



Guest Spotlight

Transplant: Heart
Hospital: Houston Methodist
Hometown: Brownsville, TX



Transplant Journey: It all started when I began sporadically fainting and progressively becoming more ill. I had just retired at the age of 62 and was ready to travel! I was flown from Brownsville to Houston where I was put on a balloon pump whilst dealing with insurance which prolonged the LVAD process by 15 days. On May 17, 2017 I received my LVAD. I was told I would need a new heart and was hoping this would happen before my 70th birthday as getting after this age becomes increasingly difficult. I was placed on the transplant list and stayed at Nora's Home off and on waiting for a call with a new heart. In 2020, I received three calls, but it was not until the third call that I was blessed enough to get my heart on November 10 at the mere age of 69.

What is your favorite place at Nora's Home?

In phase 1, I really enjoyed being in the family room where my hobby was making La Loteria cards which are used in a bingo-style game. In phase 2, I found myself having the best time in the dining room where everyone would get together and enjoy food, as well as each other's company. We always had our favorite table to enjoy meals at.

Do you have a favorite memory since being at Nora's Home?

I love the sense of family and community at the home. I met a group of 5 guys, known as the LVAD gang, who made my time at Nora's incredibly special. The times where dancing, karaoke and meals would be available to guests would also be something I always looked forward to.

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

Go to the beach! I'd like to do several things such as taking a real shower and taking advantage of swimming pools without having to worry about my LVAD equipment getting damaged.

What would you want to say to your donor?

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have his heart now and if it wasn't for him and God, I wouldn't be alive today.

What would you say to someone considering becoming an organ donor?

I was an organ donor before I knew I needed a heart so I would let anyone considering being an organ donor that they definitely won't regret their decision. By choosing to do so you have the ability to save so many lives. I wish more people spoke about organ donations.

