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In 1998, Doctors Osama and Lillian Gaber established Nora’s Gift Foundation in memory of their daughter Nora, who was killed in a tragic automobile accident. Nora’s legacy did not end with her death. Her organ donations helped several critically ill children and fueled the creation of Nora’s Home, an enduring gift to those in need.

To launch the mission of Nora’s Gift Foundation (dba Nora’s Home) in Houston, an inaugural gala was held in 2011. Springboarding off the success of the gala, a successful capital campaign secured the funds necessary to finally realize the vision of building a standalone hospitality home that serves any patient from the solid organ transplant centers in the Texas Medical Center. Nora’s Home opened its doors with 16 family suites in 2013.

The home has proved an invaluable resource to transplant patients and their families and quickly gained popularity after opening, developing a waiting list for families to stay. This launched a second capital campaign and planning for a phase two expansion doubling the size of the home to 32 family suites, as it stands today.

Subsequent fundraisers consisting of our annual Nora’s Home Gala, Golf Classic, and Welcome Home Annual Fund continue to provide the necessary funds in supporting the transplant families staying at the home by alleviating their financial burden through the Adopt-A-Family program. This ensures no guest is ever turned away due to inability to pay.

Like any good home, a strong foundation is a must. Nora’s Home would simply not be possible without the support, commitment, and endorsement from our community.

Mission Statement

Nora’s Home offers transplant patients and their families an affordable place to stay where they can find support and share experiences with others, in the comfort of a home-like environment.

Vision Statement

Be the preeminent life-center offering information, resources, lodging and emotional support for organ failure and transplant patients and their families by:

- Providing a safe, welcoming and affordable place to stay in the Texas Medical Center
- Creating a network for fellowship, interaction, resources and emotional support
- Providing targeted education to the unique needs of the transplant community
- Remaining financially sound and well-funded through philanthropic resources

Core Values essential to accomplishing our mission is always acting with:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Dedication
- Professionalism
- Embracing Diversity
Welcome from the Executive Director

Our Commitment Continues

With the continuation of the pandemic lingering into 2021, the much-anticipated vaccine rollout provided us the opportunity to remain steadfast on our commitment to protect the health and safety of our guests.

We instilled mandatory vaccination policies for our guests, staff members, volunteers and visitors. These policies allowed us to serve 114 families throughout the year, providing 6,558-night stays in a safe and still welcoming environment. One major accomplishment to share is that the year unfolded with no known case(s) of viral transmission within our walls. We are deeply proud of this fact and indebted to all involved for their cooperation.

The year also brought many incredible milestones and cherished memories. In April, we celebrated the past 10 years of Gala Chairs with a first-ever virtual gala, Homecoming: From Our Home to Yours. More than 540 volunteers participated in activities that brought comfort to our guests with 10,000+ meals served! Above all, in August we celebrated 40,000-night stays. It’s numbers such as these, along with the stories that follow in the pages to come, that remind us of what community can really do.

Signing off on a year well-done and our immeasurable gratitude for your support.

With a grateful heart and excitement for what’s to come,

Natalie Lencioni
Executive Director
Board of Directors

OFFICERS

A. Osama Gaber, M.D., FACS
Chairman, Founding Director
Interim Chair of Surgery, Houston Methodist
Director, J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center

Lillian Gaber, M.D.
Founding Director
Professor of Pathology and Genomic Medicine
Houston Methodist

John Zerr
Treasurer
General Counsel, Invesco

J. Michael Rose
Secretary
Partner, Locke Lord LLP

Directors

Imad F. Abdullah
Principal, Landmark Architects Inc.

Cathy Cooney
Retired, Leadership Coach

M. Waleed Gaber, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Baylor College of Medicine

Matthew Girotto
Senior Vice President
Texas Children’s Hospital

Mark Hobeika, M.D., FACS
Abdominal Transplant Surgeon
Houston Methodist

Kayla Lehmann
Community Volunteer

Gabriel Loor, M.D.
Surgical Director, Lung Transplantation Program
CHI St. Luke’s Health, Baylor College of Medicine

Arshad Matin
President and CEO, Avetta

Jerry Patel
Lifetime Member, Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA), Fusion Hospitality

Nancy Patel
Vice President Kosmada LLC
MassMutual Insurance, Golden Choice Plan Agency
CHIA, CHO

