



# Aurora House News

Volume 9 Issue 2

Fall 2015

## Of Special Note

Since Inception June 21, 2007

- # of Patients and their Families Served: 576
- Age Range: 6 weeks—103
- Avg. Length of Stay: 35 Days
- # of Cities served: 14

September 2014—Feb 2015

- # of Volunteers: 85
- # of Volunteer Groups: 2
- # of Volunteer Hrs: 592

Since 2010

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

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## Tree of Lights

### Memorial Service

On December 3, 2015 at 5 p.m. a Memorial Service will be held to remember those patients who were served this past year at Aurora House. This annual ceremony is meant to be a time for reflection and an opportunity for families to celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

A special tree honoring these patients and all those patients and family members served

since 2007 will be lit and glow in remembrance throughout the month of December.

During this upcoming holiday season of thanks and giving, please help support our mission *to provide care for persons in the last phase of incurable disease, so they can approach death with dignity, comfort and peace.*

Aurora House's needs continue to be great. Memorials and contributions on the website using PayPal and credit cards are easy, secure and convenient.



## Aurora House Center for Palliative Care

Another facet of the Aurora House Foundation is the training of nursing students and hospice care staff in palliative care. In August the Aurora House Center for Palliative Care (AHC-PC) located next to Aurora House held its first course in **Pain and Symptom Management for Hospice Patients**. The course was offered to health care and hospice providers throughout the Valley.

Providing the much requested educational course were Dr. Rafael A. Rodriguez, MD, FACP Internal Medicine/Palliative Care; Daniel Farray, MD Hematology/Oncology and Chelan M. Williams, RN, MSN, FNP Palliative Care Nurse Specialist.

The course focused mainly on the pain

management of hospice patients and included topics on Pathophysiology and Principles and Pain Management at End of Life; Pain Medication; Nurses Role in Palliative Care; Belief and How Expectation Affects Pain Perception and Psychological pain.

The Center's mission is to prepare the current and future workforce with a better understanding of the unique cultural aspects of the Rio Grande Valley and the emotional, social, spiritual, and physical needs of patients at the end of life.

Palliative nursing plays a key role in the care provided patients across a wide variety of health care settings.

# Thank you to our 2015 Luncheon Sponsors

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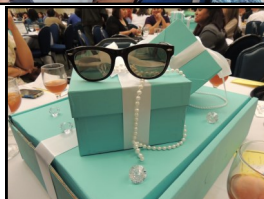
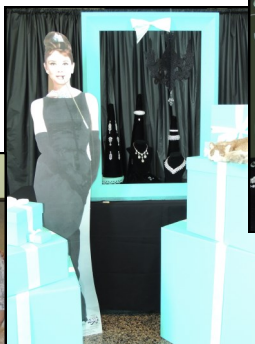
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Here are some great pictures from the Annual Luncheon. This annual event is always a wonderful success. However, with the blessing of 4 additional patient rooms comes double the need for staffing and a myriad of additional supplies, utilities, food and volunteers.. Call Diana Gonzalez, AH Volunteer Coordinator if you'd like to help.



## Joyful Christmas Soiree

The Aurora House Foundation Board will hold its first ever Christmas Gala—"A Joyful Christmas Soiree" on December 5, 2015 in the home of Annabel Cardona.

Tickets for this elegant cocktail party, which will kick off your Holiday Season in style, are \$100 per person.

If you are interested in attending please call Aurora House and ask to speak to Kathy Scheuerman or Diana Gonzalez at 956-973-9690.



# Memorials March 2015—September 2015

*In Memory of*  
**Pat Anderson**  
Alfred & Velma Dirks

*In Memory of*  
**Oliver Bentson**  
Harold & Ann Buland

*In Memory of*  
**Margaret (Peg) Bloom**  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Benson  
Joyce B. LaRosa  
Mark & Robin C. Nicholson  
Nicom Coating Corp.  
Jan Phillip

*In Memory of*  
**Rafael Cabazas**  
Raymond & Lynda Todd

*In Memory of*  
**Carlos Cavazos**  
Raymond & Lynda Todd

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

*In Memory of*  
**Linda Eoff Bobo**  
Weslaco High Class of 1974  
Harold & Deborah Zurlo

*In Memory of*  
**Rene Escamilla**  
Elva Escamilla

*In Memory of*  
**Ed Fisher**  
Alfred & Velma Dirks

*In Memory of*  
**Ann Fletcher**  
Doug & Mary Ann Brundige  
Peter Fletcher  
Betty Paradise

*In Memory of*  
**Felipe Garcia**  
Lilia Ramirez  
Faustino Villanueva

*In Memory of*  
**Jesse E. Hall**  
Jane Grace Hall

*In Memory of*  
**John Hardy**  
Anthony Hardy

*In Memory of*  
**Lynn Marie (Cantwell) Hulme**  
Carol Collie Harwood  
Mid River Christian Church

*In Memory of*  
**Donald Hunter**  
Lynette Hunter

*In Memory of*  
**Margaret Hyde**  
Loretta Barbee  
Doug & Mary Ann  
Brundige  
John & Patty Ellis  
Diane Shea  
John Knox Village

*In Memory of*  
**Francisco Jalomo**  
Maria Jalomo Garcia

*In Memory of*  
**Ruth Kapraun**  
Thomas & Melva Birtles  
Kathy Damalas  
Carol Hulke  
Mae G. Keath  
Charles & Nina Layman  
Nina Martinus

*In Memory of*  
**Earnest Long**  
Guy & June Long

*In Memory of*  
**John Mansfield**  
Edith I. Sword

*In Memory of*  
**Asencion Martinez**  
Ann Martinez

*In Memory of*  
**Charles McCaleb**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Williams

