



Aurora House News

Volume 4 Issue 2

Summer 2010

Of Special Note

Since Inception June 21, 2007

- # of Patients and their Families Served: 187
- Age Range: 17—97
- Avg. Length of Stay: 27 Days
- # of Cities served: 11

Mar 2010—July 2010

- # of Volunteers: 29
- # of Volunteer Groups: 4
- # of Volunteer Hours: 458

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Luncheon and Style Show A Huge Success

This year's Aurora House luncheon, honoring Administrative Professionals, was the third annual fundraising event for Weslaco's End of Life Care Home. Two hundred seventy-five attendees enjoyed great food, a wonderful style show, and close to \$40,000 was raised for the non-profit facility.

This fun event was co-chaired by Rhonda Garza and Patti Dittburner. And its success depended on many, many volunteers. Committees included; Lana Marie Paris, Carla McCaleb, sponsorships; Norma Montalvo, Marguerite Wiegand, Marilew Sturgis food; Alicia Aguilar and

Melanie Riley, publicity; Loretta Barbee, Bernadine McCaleb, Sandi Sparrow, Billie Vanderveer, and Flo Caldwell, decorating; Melissa Beckwith, Sonja Ortega, Linda Williams, and Melissa Lackey, Silent Auction; Margaret McAllen and Kathy Scheuerman, tickets; Jode Vaughan and Karen Evans, signage; Melissa Neuhaus, Alicia Aguilar, Lupita Martinez, Lana Marie Paris and Norma Montalvo, greeters; Charlene Piper and Margo Sunderland, clean up.

Master of Ceremonies, Ryan Vaughan introduced several male community leaders who vol-



Special guests of HEB

unteered their time to wait tables. He also directed attention to the great Silent Auction prizes.

Many thanks to **Knapp Medical Center** for the use of the Conference Center and to local businesses **Well's of Weslaco/ Leah Wells** and **Lionel's Western Wear/Sandy Pena** for the style show featuring fashions for all ages.

Meet Chilies

We don't know exactly when or why Chilies arrived at AH. Was he dropped off and abandoned? Or, did he simply wander here to check out the delicious smells emanating from the kitchen!

Whatever the reason, he has become a delightful



member of our family. Thank you to Dr. Edelstein from Border Animal

Hospital for his generosity in taking care of Chilies' health and medical needs.

Chilies greets our visitors, comforts our patients and socializes with the other "staff" members.

He is absolutely "Mr. Attitude Plus."

Our Generous Luncheon Sponsors

Platinum

Anonymous x 2

Diamond

Knapp Medical Center & Knapp Hospice

Gold

L & G Concrete
LJ & JFLP
Valley Grande Manor
Burton Companies
McAfee Agency
Magic Valley Electric Cooperative
Texas Oncology—Weslaco
Payne Auto Group
Rios of Mercedes
Cain Customs Brokers
HEB

Silver

Security Depot
BBVA Compass
Pulmonary and Sleep Center of Weslaco

Silver (cont.)

John Knox Village
Montalvo Insurance Agency
P.A.C.E. Health Care, Inc.
Bugambilia's Marketplace/Villa De Cortez

Bronze

Rio Bank
Rodolfo & Margaret Perez
Ezequiel "Zeke" Reyna
Odyssey Sandi Jo Hospice
CIMA Hospice
Medina Construction
State Wide Melendez Insurance
Dr. Eduardo Pequero



Trainer Evans treats the Rios of Mercedes staff to a fun luncheon.

Thank You!

Evidence of Angels

Sometimes we cross paths with someone who has such a profound effect on us we want to share the story. Such was the case with Elizabeth (not her real name). Her mother was in her mid-forties and diagnosed with cancer. Though only 19, Elizabeth was her only caregiver.

She did not hesitate a moment to drop out of college; quit her job and end her relationship with her boy-

friend to focus all her energy and time to be with her mother.

She was an inspiration to us and demonstrated total devotion to her mother's care. However, occasionally we would discover her in the kitchen or laundry silently crying.

We observed that Elizabeth's boyfriend still seemed to be quite devoted to her and we encouraged her to reunite with him.

