. Allen Dunkel

***In Memory of
Arthur C. Doyle***
Maryanne Doyle

***In Memory of
Rena Faga***
Sondra & James Plowman

***In Memory of
Maria Ebelia Figoroa***
Sulema F. Gaughran

***In Memory of
Fran Galloway***
Mr. & Mrs. A. Hinojosa, Jr.

***In Memory of
Anita Galvan***
Viola C. Lozano

***In Memory of
Lucila S. Garza***
Red Origen, L.L.C.

***In Memory of
Noe G. Garza***
Tom & Lynn Carter
Barry & Linda Dickerson
Esperanza Garza
Maria O. Garza
Sandra & Troy Nelson
Margarito Perez Jr.

Murry Schekman
Benton & Melissa Beckwith

***In Memory of
San Juana Garza***
Federico & Maxine Cavazos
David & Thelma Stang

***In Memory of
Maria De La Luz Guerra***
Margo Elementary School

***In Memory of
Derrick Heilman***
Sally Roach

***In Memory of
Maria Hinojosa***
Mike Hinojosa

***In Memory of
Glenn Housley***
Loretta Barbee
Camille J. Jones

***In Memory of
Harold Jackson***
Jo Ann J. Streiff

***In Memory of
Dionicio Jaramillo***
Jaramillo's Family

***In Memory of
Leona Key***
J.D. Key

***In Memory of
John Leggett***
Mark & Leyda Leggett
Randall & Brittney Leggett
Steven Leggett
Patti & Joe Loya
Sofia & Dan Moss
Chap Ross & Felix
Fanny & Buddy Ross
Sally Ross

***In Memory of
Florine Lime***
Jeanne L. Wiegand

***In Memory of
Raquel Lozano***
Marisol Castro

***In Memory of
Rafael Martinez***
Olivia Martinez

***In Memory of
Teresa Mata***
Maura Mata

***In Memory of
Mary Mullineaux***
Roy & Debra McGregor
Sangria Sunset L. L. C.

***In Memory of
Yreva E. Nelson***
Linda & Tony Fasano

***In Memory of
David Overfield***
Marilyn Overfield

***In Memory of
John Payne***
Benton & Melissa Beckwith

***In Memory of
Aurora Perez***
Melinda Perez



Memorials, Honorariums & Donations September 2014—February 2015

*In Memory of
Lorene Raleigh*
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Raleigh

*In Memory of
Kack L. Roehr*
Mary E. Roehr

*In Memory of
Enrique Rodriguez*
Erica Serna

*In Memory of
Howard Roman*
Della Roman

*In Memory of
Lucia Romero*
Mary R. Dominguez

*In Memory of
Loretta Rose*
Constance Callahan

*In Memory of
Fernando Saenz*
Agustina & Ruben Saenz
Laura Saenz

*In Memory of
Anastacio Sandoval*
Esperanza Garza
Maria Sandoval

*In Memory of
Bonnie Schwarz*
Berry & Linda Dickerson
Miriam T. Namken
Mr. & Mrs. Harold John Zurlo

*In Memory of
Richard Sondergard*
Loretta Dewitte
Chuck & Marita Dome
Margaret A. Miller
Ann Sondergard
George & Charlene Sneddon

*In Memory of
Don Stayton*
James & Sondra Plowman

*In Memory of
Harlan Stubbe*
Shirley Giese

*In Memory of
Bill Summers*
Sally Roach



*In Memory of
Kally Vick Thompson*
Walter & Sherry C.
Thompson

*In Memory of
Jose Vela Jr.*
Ramon Vela

*In Memory of
Pina Vivattene*
Douglas Kinslow

*In Memory of
James R. White*
Jack D. White

*In Memory of
Diane Wyatt*
Charles & Julia Bertholf
Fanny & Buddy Ross

*In Memory of
Lora Lee Yocum*
James Hill
Llano Grande Lake Park Church

*In Memory of
Jose Zamarron*
Bobby & Robin Farrin

HONORARIUMS

*In Honor of
Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen*
James & Linda Hunt
Margaret & Lee Hyde
Rev. & Mrs. Richard T. Speer
Linda & James Williams