*In Memory of*  
**Bobby McDaniel**  
Ray & Lowery Dyer

*In Memory of*  
**Fred McCaleb**  
Loretta Barbee  
Arthur & Nan Beckwith  
Joan Benys  
Mary Ann Brundige  
Tom & Lynn Carter  
Kathryn S. Cain  
Ray & Lowery Dyer  
Mary E. Free  
Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.  
Helen S. Lavin  
Bobby Lackey

Mr. & Mrs. Don McDaniel  
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Jo Summers  
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Walter & Sherry Thompson  
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Bob & Martha Veach  
Weslaco Elks Auxiliary  
Weslaco Crime Stoppers, Inc.  
Craig & Marguerite J. Wiegand  
Mr. & Mrs. James Williams  
Deborah & Harold Zurlo

*In Memory of*  
**Evangalina Mireles**  
Maribel & Gustavo Rodriguez

*In Memory of*  
**Elvira Montalvo**  
Atanacio & Gloria Hinojosa

*In Memory of*  
**Richard Murdan**  
Bennie & Charles Thompson

*In Memory of*  
**Gertrude Nehr**  
Roberto Sepulveda M.D.  
Tom & Sharon Norwood  
Ray & Nancy Rosiere



# Memorials, Honorariums & Donations

## September 2014—February 2015

*In Memory of*  
**Donald Osborne**  
 Cheryl Havekost  
 Mary J. Huges  
 Marianne Osborne  
 Jennifer A. Vangoelen

*In Memory of*  
**Veronica Perez**  
 Josefa De Los Santos

*In Memory of*  
**Lionel Rangel M.D.**  
 Marilyn Rangel

*In Memory of*  
**Lucio Romero**  
 Gertrudis Estrada

*In Memory of*  
**Fidela Ruiz**  
 Robert Ruiz

*In Memory of*  
**Anastacio Sandoval**  
 Monico Bocanegra

*In Memory of*  
**Sylvia Sawyer**  
 Helen S. Lavin

*In Memory of*  
**Steven Saxton**  
 Francis M. Saxton

*In Memory of*  
**Booter Smith**  
 Robert & Marla Smith

*In Memory of*  
**Gayle Ray Smith**  
 Mary A. Riemann  
 Bob & Sue Smith  
 Judy Smith

*In Memory of*  
**Carlos Solis**  
 Solis Family

*In Memory of*  
**Richard Sondergard**  
 Jeffery & Diana Dome

*In Memory of*  
**Dorothy Tabola**  
 Anna Beth Guest

*In Memory of*  
**Georgina V. Tamez**  
 Ester B. Reyna

*In Memory of*  
**Gumersinda Turrubiar-**  
**tez**  
 Eduardo Turrubiartez  
 Hilaria Turrubiartez

*In Memory of*  
**Dr. Russell Warden**  
 Ray & Lowery Dyer

*In Memory of*  
**Dennis Wells**  
 Loretta Barbee  
 Arthur & Nan Beckwith  
 Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen



## HONORARIUMS

**\*Jose Luna**  
 Felicia Luna  
 Amparo Reyna

**\*Alvaro Pulido**  
 Paulina Ventura

**\*Maria Peña**  
 Maria G. Peña

**\*Eva Rios**  
 Rebecca Robles

**\*Tom & Sheila Shidler**  
 Donald & Sharon Easton

## PAVERS

**\*Margaret Hyde**  
 Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen

**\*Felipe Garcia**  
 Faustino Villanueva

**\*Bonnie Schwarz**  
 Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen

**\*Fred McCaleb (Bench)**  
 Patty & Larry Dittburner  
 Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alan Scheuerman  
 Carol S. Sperry

**\*Jimmie Schwarz Wells**  
 Rev. Robert & Margaret McAllen

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 Armando Garcia  
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 Marilyn Kessler  
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 Diana Murner  
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 Dr. Muzafar Arhtar Rana  
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 Norma Ann Round  
 Jim & Janet Rudd  
 Sheila Shidler  
 Siesta Village (Kitchen Help)  
 Siesta Village Worship Hour  
 Southern Comfort R.V. Park  
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 Harlene Treviño  
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# South Texas Students

Since 2010 over 900 nursing students from South Texas College have received training Aurora House. Students now listen to lectures in the newly constructed Aurora House Center for Palliative Care and then receive hands on training caring for the patients at Aurora House. They see first hand the needs of patients and the impact it has on their families. These future nurses, no matter what field of nursing they choose, benefit from the skills they learn at Aurora House and gain valuable insight about how to care for all of their patients.

Dr. Rafael Rodriguez, Founder of Aurora House, is the medical director of AHC-PC and is Board Certified in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine. He is a strong advocate for education for all individuals who are involved in hospice care. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge about the growing field of palliative care.

His lectures, delivered with humor and compassion, include information on pain management; psychosocial pain, spiritual pain, social pain and physical pain. It is expected that the students will leave their experience at Aurora House with a better understanding of end of life care and have the knowledge necessary to discuss this important topic with patients and their loved ones. Nurses play a critical role in making sure patients and their families are treated with dignity and respect.



**AURORA HOUSE FOUNDATION**

2646 W. 18th St.  
 P.O. Box 976  
 Weslaco, TX 78599

(956) 973-9690  
 (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  
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Melissa Beckwith, Secretary	Melanie Riley
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Delia Weaver	Lynn Carter
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**Executive Director** .....Kathy Scheuerman  
**Clerical Assistant** .....Evangelina Gonzalez  
**Volunteer Coordinator** .....Diana Gonzalez  
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**Newsletter** .....Lynn Carter

# News and Notes

## Literary Review Spring Fling

Held in the home of Larry and Patti Dittburner, the Literary Review Club of Weslaco hosted a lovely evening event benefitting Aurora House. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a success. Those who attended had a wonderful time.