Timothy Schroeder
CEO and Founder, CTI Clinical Trial & Consulting

R. Patrick Wood, M.D.
Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, LifeGift

Foundation Team Members

Natalie Lencioni
Executive Director

Laurel Keller
Director of Development

Morgan Fuhriman
Outreach Coordinator

Peggy Schroller
Program Assistant

Guest Services Team Members

Marilda Daniels
Operations Manager

Beverly Jackson
Chaplain & Night Auditor

Carmen Alferez
Housekeeping Supervisor

HOUSEKEEPERS
Luisa Cabrerra

GUEST SERVICES
Ann Arceneaux
Tanja Evans
Ana Garcia
Gabriela Gubinelli
Wanda Stoddard
LaTonya Williams

LaTonya Williams
Chaplain & Night Auditor

Wanda Stoddard
Housekeeping Supervisor
## Impact in Numbers

### GUEST STATS (New Guests in 2021)

**Gender**
- Male: 54%
- Female: 46%

**Age**
- 0-17 years: 4%
- 18-24 years: 1%
- 25-60 years: 57%
- 61+ years: 38%

**Ethnicity**
- Black: 19%
- Hispanic: 39%
- White: 42%
- Other: 0%

**Guests Traveled From**
- States: 38
- Countries: 4

### LVAD Bridge to Heart Transplant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Op Transplant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Op Transplant</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Living Donor Testing - Post-Op

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Op Transplant</td>
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<td>Post-Op Transplant</td>
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</table>

### Heart Transplant

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Op Transplant</td>
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### Kidney Transplant

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<td>Post-Op Transplant</td>
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</table>

### Liver Transplant

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Op Transplant</td>
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<td>Post-Op Transplant</td>
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### Lung Transplant

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Op Transplant</td>
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### Pancreas Transplant

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<th>0</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Op Transplant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Op Transplant</td>
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</table>

### Patient Diagnosis*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kidney</td>
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<td>Liver</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreas</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average Length of Stay

- 7-14 nights
- Our Longest Stay was 365 nights

### Home Stats

- Number of Guests Served: 114
- Nights Stayed: 6,558
- Adopt-A-Family Funds Awarded: $465,561
- Average Length of Stay: 7-14 nights
- Distance Guests Traveled: 30 to 1,430 mi.

### Year to Date Stats 2013-2021

- Number of Guests Served: 1,445
- Nights Stayed: 43,401
- Adopt-A-Family Awarded: $2,045,906
- Number of COVID Patients Served: 9
- Number of Meals Served: 10,948

### Hospital Partners

- Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center
- HCA Houston Healthcare
- Houston Methodist
- Memorial Hermann
- Texas Children's Hospital
- UTMB Health
- Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

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*Some patients might be counted in multiple diagnoses.*
Transplant Journey

In 2003, I became ill and eventually was told by a couple of doctors that I had "6 months to live." Nevertheless, I remained positive about my health and put my faith in God. After traveling to both Galveston and Dallas to seek medical help – I ended up in Houston, where my Memorial Hermann doctor issued me an LVAD. After this life-changing surgery, the difference in how I felt is comparable to that of night and day! I quickly started to feel more like myself and was deemed as "the walking man" by those who knew me. Through this entire journey, my mother has been my rock: never leaving my side of wavering in her support and love for me. Over the past couple of years, I’ve not only come to enjoy offering helpful insight to people waiting to get an LVAD but I have also learned so much from other guests and have undoubtedly forged so many new friendships along the way! I am grateful that I was able to receive the gift of life and get the right heart for me. I was the first heart transplant of the year for Memorial Hermann. I knew this day would come but didn’t know when. I am so grateful and love to share my transplant story.

What was the first thing you wanted to do after receiving your transplant?

Go to the beach! When I had my LVAD, I couldn’t go in water so taking a bath or submerging in water was something I wasn’t able to fully do. After my transplant, I felt normal and felt free! I did go to the beach. I spent a day in Galveston with my girlfriend Faith, a double-lung recipient. We both ran in the water and had so much fun. We felt like little kids. It was such a small thing but something I didn’t want to take for granted.

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

Donating an organ is the biggest gift you can give someone. Personally, the idea that someone must pass before I am able to receive an organ was a hard thing for me to process but thankfully, my doctors and assigned coordinators were able to remind me that at the end of the day, the gift of life is priceless, and everyone is deserving of it regardless of their situation.

What do you enjoy most about Nora’s Home?