*In Honor of
Ralph Rydl*
Mr. & Mrs. Orin J. Anderson

4 BED EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Daniel & Alicia Aguilar
Patricia A. Alexander
Allstate Hospice
Cesar & Celia Almaguer
American Legion Post 37
Danny & Karen Arnold
Gladys Arjona
Gertrudis Estrada
Loretta Barbee
Art & Nan Beckwith
Benton & Melissa Beckwith
Carolyn & Charles Bell
Julia & Charles Bertholf
Rachel C. L. Briones
Mr. & Mrs. Raul Cabaza III
Campos Insurance Agency
Cruz Cantu
Card Investment Group
Tom and Lynn Carter
Alberto Cepeda M.D. P.A.
Arlene Crawford
Gloria Crenshaw
A. C. Cuellar Jr.
Davis Equity Realty
Carolyn S. Davis
Dick Office Supply, Inc.
Patti & Larry Dittburner
Maryanne Doyle
Elizabeth C. Eckles
John T. and Karen Evans
Robert & Koyce Flaks
Gertrudis Estrada
Mary E. Free
Robert L. Galligan
Garcia & Treviño Funeral Home
Esperanza Garza
Shirley Y. Giese
Gerald D. Gieseke
Shirley Godsil
Gumecinda T. Gomez
Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Gonzalez
Melinda Gonzalez
Johnny & Linda Guin
Virginia Hawkins
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Hollon Oil Company
Kenneth & Janelle Hood
International Bank
Jones, Galligan, Key & Lozano, L.L.P.

Donations, Pavers and Grants

September 2014 - February 2015

Expansion Campaign (cont.)

Terry D. Key
 Michael and Pat Klase
 Robert & Mary Losoya
 Jean Lauder
 McAfee Insurance Agency
 Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen
 Fred & Bernardine McCaleb
 David & Hannah McCann
 Merida Hospice
 Joseph Meyers
 Montalvo Insurance Agency
 Miriam T. Namken
 Evelyn J. Nelson
 Gordon & Verda Nelson
 Lola Nelson
 Betty D. Paradise
 Bud & Marlee Payne
 Jewett Ann Powers
 Priscilla L. Rawson
 Rektorik Family
 R.G.V. ACO
 R.G.V. Adult & Internal Medicine
 Rio Grande Valley Educational
 Fanny & Buddy Ross
 Ronnie & Ann Round
 Augusta & Ruben Saenz
 Benjamin A. Salinas
 David L. Slater
 Jo Summers
 Melvin & Beverly Terveen
 Texas Oncology Foundation
 Texas Regional Bank
 Walter & Sherry Thompson
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Todd
 Frances Tovar
 Betty Lou Vitek and Crafty Crew
 Robert & Pamela Walton
 Weslaco Affordable Attic
 Linda M. Williams
 Carmen B. Whitaker
 Cheyanne Conner Zink

GRANTS to Aurora House

**Madison Charitable Foundation
Inc.—\$25,000**

**AIM Media Texas Charities of the
RGV—\$2,700**

The TJX Foundation, Inc.—\$5,000

PAVERS

*In Memory of
Ruby Lee (Jimmie) Wells
Patti & Larry Dittburner*

*In Memory of
Duane Crawford
Arlene Crawford*

*In Memory of
Elvira Montalvo
Patti & Larry Dittburner
Fred & Bernardine McCaleb Jr.*

