



Aurora House News

Volume 4 Issue 1

Spring 2010

Of Special Note

Since Inception June 21, 2007

- # of Patients and their Families Served: 161
- Age Range: 17—97
- Avg. Length of Stay: 27 Days
- # of Cities served: 11

Nov 2009—Feb 2010

- # of Volunteers: 70
- # of Volunteer Groups: 2
- # of Volunteer Hours: 577

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The Aurora House To Hold Annual Event Honoring Administrative Professionals

Employers! Worry no more about how to honor your office staff on Administrative Assistants' Day. The Aurora House Foundation has solved your problem!

The group will sponsor a wonderful Luncheon and Style show on Wednesday, April 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Knapp Conference Center in Weslaco.

The event will feature a seated luncheon, style show, silent auction, and door prizes. All money raised will benefit patient care at the Aurora House. Members of the public are also most welcome to

attend.

This year's luncheon is the third annual event for Weslaco's Aurora House, a non-profit, 501(c) 3 facility licensed to care for the terminally ill. Designed to provide compassionate, end-of-life care, Aurora House offers patient care in a home-like atmosphere through trained community volunteers and a staff of nursing assistants.

Event Chairs are: Rhonda Garza and Patti Dittburner. Other committees include; Lana Marie Paris, sponsorships; Norma Montalvo, food; Alicia Aguilar and



Melanie Riley, publicity; Loretta Barbee, decorating, and Margaret McAllen, tickets.

Table sponsorships are \$1,000 (10 tickets), with a half-table sponsorship at \$500 (5 tickets). There is also a \$250 sponsorship available. Individual tickets are available at \$50 per person. Anyone interested should call the Aurora House at (956)973-9690.

Texas Grace Gets Into the Act

Texas Grace, A group of musical Winter Texans (4 from Canada and 1 from Nashville) learned that a friend of theirs was admitted to Aurora House.



Thinking that their blend of country music and gos-

pel music might be heartwarming to their friend,

the group readily agreed to sing at AH. The group's leader, Merle Duguid, said the group thoroughly enjoyed themselves and ended up delighting both patients and caregivers alike.

Wedding Bells Ring

Another very special wedding was celebrated on December 26, 2009 at Aurora House.

One of our residents, Mr. Armando Gonzales, gave his daughter, Rosemary, in marriage to Mr. Celedono Bruno.

Several family members and friends were also in attendance.

Mr. Gonzales was very ill and his loved ones feared that his time was short. The thought was heartbreaking.

However, the morning of December 26th, a miracle seemed to occur. Mr. Gonzales got out of bed and

requested assistance to get dressed and prepare for his daughter's wedding.



Within a few hours, the family and friends joyfully witnessed the ceremony performed by Judge Gilbert Saenz.

Sadly, two days later the Lord called Mr. Gonzales home but he left the family and loved ones some very special and comforting precious memories.

Submitted by Clara Riley

Christmas Was Festive At Aurora House

One of the highlights of our Christmas season was a party especially planned for our caregivers' children.

The beautiful festive decorations, arranged by the employees, inspired our patients and their family members. Several visitors asked if we had a professional interior decorator.

Ten of our caregivers' children at-

tended and all enjoyed the treats, presents, and the fun time together.

Each child of every caregiver received a Christmas present chosen just for them.

We are grateful to the energy

and generosity of Rhonda Garza, daughter of our director Kathy Scheuerman, for organizing this very special event.

"They wanted to know if we had a professional interior decorator"

Memorials

Rufino Barron
Ofelia Barron

Eugene W. Brown
S. Russell
Joella & Rudolf
Schultz



Mary Juanita Butler
Mark & Marilyn Conner
Edith S. Drawe
Col. Edgar & Sue Gill
Robert & Shirley J. Jones
Stephen & Janice Knaul
Nancy LaDuke
Sandy Pangallo
Dewey & Patricia White

William Cain
Jodie Majors

Nola Christensen
Dorothy G. Christensen
Ewald Christensen
Nancy Christensen
Timothy & Karen Christensen
McAllen Fine Arts Department