The fellowship and tight-knit community at Nora’s Home is my favorite part! The relationships I’ve made at my “home away from home” are super valuable to me. I also really enjoy the Chef of the Day meals from our volunteers; it truly adds to the sense of community here at Nora’s and is definitely something I look forward to.

What would you say to donors who support Nora’s Home?

First and foremost, I would thank them so much for their donation to this “perfect” space. Words cannot explain how much love is evident and present within the walls of Nora’s Home. Apart from giving me a place to stay, Nora’s is so much more than that in the sense that it has allowed me to grow as a person and learn so much about myself and others as well.

“I am so grateful and love to share my transplant story.”
During the year 2021, we were able to continue the operations of Nora’s Home with restrictions on capacity, vaccination requirements and other safety protocols to help ensure a safe environment for the solid organ transplant patients and families we serve in residence. Prompt and thorough execution by our management team together with appropriate Board oversight enabled us to continue to provide our services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic while keeping the safety of our guests and staff our primary priority. We are proud of this accomplishment.

In a year of much uncertainty, we were grateful to have received continuing financial support from our generous supporters. Our community responded well in celebrating our mission at a first ever virtual “Homecoming” Gala and in person at the 9th Annual Golf Classic presented by Satterfield and Pontikes Construction, Inc. Both events exceeded expectations thanks to our loyal supporters.

The Board of Nora’s Home continues to prudently steward your contributions while making strides in seeking the long-term self-sustainability of the home and its valuable services for transplant patients traveling to the Texas Medical Center. To that end, the Board has established an endowment fund with the ultimate goal of achieving financial independence that will help ensure our perpetual ability to offer solid organ transplant patients and their families an affordable place to stay in the Texas Medical Center where they can find support and share experiences with others in the comfort of a home-like environment.

The results of the independent audit of Nora’s Home’s financials were reviewed and accepted by the Board and are attached as part of this report. We seek to provide our supporters and the donor community with transparency into the fiscal health and stability of Nora’s Home while also identifying areas of remaining need.

As we look forward to advancing our goal of assuring the means for achieving Nora’s Home’s mission over the long-term, we are deeply grateful and wish to thank the many individuals, corporations and foundations that have embraced our mission and contributed to that endeavor.
Financial Report

Expenses | Total Expenses - $1,355,783
- Program Service Expense $904,542
- Management and General $256,712
- Fundraising $194,529

Revenue | Total Revenue - $1,828,246
- Unrestricted Contributions $533,544
- Restricted Contributions $249,064
- Program Service Revenue $184,857
- Grants $72,500
- Gala Revenue, net $322,885
- Net Investment Return $72,657
- Contribution Other - Loan Forgiveness $189,624
- Net Assets Released from Restrictions $203,115

Liabilities | Total Liabilities - $46,549
- Accounts Payable $19,577
- Refundable Advances $7,760
- Deferred Revenue $240
- Accrued Expenses $18,972

Assets | Total Assets - $11,135,132
- Cash and Cash Equivalents $1,793,963
- Investments $2,030,037
- Contributions Receivable $180,593
- Prepaid Expenses $73,150
- Net Unconditional Promises to Give $744,770
- Property and Equipment, net $6,312,619

Statement of Functional Expenses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM SERVICES</th>
<th>SUPPORT SERVICES</th>
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<td><strong>TRANSPANT PATIENT HOUSING PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL</strong></td>
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<td>Salaries and Wages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Occupancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$229,628</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Fees and Services</td>
<td>$2,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and Promotion</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$45,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and Other</td>
<td>$28,442</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense included in the expense section on the Statement of Activities</strong></td>
<td>$904,542</td>
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Welcome Home Annual Fund Donors

CHAMPION FOR LIFE
Leslie L. Alexander Foundation
CHI St. Luke's Health
The Hanson Family
in honor of Parson Blue Herrington
Allison & Dr. Scott A. Lindberg
Nancy & Tom Macrini
John & Jackie Verity Gift Fund

OPEN DOOR BENEFACTOR
Laura & Dr. Mark Hobeka
in memory of Antoine Hobeka
Houston Kidney Consultants
Thomas B. Lyle
Jackie & John Verity

HOME HEROES
Gwen & Richard Bedell
Mary & Manuel T. Garcia
Jeanne & Dennis Gregory
Nancy S. Haight
in memory of Robert H. Haight
Gayle & Tom Kennedy
Organ Recovery Systems
Gay Roane
Lisa & Tim Schroeder | CTI
The Linda & Jerry Strickland Family Foundation
Christine & David Underwood, Jr.

