



We provide a haven, YOU make it happen!

## My name is Randy and I'm a registered nurse who has worked in pediatric home health for 22 years in Texas.

After a couple of days of feeling sick I entered the hospital on November 7, 2020 and learned I had COVID-19. Although I did not contract the virus through my job or adversely affect any of my patients, I was exposed at some point.

Thankfully, I had doctors who quickly placed me on an ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machine, a new technology to me, at the hospital in San Antonio. After three months of close observation, it was decided that I needed a lung transplant due to significant damage from the virus. I was running out of options and time because ECMO could only be given for so long, could only accomplish so much and the damage was worsening. Upon further examination, it was determined that I would also need a heart transplant. As I continued my struggle, I received the news that an organ donor had been found and I was to prepare for surgery in Houston. The emotional and psychological whirlwind was immense.

On March 29, 2021, I received the Ultimate Gift – new lungs and a new heart. The surgery was a success and went well according to the doctors. On July 1, 2021, I was discharged from rehab after a long nine-month battle with the effects of COVID-19. I was able to “come home” and join my mother, my caregiver, at Nora’s Home. This wonderful and beautiful place has been such an amazing blessing to us both. From the day I walked through the doors, I felt completely at ease, unburdened and I sensed an overwhelming flow of love and positive energy.

Places such as Nora’s Home are a much-needed resource during a very tumultuous time for a transplant patient and their family. With the whirlwind of emotions—fear, anxiety, worry, uncertainty—associated with transplant surgery, things quickly become overwhelming. There is so much to learn and understand and considering a viable housing situation isn’t top of mind. The main focus becomes the surgery and its outcome. Once the initial storm has passed, many like me have a one-year commitment to the transplant program and must consider nearby housing to continue follow-up care post-surgery. That is where the importance of Nora’s Home comes into play and the importance of benefactors such as yourselves.



Many of the guests feel the same way about the home and how it has blessed us. We have a “common thread” among all of us here as we have found in our conversations together in the dining room or during support group sessions for patients and caregivers. Love and caring abounds in this place. It is palpable and visible in the amazing staff and fellow guests.

Nora’s Home recently celebrated 40,000 nights stay—what an amazing milestone and accomplishment! All of which would not be possible without loving, caring, compassionate and empathetic people such as yourselves. Nora’s Home can and will continue to be a blessing for many families to come.

**With immeasurable gratitude, from me and all the guests who walk through these doors, thank you!**