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Monetary Donors

November 2009—February 2010

ADL Services, Inc.
 Angela & Justin Alexander
 Art & Nan Beckwith
 Mary Lou Benson
 Marian A. Bozung
 Doug & Mary Ann Brundige
 Harold Butterfield
 Raul Cabaza Jr.
 Daniel & Constance Callahan
 Richard & Shirley Capps
 Duane & Arlene Crawford
 Bert & Sandra Davis
 Davis Real Estate
 Marlene Davis
 Delta Literary Club
 Barry & Linda Dickerson
 Edith S. Drawe
 Ray Dyer
 Robert Eilers
 Frederick & Carolyn Engle
 Epsilon Sigma Alpha
 Juan & Maria Espinal
 Gertrudis Estrada
 Wiley Finney Jr.
 Robert & Joyce Flaks
 Louis P. Foster
 Gerald & Rita Frankl
 Armando Garcia
 Victor Garza
 Jayne & Phil Giery
 Gerald D. Gieseke
 Sable Lois Gilcrease
 Col. Edgar A. Gill Jr.
 Lucille Gilliam
 Lynn & Thomas Gilmore
 Gumecinda Gomez
 Roy Gould
 Verna Green
 Glen & Eunice Griffin
 H. V. Griffith
 Scott Gleelan
 Kristy A. Gutierrez
 Paul & Patricia Hughes
 Howard & Joan Higley
 David Hill
 Jim & Judy Hill
 A. Hinojosa Jr.
 Lee & Margaret Hyde
 Jones, Galligan, Key and Lozano
 Donald M. Johnson
 Ingelise & Byron Jones Jr.
 Robert & Shirley Jones

Elsiebel Kasch-Noe
 Jason & April Kelling
 Patricia Lee Kennedy
 Barbara B. Kendall
 J. D. Key
 Dr. William G. Kitchell
 Stephen & Janice Knaul
 S. G. Krishnan M. D.
 Helen S. Lavin
 Joe & Nancy LaDuke
 Robert & Marilyn Langum
 Love of Christ Lutheran Church
 Paulina D. Lovell
 Literary Review Club
 George & Carol Lobb
 Patricia A. Long
 Gloria & Douglas Lund
 Jodie Majors
 Jesus & Lydia Martinez
 McAfee Insurance Agency
 McAllen Fine Arts Staff
 Robert & Margaret McAllen
 Bernardine McCaleb
 Don & Rebecca McDaniel
 Marina Melendez
 Hollie Miller
 J. P. & Beverly Moody
 Ramon Montalvo III
 Thomas Newcomer
 Sandi Pangallo
 Margaret Perez
 Viola Peterson
 Liselotte Pinkerton
 Premium Best Transport Inc.
 Dennis Provaznik
 Ranchero Village Knitters
 Carlos Reyes Juarez
 Jose Luis Reyes
 Gina Rodriguez
 Esteban Rocha
 Fanny & Buddy Ross
 Jim & Janet Rudd
 Louella Russell
 Susan Russell
 Nita Sauerbrei
 Murray & Lori Schlesinger
 Lisa M. Schmidt
 William Schneider
 Dean & Debra Schultz
 Joella & Rudolf Schultz
 M.A. Smith
 Southern Comfort Activities Group

Marilyn R. Stuart
 Butch & Linda Taormina
 The Family Church of McAllen
 The Muñoz Family
 Walter & Sherry Thompson
 Thornapple Valley Church
 David & Alma Tonsager
 Mildred Twenhafel
 Carmen J. Vanderberg
 Charles W. & Carol Vaughan
 Richard & Freddy Vaughan
 Victoria Palms Single Group
 Village Circle Club
 Lydia G. Villarreal
 Gunter & Julianne Vogel
 Robert O. Waters
 Tom & Julie Weigel
 Craig & Marguerite Weigand
 Bernard A. Weinstein M. D.
 Weslaco Elks Auxiliary
 Weslaco Fine Arts Club
 Weslaco First United Methodist
 Church
 Weslaco Siesta Village
 Dewey & Patricia White
 Eloise M. White
 James Williams
 Opal F. Wilson
 Amadita Zamora

Thank you so much for the wonderful care you took of our wife and mother, Nola Christensen.

Special thanks to each caregiver: Therese, Juan, Celina, Araceli, and Maria. Your compassion and skill was very evident as you helped and cared for Nola.

Thank you, too, for your kindness to us, the many meals, the caring, and the explanations of what to expect.