HEART OF HOUSTON
Usha Amin
Christine & Dr. Mohammed Attar
Gwen & Richard Bedell
Wayne Clark
Carolyn & Platt Davis

Jane S. Erskine
in memory of Dustin Erskine
Jennifer & Matt Girotto
Dr. Antonio Gatto
in memory of Gillian Elizabeth Gatto
Mindy Greenfield
in memory of John H. McCall
Edward Gurevich
in honor of Randy Arellano
Joshua Gurevich
in honor of Randy Arellano
Pam & Jim Harris
in honor of Kayla Lehmann
Drs. Sandra Hurtado & Michael Braun
Drs. Swarna & Rammurti Kamble
Ellen & Dr. Ron Kerman
Greg LaFleur
Kathy McColl
in memory of John H. McCall
Terri Mendez
Dr. Linda Moore & Terry Moore
Vanessa Motta & Jeff Brockton
Sandra & Pat O'Donnell
Jamie & David Oliver
LeeAnn & Matt Oubre
Isa & Thomas R. Reckling, III
Dr. Hisham M.F. Sheriff
Silambam Houston
Dr. Nour Sneige & Imad Abdullah
McKenzie & Trae A. Staats
Janet & Tom Walker
Stewart Wilson
Sherri & Dr. Patrick Wood
Debra & Gerald Yingst
Maria & John Zer
Evonne Atlas & Abe Zimmerman
in memory of John H. McCall

NORA'S NEIGHBORS
Ashu K. Aggarwal
Janet & Kenneth Follansbee
Karen & Howard J. Huang
Cathy Jenkins
in honor of Debbie Yingst
Dr. Mirjana Maletic-Savatic & Sasha Savatic
Debra & Patrick Manuel
Shazma & Arshad Matin
Linda McCormack
Janet & Gary L. Mead
Margaret Skelly Mulcahy
in honor of Michael Skelly
Jaya & Babu “Jerry” Patel

Nayana Nancy Patel, Bharat Patel,
Kiritt Patel, Jay Hazari
Kathryn & Richard Rabinow
Dwight L. Recht
in memory of Neta Recht
Ken & Gretchen Ruddy
Drs. Omaima Sabek & M. Waleed Gaber
James Shaw
Talaris Therapeutics, Inc.
in honor of Joseph Kreeb
Talaris Therapeutics, Inc.
in honor of Emmitt A. Savannah, Ill
Tommy Tinney

COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE
Krystle Alvarado
in memory of John H. McCall
Efua & Victor Ankoma-Sey
William Book
Cathy & Tom Cooney *
Susan & Lloyd “Bucky” Cunningham
in honor of Sylvie & Gary Crum
Mohamed Defrawi
Geoffrey Drushel
Fresh Start Decorating Center
in memory of John H. McCall
Judy & Ron Girotto
in honor of Matt Girotto
Glenn & Heidi Gonzales
Cynthia Harper
Sherif Khattab
in memory of Ghadir Khattab
Kayla & Jim Lehmann
Andrea & Dr. Richard Link
Deborah & David Longan
in memory of Carolyn Lowery
Drs. Michele & Gabriel Loor
Dr. George Mallory
Diane Oshin & Dr. Sidney Mandelbaum
Clara & Mike Miles
Una & Eamonn Quigley
Ernest A. Redding
in memory of Dustin Erskine
Carol Shay
in memory of Jim Shay
Gloria & Ben Tobor
in honor of Ellis L. Tudzin
Rudyne Walker
in honor of Dana Edson
Kay & The Honorable Ewing Werlein, Jr.

* denotes IRA Donor
Sunflower Club Donors
Lynn Blair
Rodney Herrington
Sherrif Khattab
Dr. Linda Moore & Terry Moore
Dr. Hisham M.F. Sherif

8th Annual Nora’s Home Golf Classic Sponsors

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**
Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc.

