



# Guest Spotlight

## Manny

Age: 57  
Transplant: Heart  
Hospital: Houston Methodist  
Hometown: San Antonio

**Transplant Journey:** Manny's journey started 21 years ago at age 36. He had been in great health until he got the flu which damaged his heart in a rare complication so that it had only 20% of its normal function. He was told he would have to wait for a heart transplant, which could take 3 years.

20 years went by, and Manny was still waiting. He was given medications to normalize the heart's function which was enough to keep him alive. But in the last year and a half, the half of his heart that still had some function left had become very enlarged. He and his wife went to Methodist hospital in San Antonio on October 12. "They gave me 3 days to live."

His heart specialist immediately called Houston Methodist to speak to a transplant surgeon. As if it were a "blessing from God," the surgeon said "we have a heart for him." They were able to place him at the top of the transplant list, and he was transferred to Houston Methodist on October 14. Within just a few hours of arrival, he received a gift that would give him new life. Manny was able to leave with a new heart after 34 days in the hospital.

**What would you say to someone who is considering becoming an organ donor?** "Everybody should do it. One person can save so many people. It's a blessing." Since the transplant, everyone in Manny's family became an organ donor.

**What would you say to the donors who support Nora's Home?**

"Nora's home is a blessing to everybody that is here. It's really hard...you go through so much with your family. Here there is peace, love, safety. My wife and I, we're about to become pastors. We have never felt so much love as we have felt here. I really feel God in Nora's home. Thank you for blessing us all."



**What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home?** Manny's wife has spent 4 months at Nora's home, including 1 month before and 3 months after the transplant together with Manny. "Everybody is so sweet, so nice. I can feel God in Nora's home. It's hard to find a place that you feel safe. It's a blessing to us." His favorite memory is spending time with the other transplant families. "We're there to support each other. Cook for each other. Go to the store. It's family."

**What has been your favorite space at Nora's Home?** "The gym. Especially when it's cold outside and raining. I used to walk 2-7 miles a day. I limit it to 5 now. The doctors are saying I could walk as much as I want to."

