

Guest Spotlight

Randy



Age: 54 years old
Transplant: Heart & Double Lung
Transplant Date: March 29, 2021
Hospital: Houston Methodist
Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Transplant Journey: After a couple of days of feeling sick I entered the hospital in San Antonio on November 7, 2020, and learned I had COVID-19 after being exposed at some point. Thankfully, I had doctors who quickly placed me on an ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machine at the hospital. 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. 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. On March 29, 2021, I received the Ultimate Gift – new lungs and a new heart. 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.

What were you looking forward to after receiving your transplant?

Seeing my home! While I was away, my family renovated the house so it would be lung transplant friendly. They took up carpeting, repainted walls and much more. My sisters and nephew were so kind to do this. I feel like this will add so much to my recovery.

What would you want to say to your donor?

Thank you! What you have done is immeasurable as you have given the ultimate gift. You have sacrificed your life to save another. It’s a beautiful thing that my life was saved, but also a time of loss for the donor’s family. A miracle occurred.



Lucy and Randy ringing the bell!

What do you enjoy most about Nora’s Home?

The “home” feeling! The moment I walked through the front door from the hospital, I knew I was home. There was such isolation in the hospital within the four walls and then I came here and was embraced with love. I felt as though my burdens were laid to rest. The community here is love. The support here is so special. This is truly a place where you can feel God and are surrounded by wonderful people – staff and guests alike.

What is your favorite place at Nora’s Home?

The dining room was my favorite place. Here at the table, I sat and had my meals, spoke to my fellow guests, shared stories, laughed and cried. The community is so strong, and this place allowed me to meet new people coming in and keep up with those here.

