

Guest Spotlight

David

Age: 65

Transplant: Double Lung

Hospital: Houston Methodist

Hometown: Alexandria, LA



Transplant Journey: I had trouble breathing for 10 years before I visited primary care physician and was diagnosed with progressive COPD and Emphysema. After being given inhalers and other medications, which had helped me maintain a normal life for a while, I went back to working. However, the disease finally caught up to me 3 years ago when I had a bleb and my lung collapsed. I was on oxygen 24/7 and for 2 months couldn't even walk 10 ft. In the summer of 2021, I was referred to Houston Methodist and was placed on the waitlist on August 5th, 2021. I had anticipated waiting for a few months as was the norm for many of the other lung patients I met, but a day later I was immediately pushed to the top of the list after an acute pneumothorax. One donor lung was available then, but turned out to not be viable. Finally, after a few more weeks of waiting, I received my double lung transplant. I had one episode of rejection and was in the ICU for a few weeks due to complications, but have since recovered well and came to Nora's home in mid-September.

What is the first thing you want to do after receiving your transplant?

I had it in my mind early on that I wanted to write a letter to the donor's family thanking their loved ones for the donation. I started that letter as soon as I could and sent it out expressing my gratitude.

What would you want to say to your donor?

I want to thank them for doing such a selfless act for another person. "My superhero was the one I never met"--the donor that saved my life.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home?

In the past few months, I have really enjoyed the camaraderie among the other transplant recipients and their families. In fact, Sue and I won the Christmas door decorating contest in 2021 and events like these really helped us feel like a part of the Nora's Home community.

What has been your favorite space at Nora's Home?

I mostly enjoy the moments of solitude in my room and in the lounge areas, but my favorite moments are walking around the building in the morning as part of my daily routine.