Sincerely,

Ewald Christensen and Family

In Kind Donors November 2009—February 2010

Elvia Alvarez
Jeanette Armstrong
Loretta & Joe Barbee
Rosa Cantu
Copy-rite Printing
Clemencia Cardoza
Veronica Castro
Leticia Covacevich
Wilhelmine Crawford
Elizabeth & Steven Davila
Randy Demyd
Donna Catholic Daughters of America
Rick Faulhaber Jr.
First Christian Church of Weslaco
First Lutheran Church of Edinburg
First Lutheran Church of Weslaco
First Methodist Church of Edcouch
French's Service & Repair
Sonia Galvan
David & Marcie Gamez
Armando Garcia
Edna Garcia
Maria Garcia
Fred Garza
Lynn Gilmore
Oralia Gonzalez
Darlene Griffin
Petra Guerrero
Dorothy & Barbara Heater
Vanessa Hernandez
Margaret Hyde
Marjorie Johnson
Gabrle Juarez
Teri Kilby
Mike & Stacey Krang
Inge Kuck
L. & G. Concrete
Yolanda Leal
Dick & Dotty Leig
Love of Christ Church of Donna
Magic Valley Elec. Coop.
St. Mathew Deanary ACTS
Mid Valley Christian School
Mid Valley Office Supp.
Maricela Morales
Sandra Olivares
Anna Ortiz
Kathy Payne
Virginia Perez
Pentecostals of Weslaco
Yolanda Pilon

Sgt. John Puente
Jaime Rodriguez
Minerva Rodriguez
Olivia Rodriguez
Belia Rosas
Domingo Salazar
Maria C. Salazar
Ambrosia Salud
Bill Schneider
Norman & Marjorie Straumann
Ken Sutter
U.P.S. Store
Irma Vallejo
Lidia Villarreal
Weslaco Lions Club
Weslaco STC Biology Class
Opal Wilson

Super Bowl Contributions January 2010

Arturo's Bar & Grill, LLC
Noble & Sharon Allen
Michael & Stephanie Aranda
Maricarmen Aviles
Mary Ellen Beard
Carolyn & Charles Bell
Mrs. M.K. Betts
Mr. & Mrs. Wally Bunton
Alicie Cardo-Hunter
Tom and Lynn Carter
Glenna & Edward Carlson
Cheyanne Conner Zink
Anthony Covacevich Consultants
Nancy Dadley
Roy & Marie De Leon
Joel De Los Santos
Theodore & Rosemarie Ellis
Odus & Georgia Emery
Fuller Farms
Rocco & Ruth Fasano
Melvin D. & Elizabeth Free
French's Service & Repair
Mr. & Mrs. Neal G. Galloway
Kenneth & K. C. Garver
J.J. & Mary Gatton
Soyla R. Gonzalez

Drs. Gopal & Elizabeth Krishnan
A.L. & V.E. Green
J. & S. Green
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Greenwood
John & Allie Haden
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Henry
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn C. Housley
Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Hyde
Robert & Virginia Janik
J.R. Produce Supply, Inc.
Billy J. Lewis
Robert & Margaret McAllen
Mary Mattar
Sibyl F. Mattar
Fred & Bernardine McCaleb
Karen Macking
Hector & Gloria Mejia
Norma Montalvo
Billie & Earl Neuhaus
Lawerance & Pat Neuman
Berneice Nittler
Mark & Jane Nittler
Palomas De La Paz Ministries
Leo & Leticia Perez
Susan & R. J. Peterson
James & Laurie Pitts
Eddie & Janis D. Ramsey
Ezequiel & Livia Reyna
Jose T. Sandoval M.D.
Paula & Raul Saucedo
Andy & Pam Scott
David & Carol Slater
Edgar R. & Evelyn Smith
Frances A. Solether
Randy & Alma Summers
James & Allison Summersett
Bill & Sharon Swinnea
Donald & Mary Thompson
Ginger Carol Vaughan
Bob & Martha Veach
Weslaco Elks Auxiliary
C.L. & M.J. Wiegand
Jeanne L. Wiegand
James & Linda Williams

Another Super, Super Bowl Success

Over \$10,000 Raised

For the second year in a row, Fred and Bernie McCaleb encouraged donations to Aurora House as the “price of admission” to a wonderful, fun, super, Super Bowl party.

Serving as a Board Member of the Aurora House Foundation, Bernie (Jenk’s Flowers) and husband Fred (McCaleb Funeral Home) decided last year that highlighting a local charity was a winner for both Aurora House and their guests alike.

The party-goers responded enthusiastically this year by donating \$10,029!

One very large check in the amount of \$4,000 was donated by **AEP–Weslaco**.