With no other family members to rely on, there were no funds for a funeral or cemetery plot. Elizabeth's church provided for this and held a lovely, simple funeral.

It was indeed a pleasure and a privilege for us to reassure Elizabeth there would be no charges for her mother's stay at Aurora House.

We believe we experienced the evidence of an angel

Honorariums

In Honor of Dorothy Carnesi

Charles & Carol Vaughan

In Honor of Dorothea Lawrence

Arthur & Dorothea Lawrence
Shirley J. Gugin



In Honor of Gertrude Nehr

Dr. Robert Sepulveda

In Honor of Albert J. Parker

Irma Parker

In Honor of Filiberto Pena

Dora Pena

In Honor of Della Ramon

First United Methodist Church
(Mercedes Missions)

In Honor of Richard Vaughan

James & Julie Vaughan

In Honor of Charles Zbinden

First United Methodist Church of
Weslaco

Monetary Donors

March 2010 — June 2010

Armando & Anna Adame
ADL Service Inc.
Roel & Letty Alvarez
Bobby & Darlene Barter
Mary A. Bell
Von Brookshire
Victor & Ramona Campos
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
of Mercedes
Country Sunshine Red Hatters
Wilhelmine Crawford
Ross & Betsy Curtsinger
Monte & Kathryn Churchill
Betsy Droste Trustee
Robert & Loretta Eilers
Audrey Eoff — ESA Foundation
Brian & Christie Fergus
First Baptist Church (Bess Knapp
Day Care) of Weslaco
First Christian Church of Donna
First United Methodist Church of
Weslaco
Louis & Evelyn A. Foster
Armando Garcia

Hernan & Maria Gonzalez
Grace Episcopal Church of Weslaco
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Green
Mario & Jesusa Guajardo
Rene Guerra
Shirley J. Gugin
Robert & Jacqueline Hall
Sister Michaeline Healy
Diane Hoelscher
Brian & Mitzi Humphreys
Ingelise and Byron Jones Jr.
Max Kruse
Rudy Leal
Robert Ashley McAllen
Ofelia Martinez
Elsiebel Kasch-Noe
Robert & Patricia Klase
Mid Valley Internist P.A.
Munoz Family
Glen Nuckolls
Truman & Josie C. Olson
Lilly Ortega
Paradise South Church of Mercedes
Viola Peterson

Lola Beth Pinson
Walter Piper
Liselotte Pinkerton
Emma Purcill
Ranchero Village of Weslaco
Gilberto & Maria A. Saenz
Nita Sauerbrei
Siesta Village, Inc.
Siesta Village Worship Hour
Marilyn Stuart
Walter & Sherry Thompson
Mildred Twenhafel
United Way of South Texas
Villa De Cortez
Weslaco Elks Auxiliary
Weslaco Elks Lodge
Weslaco Lions Club
ESA Foundation
J.D. & Patricia White
Amadita Zamora

