Transplant Journey: After both my brother and I were diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, I knew that I would need a lung transplant at some point in my life. I underwent three distinct evaluations at three different centers and shortly after being referred for a transplant, I had my daughter Avery in May of 2016. I ended up being on the transplant list for a total of three years because my blood type and unique stature – my new lungs had to be the perfect fit. On September 3, 2019, I was transferred to Houston and nearly a year later: was blessed enough to get my transplant! Throughout the entirety of this journey, my motto has and will always be: “you have to believe in yourself in order for a transplant to be successful!”

What was the first thing you wanted to do after receiving your transplant? Running and playing tag in the yard with my daughter, Avery! When I was released to go home I did just this...I chased her around the playground – something I never used to be able to do before! She was so excited!

What do you enjoy most about Nora’s Home? The community! Everyone here shares a similar experience and it is super helpful to have such a big support system throughout the tough times. Nora’s plants the seed of friendship and love – it’s truly a lifesaver.

What is your favorite memory since being at Nora’s Home? I loved when volunteers came to visit and when guests would have game nights! It was always really neat when everyone gathered around to spend some quality time with one another.

What is your favorite place at Nora’s Home? The kitchen! I love to cook; whether it’s for myself or for others, cooking was an outlet for me.

What would you say to someone considering being an organ donor? People should live with love and kindness in mind – being an organ donor can give a mother the ability to raise her child! If it weren’t for my donor, my daughter wouldn’t be able to have a fulfilled life and for that, I am forever grateful.