*In Honor of
E. Richard Vaughan
Aurora House Foundation Board*

DONATIONS

ADL Services Inc.
 Airport Elementary School 5th Grade
 American Legion
 Beta Sigma Phi
 Andrew Blatter
 Lydia Canales
 Catholic Daughters of the Americas
 Sandra Charlton
 Dorothy Christman
 Cima Hospice
 Country Sunshine R.V. Park
 DaVita
 Josefina De los Santos
 Magda E. Escandon
 First Baptist Church (Gladden Sunday
 School Class) Weslaco
 First United Methodist Church Weslaco

Robert E. Gallipeau
 Armando Garcia
 Gerald D. Gieseke
 Give'em Heaven
 Alan & Dinah Gonzalez
 Mary H. Gonzalez
 Hochheim Branch 39
 Carol J. Hulke
 John & Elizabeth Leonardo
 Literary Review Club
 Los Pentecostales de Weslaco
 Love of Christ Lutheran Church
 Jennifer Miner
 Andres Noriega
 Paradise South R.V. Church
 Walt Piper
 Jose & Sandra Quintanilla
 Sandra Reyna
 Rio Grande Valley Educational
 Secretaries Association
 Esteban Rocha
 R. Jeannette Roe
 Evelyn Salinas
 Shady Acres Residents Association
 Southern Comfort R.V. Park
 STC, HVAC Students
 Thrivent Financial of the Rio
 Grande Valley
 Trendsetters Realty
 Lee Roy Veland
 Vireo Consulting Group
 Charles & Christine Warren
 Weslaco Elks Auxiliary
 Weslaco Lions Club
 Weslaco Women's Study Club
 Juanita B. Wood

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Alicia Aguilar
 Noemi Alvarez
 Mary Arredondo
 Bev Barber
 Boy Scouts Troop 100
 Maria Elena Casarez
 Chick-Fil-A Weslaco
 Bill & Lee Clements
 Becky Contreras
 Corner Stone Regional Hospital

Donations

September 2014 - February 2015

J.J. Curtis
Country Sunshine R.V. Park
Kathy Damalas
Armando Diaz
Mary & Gilbert Dominguez
Elsa Civic & Study Club
First Presbyterian Church
Cindy Flores
Garcia Treviño Funeral Home
Adela Garza Cantu
Eva Garza
Janie Garza
Rachel Garza
Tita Garza
Idalia Gonzalez
Patricia Guerrero
Nino Gutierrez
Harlingen Lions Club
H.E.B. Weslaco
Linda Hernandez
Miriam Hernandez
Idea Public School Weslaco
Hemeteria Leal
Mireya Leyva
Life Check Pharmacy
Love in Christ Lutheran Church
Cosme Lucio
Consuelo Martinez
Lupita Martinez
Maura Mata
McCaleb Funeral Home
Memorial Elementary School
Consuelo & Luis Morales
Ramiro Nava
Ramon Nava
Lorena Navarro
Mike Navarro
Hope Noble
Alma Palomares
Dare Powers
Pine to Palms R.V. Park
Ranchero Village Circle Club
Amy Rangel
Sandra Reyna
Connie Rodriguez
David Rodriguez
Pablo Rodriguez
Jessica Roman
Oralia Romero
Celia Saldaña
Feliciana Salinas
Rebecca & Richard Salinas
Kin Scidel
Yvonne Sepulveda
Siesta Village

Shannon Simpson
Snow to Sun R.V. Park
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
St. Pius X Church
Swift
Trails End Park
Eduardo Turrubiardez
VECO
V.E.S.A.
Lupita Ybarra
Maria Ybarra
Weslaco Elks
Weslaco Oaks

SPECIAL THANKS

Aurora House Foundation would like to acknowledge a special \$7,000 donation from **Knapp Medical Center Employees**.

Many thanks to **MPC Studios** and David Watkins for our new Website Design. New features will be added in the future.

Memorials and contributions on the website using PayPal and credit cards are easy, secure and convenient. You may also view Newsletters on-line.

Check out the website at:
www.AuroraHouse.org

We'd also like to acknowledge the generous donation made by the **Weslaco Literary Review Club** who recently held a *Spring Fling* in the home of Patti and Larry Dittburner. Proceeds benefited Aurora House.