**We now accept donations via
Pay Pal! Call AH for further
information.**

Memorials

In Memory of Bob Barter

Bonnie & Marvin Schwarz
Sherry Cherry

In Memory of Robert Bertholf

Charles & Julia Bertholf
Melissa Whiddon

In Memory of Bill Binford

Jane Binford

In Memory of Arthur C. Doyle

Mary Anne Doyle

In Memory of Skip Farrell

Drs. Subram G. & Elizabeth G.
Krishnan

In Memory of Rocco Fasano

Horace & Flo Caldwell
Sherri Cherry

In Memory of Nina & Lance Folliott

Jane Ponton

In Memory of Esperanza Garcia

Laredo Church of the Crossroads
Amelia Martinez
Jesus M & Lydia G. Martinez



Alicia Morales Dromgoole

Roberta Morales

In Memory of Hilario Garcia

Armando & Anna Adame

Rosa Almanza

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Canales

Micaela Cano

Gerturdis Estrada

Frances & Rebecca Flores

Dolores Garcia

Mrs. Chita Hinojosa

Rebecca & Terecita Marroquin

Martin & Ester Medrano

In Memory of Lucita Garza

Esteban Rocha

In Memory of Arnulfo Herrera

Alma Avila

Jose & Maria Herrera

In Memory of Nolene Hodges

Anthony Covacevich Consultants

In Memory of Patricia Lee Kennedy

Michael & Deborah Krenek

In Memory of Carl Kirkpatrick

Roger & Catherine Mackner

Sondra & James Plowman

In Memory of Horst H. Kuck

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Beggs

Mr. & Mrs. John Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dome

Elisabeth Hittle & Family

Inge H. Kuck

Mr. & Mrs. Denys Powell

Mr. & Mrs. Dale Rodenbeck

Mr. Elton & Mrs. Donna M.

Thorsen

In Memory of Marie Lybbert

Helen S. Lavin

In Memory of Jesus Martinez

Maria Beatriz Martinez

Ofelia Martinez

In Memory of Teresa Marroquin

Bent Larsen

Fidelia Marroquin

Joseph A. Rocha

In Memory of Dick Heller

Roy & Dorothy Gould

....Memorials Continued Pg. 4

In Kind Donors

March 2010—June 2010

Irene Arispe
 Marisela Barron
 Roel Benitez
 Charles & Julia Bertholf
 Larry Blegen
 Rosie Cantu
 Camelot POA of Weslaco
 Clemente Cardoso
 Faye Carlson
 Cristina Casares
 Rudy Chavez
 Christian Life Ministry of Weslaco
 Wilhelmine Crawford
 Carolyn Davis
 Angelita De Leon
 Emma Donofry
 Lowery Dyer
 Conn & Kay Eastwood
 Dr. Steven Edelstein & Associates
 El Principe De Paz Methodist
 Church of Donna
 First Baptist Church of Weslaco
 First Baptist Church (Gladen Class)
 of Weslaco
 First Lutheran Church of Edinburg
 Dolores Garcia
 Estela Garcia
 Elva Gonzalez
 Mary Goolsby
 Jerry Gutshall
 Darlene Griffin
 Jesusa Guajardo
 Julie Gugin
 Noelia Gutierrez

Dorothy & Barbara Heater
 Alicia Hernandez
 Jose Herrera
 Olga Herrera
 Raquel Hinojosa
 Elva Ibarra
 Roland Keller
 Jim Key
 Knapp Medical Center
 Judice Kruse
 La Santisima Trinidad Unided
 Methodist Church of Weslaco
 Dick and Dotty Lieg
 Magic Valley Electric Cooperative
 Terry Maruska
 Maria Beatriz Martinez
 Ofelia Martinez
 Maverick Linens
 Debbie McGregor
 Lizabeth J. Mellor
 Leo Mendoza
 Oralia Mendoza
 Silvia Montalvo
 Jack Napiek
 New Life Home Health
 Sven Nilsson
 Sandra Orr
 Palm Shadows RV Park
 Irma Parker
 Carl Payne
 Anita Pequeno
 Viola Peterson
 Yvonne Puente
 Irma Ramos

Larry Rembold
 Adalia Reyna
 RGV Educational Support Staff
 Molly Rochell
 Nick & Ester Rodriguez
 Rosa Rodriguez
 Ruben Rodriguez
 Richard Salinas
 Salinas, Allen & Schmidt, LLP
 Elizabeth Schafer
 Snow to Sun RV Park of Weslaco
 Maria Silva
 Jenny Sinn
 Dareall Smith
 Southern Comfort Activity Club
 Southern Comfort Resort Park
 St. Pius Catholic Church of Weslaco
 St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church of
 Weslaco
 St. John Lutheran Church of San
 Juan
 Gerald Sudman
 Lily Tamez
 Teaching & Mentoring Communi-
 ties of Donna
 Templo Eben-Ezer of Weslaco
 Keane & Susan Thummel
 Ester Torres
 Valley Grande Institute
 Victoria Palms Singles Group
 Weslaco East High School
 Nancy Williamson

Memorials (cont.)

In Memory of Saul Munoz

Mr. & Mrs. A. Hinojosa Jr.