**UNDERWRITER SPONSOR**
Autodesk Construction Solutions

**PLATINUM SPONSOR**
Diversified Thermal
LECS Electrical Contractors

**GOLD SPONSOR**
Beverage Cart: Hart Plumbing
Breakfast: The Houston Methodist
  J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center
Hole in One: Million Air
Lunch: Veritex Community Bank
Spirits Pull: Occucare International

**SILVER SPONSOR**
AVAdek
Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center
Bowen, Miclette & Britt Insurance Agency
Grant Mackay Demolition Company
IVP Distribution
Jomar Electrical
The Living Bank
McCune Electrical Service
Myrex Industries
Newcastle Masonry
Synergyn
Texas Children’s Hospital
Upstream Engineering

**TEAMS**
Alliant Insurance Services
CareDx
City Masonry
Cokinos Law
Commercial Flooring
DeanCo
Derryberry’s LP
Empire Steel Erectors, LP
Executive Cleaning Corp
GCE
GPRS
GreenScape Associates, LLC
Halff Associates
Herc Rentals
Hou Tex Glass & Mirror
HTS
Jet Waste Services
Karsten Interiors
LifeGift
Ram Tool Construction Supply
& W.R. Meadows
Sprint Waste of Texas, LLC
Wakefield AV & Cabling
Homecoming Gala Celebrating from Our Home to Yours

SOPHOMORE TRADITION
Paula Hern & Thomas Barbour
Pat & Ben Bono
Caldwell Companies
CareDx, Inc.
Cathy & Tom Cooney
Annie & Robert Graham
Laura & Dr. Mark Hobeika
Stanley Hoffberger
Houston Kidney Consultants
Paige & Todd Johnson
Dr. Sippi Khurana & Ajay Khurana
Ashley & Curt Langley
LifeGift
Sanofi-Genzyme
Drs. Disha & Ashish Saharia
Roberta & Lee Schwartz
Drs. Adaani Frost & Wadi Suki
Lynda Underwood
Linda & Steve Webster
Maria & John Zerr

FRESHMAN SPIRIT
Betsy & Daniel L. Austin
Cynthia & David Capron
Lobna & Hisham Gaber &
Dr. Omaima Sabek & Dr. Waleed Gaber
Geraldine & Joseph Galati
Hoda & Michael Kardoush
Drs. Christine & Richard Knight
Kindred Healthcare
Kayla & Jim Lehmann
Shazma & Arshad Matin
Dr. Stephanie Yi & Terence Padden
Anne Whitlock & Michael Skelly
Krista & Ronnie Smith
Dr. Nour Sneige & Imad Abdullah
UTHealth School of Public Health
Veritex Community Bank
Cheryl Webb
Eileen & Richard Wilson

HOME COMING KING AND QUEEN
Rochelle & Max Levit Family Foundation
C. James and Carole Walter Looke
Family Fund
Amy McCall
Walter Oil & Gas Corporation Charitable Fund

SENIOR CELEBRATION
Houston Methodist Hospital System
Westwood Wealth Management

JUNIOR PRIDE
Drs. Lillian & A. Osama Gaber
Houston Methodist
J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center
Brigitte & Bashar Kalai
Novartis Pharmaceuticals
The Davoudi Family Foundation
The Linda & Jerry Strickland
Family Foundation
Texas Children's Hospital
Kathleen & Pat Wood

HOME COMING COURT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cathy Cooney
Drs. Lillian & A. Osama Gaber
Waleed Gaber
Matthew Girotto
Dr. Mark Hobeika
Kayla Lehmann
Arshad Matin
Babu “Jerry” Patel
Timothy Schroeder
Ellis Tudzin

NORA’S HOME | 11 | Annual Impact Report 2021
## Noteworthy News and Year In Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Nora’s Home celebrated <strong>40,000</strong> nights stayed since opening in 2013!! We thank all of our supporters, volunteers, and especially our amazing guests for making this milestone possible!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>In a world, and city, where the COVID-19 pandemic was still strong, Nora’s Home worked hard to keep all guests safe and infection-free while maintaining safety and cleaning protocols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Two students from Strake Jesuit College Preparatory High School adopted the home for their Eagle Scout Service Project, partnering with Trees for Houston to beautify our grounds. They led a group of volunteers in planting 23 trees on the backside of the campus and adding an irrigation system to keep the trees healthy and watered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Nora’s Home held its first-ever virtual gala, Homecoming: From Our Home to Yours, and celebrated the past 10 years of Gala Chairs and lives touched, raising over $380,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Andrew, a double lung recipient/COVID survivor and Nora's Home guest, was interviewed and featured on KPRC Channel 2 sharing his transplant story; the home was excited to partner with Houston Methodist and share our mission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>The inaugural Annual Impact Report was produced and shared with our community which recapped the 2020 fiscal year and shared our “year in review.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Rice University students mastering the Capstone Course adopted the home as their project and offered marketing ideas, helped with communications to social workers and aided in our search engine optimization efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>The Board of Directors welcomed two new members – Nancy Patel and Dr. Pat Wood – to help further the work and mission of the home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Nora’s Home welcomed students from Baylor College of Medicine who served the home as volunteers during the fall and spring semesters helping to keep the interior and exterior in tip-top shape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The Asian American Hotel Owners (AAHOA) named Nora’s Home as a beneficiary at the Southeast Texas Inaugural Charity Golf Tournament held at Wildcat Golf Club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>With the help of one of our talented guests and caregivers, Becky, guests contributed to the first Nora's Home quilt. She taught guests how to personalize their quilt block using fabrics, embellishments and markers making this a fun activity. A gifted quilter volunteered to put it together and it now hangs in our family room.</td>
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Nora’s Home is grateful for the volunteers that offer their time and talent to the home. Our guests are always eager to join in the activities where they can play games, learn new things or eat a good meal to fill their time here. One of those special volunteers is Marcia Karns. Marcia inquired about bringing sewing to the home and knew of a few guests who had an interest. Not too long after her early visits did our conference room fill up with guests who had never sewn and those who were eager to improve their skills and teach each other. It has truly been a wonderful opportunity for our guests.