These contributions are greatly appreciated by Aurora House—a 501 (c)3 organization.

Patients are not charged for staying at Aurora House and AH receives no government funding and relies exclusively on donations from the community. It takes about \$215,000 to fully operate Aurora House each year.

We are grateful to the whole McCaleb family and those local football fans for their generous support!



Jerry Don Wilson presents a \$4,000 check for Aurora House from AEP to Bernie McCaleb during the McCaleb Super Bowl Celebration.

Spotlight on Volunteer Larry Blegen

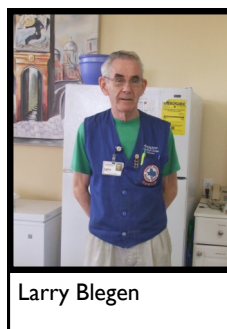
By Clara Riley

Larry Blegen has volunteered at Aurora House since early 2008. A long time resident of Minnesota, Larry came to the RGV as a Winter Texan in 2002. He was so attracted by the friendly people, warm weather and the economy, he became a full time resident in 2004.

Larry generously shares his time and energy through volunteering at several local facilities: Aurora

House; with the Knapp Medical Center Hospice Department; and at John Knox Village.

He spends many hours each week with residents comforting, encouraging, reading and even singing. His long history of caring



Larry Blegen

and sharing includes twelve years as a lay minister in Minnesota and he is a frequent speaker at many churches here in the RGV.

He derives inspiration from the famous words of St. Francis of Assisi “*Love in your heart isn’t put there to stay...Love isn’t love until you give it away.*”

Community Support

Starbucks of Weslaco has become a wonderful partner and friend to Aurora House patients and their families.

In 2008, after opening their newest store in the Valley in Weslaco, Starbucks employees contacted then director,



Community Partner— Starbucks of Weslaco

Lupita Martinez, and asked if they could donate some of their day-old pastries to Aurora House.

Those pastries are such a delightful treat and have been heartily welcomed by the family members of our

residents—many of whom spend a great deal of time at Aurora House.

Aurora House always welcomes kind donations—please contact Director Kathy Scheuerman for a wish list if you are interested. (956)973-9690.

AURORA HOUSE FOUNDATION

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

(956) 973-9690
(956) 973-9705 fax



*Special Care Facility for
End of Life Care*

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
2009-2010 Board of Directors**

Patti Dittburner, Chair	Alicia Aguilar
Norma Montalvo, Vice-Chair	Lana Marie Paris
E. Richard Vaughan Jr., Treasurer	Margaret McAllen
Lupita Martinez, Secretary	Skip Smith
Bernardine McCaleb	Dr. Daniel Farray

Honorary Board Members

Rafael Rodriguez, MD - Founder	Loretta Barbee
Delia Weaver	Lynn Carter

Operations Director.....Kathy Scheuerman

Clerical AssistantEvangalina Gonzalez

Caregivers: Therese Corkery, Juan Salinas, Maria Calderon, Araceli Cantu, Diana Gonzalez

Newsletter Editor.....Lynn Carter

Memorials and Honorariums (continued from page 2)

Arthur Doyle
Maryanne Doyle

Esperanza Garcia
Beatriz Azios
Jesus & Lydia Martinez

William Geelan
Scott Geelan

Ted Long
Patricia A. Long

Maria Longoria
Gumecinda Gomez

Geoffrey McAllen
Linda & James Williams

Jim Miller
Donald M. Johnson

Reno Peterson
Harold Butterfield
Frederick & Carolyn Engle
Glen & Eunice Griffin

Jason & April Kelling
Robert & Marilyn Langum
Hollie Miller
Vi Peterson
Premium Best Transport
Inc.
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David & Alma Tonsager
Carmen Vanderberg



Eugene Provaznik
S.S. Newcomer
Dennis Provaznik

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Gina Rodriguez

Elsa Quick
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M.A. Smith

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Helen S. Lavin

Mark Schwarz
Robert & Margaret McAllen

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Robert & Margaret McAllen
Ramon Montalvo III

Andrea Taormina
Barry Dickerson Farms
Jodie Majors

Eva Blanche Tyner
Linda Dickerson
Robert & Margaret McAllen
Louella Russell

Helen A. Voight Veches
Paul & Patricia Hughes

Joey Zuñiga
Mary A. Aguirre

**In Honor of
Catherine Hyde
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Hyde**