GRANTS to Aurora House Education Center for Palliative Care

**Knapp Community Care
Foundation**

Meadows Foundation

WALK-A-THON SPONSORS

Diamond Sponsors

RGV ACO Health Providers,
LLC
Knapp Medical Center
North Bridge Elementary,
Weslaco

Platinum Sponsors

Margo Elementary School

Gold Sponsors

Ricardo Abreu M.D.
Hollon Oil Company
International Bank of Commerce
Siesta Village

Silver Sponsors

Cima Hospice
RNCP of Weslaco
Raul A. Gonzalez Elementary
Arturo's Bar & Grill
Gracia Hospice Care
Walker Realty
P.A.C.E. Health Care
Coach's Pharmacy



Check out all the fun pictures and our Walk-A-Thon Sponsor's Team pictures on the Aurora House Foundation Facebook page.

Walk-A-Thon

Aurora House held its 6th Annual Walk-A-Thon on February 7, 2015 at the Harlon Block Park in Weslaco.

It was a great success, raising over \$11,500. Thanks to all the sponsors and businesses who participated. Some of the most fun happened during several warm-up dance routines led by Zumba Instructor, Homer Longoria.

The DJ, Humberto Chavez, provided inspiring music which contributed to the participants' enthusiasm. The walk covered a distance of 3 laps (approximately 5 k) inside the park. White T-shirts with a bright neon yellow Aurora House logo were given to each walker. Gracia Hospice Care



provided water for all the participants. The walk concluded with a Bucket Auction. Thank you to all the individuals and businesses for the many items donated for the auction.



Zumba Warm Ups



Gracia Hospice Care



Sulema Cuellar, Kathy Scheuerman, Rhonda Garza, Bernie McCaleb



Diamond Sponsors: RGV ACO Health Providers, LLC



AURORA HOUSE FOUNDATION

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 (956) 973-9705 fax
 AuroraHouseFoundation@yahoo.com
 www.AuroraHouse.org



Call or email your email address to us and we will email the newsletter to you.

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

2014 Board of Directors

Alicia Aguilar, Chair
 Cesar Ortega, Vice-Chair
 Trainor Evans, Treasurer
 Melissa Beckwith, Secretary
 Sulema Cuellar

Jose Soto
 Esperanza Garza
 Ginger Walker
 Melanie Riley
 Rhonda Garza
 Yolanda Salinas

Honorary Board Members

Rafael Rodriguez, MD - Founder
 Delia Weaver
 E. Richard Vaughan, Jr.

Loretta Barbee
 Lynn Carter

Executive Director.....Kathy Scheuerman
Clerical AssistantEvangelina Gonzalez
Volunteer Coordinator.....Diana Gonzalez
Caregivers:Araceli Cantu, Alma Garza, Jessica Coy, Virginia Gonzalez, Julia Rocha, Juanita Espinoza, Marina Leal, Lisette Laurel, Emilia Villarreal, Linda Garza, Martina Juarez, Savannah Lara, Becky Contreras
Newsletter.....Lynn Carter

Aurora House Center for Palliative Care

The newly constructed **Aurora House Center for Palliative Care (AHC-PC)** has become a reality thanks to a generous benefactor and grants from the Meadows Foundation and the Knapp Community Care Foundation.



These two grants totaling \$210,000 will assist the newly created Center Committee to furnish the center and staff this important extension of the valuable work of the Aurora House Foundation. Rosie Lopez, RN has been hired as the Center's Coordinator.

Since 2010, over 850 fourth level students from South Texas College have received training at Aurora House about Palliative Care.

Having a dedicated education center allows AHC-PC to respond to requests from other Valley schools for

rotation experiences and continuing education curriculum needs for medical professionals. It will also be a resource for the general community.

Funding for the education center is separate from the on-going needs to staff and operate Aurora House.