In Memory of Pastor Cindy Ordway

Mike & Kelli Jones

In Memory of Trudy Nehr

Pat Nehr

In Memory of Reno Peterson

Viola Peterson

In Memory of Andrea Pool

Sherry Cherry

Bonnie & Marvin Schwarz

In Memory of Victoriano Posada

Marta M. Garcia

In Memory of Antonia Rangel

Ricardo Rangel

Vicente Rangel

In Memory of Nancy Rembold

Lauren & Stephen C. Vogt

In Memory of Loretta Rose

Daniel & Constance Callahan

In Memory of Gregory Joseph Schneider

John & Margaret Krischbaum

In Memory of Feliciano Silva

Anita Leal

In Memory of Herlinda Ybarra

Montalvo Insurance Agency

In Memory of Evelyn Smith

Dennis & Lorna Goldsberry

MOAD Business Solutions

Mustang Lounge Inc.

In Memory of Norman States

Gordy & Jo Ann Gower

Mrs. Margie M. States

In Memory of Blanche Tyner

Sherry Cherry

Bonnie & Marvin Schwarz

In Memory of Howard Roman

Delia Roman

First United Methodist Church
 (Mercedes Missions)

Spotlight on Volunteer Karen Macking

As soon as you meet Karen Macking you know right away that you're talking to a special lady. Karen deeply loves people and enjoys nothing more than giving of her time and talents in service to anyone in need of a helping hand.

Karen originates from upper New York State. She married a hometown guy and shared a 21-year U.S. Air Force career which included traveling and residing in all fifty states and the Panama Canal area. They also vacationed throughout Central America, Columbia and Equador all the while raising a son and a daughter.

After retiring in 1997, Karen and her husband began their RGV life as Winter Texans. They became full time residents in 2004 settling into a very happy life in a senior citizen community. She has been volunteering at AH since 2008. She exercises by swimming and walking

and is an avid card player.

Karen delights in volunteer community

activities including fundraisers, pot-luck dinners, bingo and her Weslaco

Lions Club events. She also maintains close contact with her son, daughter and five grandchildren.

Thursdays are special at Aurora House as everyone looks forward to Karen's delicious family-style cooking which would readily fill any gourmet restaurant to capacity.

She confesses that she cares for the folks at Aurora House like family members too...and we all feel blessed by her kindness.

Everyone looks forward to Karen's delicious family-style cooking.....

STC and Leadership Mid-Valley Team-UP

South Texas College Biology students under the direction of Dr. Deborah Villalon and Leadership Mid-Valley participants under the direction of Joel Vanderveer teamed up this spring to complete a beautification project for Aurora House.

The plan was to continue the original project drawn up by Weslaco Master Gardeners Jerry Gutshall, Lana Marie Paris and Dr. Villalon. The agreement was for Mid-Valley Leadership to handle the fundraising and the STC students to lend their skills in planting and building structures.



On May 1, thirteen students planted some 35 plants, including a special dedicated rose garden. Native petunias and lantanas were used as decorative bushes around the statues and in the flower beds. A pergola was also constructed by the students.

Donations of money, materials and equipment time came from Leadership students, J-III Concrete, McCoy's Lumber, Dyer Nursery, Tom Shidler, along with Taste and See.



A most satisfying project for both organizations has resulted in a beautiful and relaxing respite for Aurora House residents, families and staff.

Dr. Villalon reports that STC experiences with Aurora House over the past few years has increased awareness about end of life facilities in

the RGV and inspired many community members to dedicate their time for such a worthy cause.

Rose Garden Memorial In Memory of Leona Key

- James & Jeanette Armstrong (RG)
- Jack & Delores Boultinghouse (RG)
- Anthony & Dotty Brunnermann (RG)
- Carolyn S. Davis (RG)
- Betsy Droste
- Diane Hoelschner (RG)
- Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Hyde (RG)
- Mr. J.D. Key
- Sue Morgan (RG)



AURORA HOUSE FOUNDATION

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 P.O. Box 976
 Weslaco, TX 78599

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

Please! Call and give us your email address
 and we will email your newsletter — It will be in
 color and will save Aurora House po\$tage!!!



*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
 2010-2011 Board of Directors**

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