Marcia belongs to the West Houston Quilters Guild and this weekly sewing class has taken off. Marcia arrives to the home with a valet cart full of fabric, tools, sewing machines and thread – all donated. She is eager to help guests make their own quilt and share her talent with them so they can learn. Many who have never sewn before are now gifted with this ability and have made memorable keepsakes to take with them to the hospital and take home when they leave Nora’s.

Guests have truly enjoyed the instruction and camaraderie built while learning this new craft or honing in on their skills. She has even introduced her lovely friends from the quilting guild to the home where they have hosted a dinner and a game of “Quilto” (bingo with quilting terms).
Volunteer Highlight
Adding Sunshine with Sunflower Sacks

How can you brighten the day of a guest at Nora’s Home? Join in the fun and donate Sunflower Sacks! This new initiative started in 2021, was a way to provide a shelf-stable snack for our guests as they make their way to a day full of appointments. Due to long clinic hours, patients may miss a meal—a Sunflower Sack provides them with a sustaining snack to eat while they are in between appointments.

Much to our surprise it has become a staple in our guests’ day as they grab a bag on their way out the door to their transplant center. It’s become an opportunity for coworkers, family members, social/church groups and students to come together and work on a service project. The donated bags have been donned with clever artwork, motivational quotes, stickers and jokes. These bags have brought a smile to the faces of our guests and filled their stomachs.

Nora’s guest, Daren, is grateful for the sacks that come in. They’ve provided nourishment while he’s been waiting for his next appointment. He shared that

“the volunteers will never know how much these have meant to me and how they have truly helped me while I’m at my appointments. These volunteers are so great, and this donation is so meaningful to me.”

Consider joining in this effort and get your friend and family together. Grab any sack, craft your message to bring a little sunshine to a guest’s day, and stuff with snacks and water. Our goal is to have our shelf full of sacks each day, so guests can grab them on their way out!

A HOW TO GUIDE

1. Purchase paper lunch bags (any brand)
2. Decorate them! Be creative, have fun, make them special! Add messages, artwork, stickers...you name it!
3. Fill them with items like:
   - Water Bottle (8oz)
   - Applesauce & Spoon
   - Beef Jerky Sticks
   - Fresh Fruit
   - Fruit Leather
   - Granola Bars
   - Oatmeal Packets
   - Sandwich Crackers
   - Mac n’ Cheese cup
4. Drop them off at Nora’s Home

8300 El Rio Street
Houston, TX 77054
Learn more at norashome.org/volunteer
How You Can Help

Donate

Every donation, no matter the amount, made to Nora's Home help guests and their families. Donations support the operations of the home from supplies needed to providing a night's stay through our Adopt-A-Family program. To make a one-time donation, or to join the monthly giving Sunflower Club, scan the QR code or visit www.norashome.org/donate. Donations are 100% tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Volunteer

All of our volunteers are an essential part of our home! We have opportunities for individuals, families, or groups from your church and workplace that can fit your schedule and interests. Learn more about how you can be a part of Nora's Home by scanning the QR code or visit https://norashome.org/get-involved/volunteer/.

Supplies

Our home has 32 guest suites and requires many supplies to run smoothly. Pantry items, kitchen utensils, and cleaning supplies are just a few of the items you can help provide to the families we serve. Our wish list is available on our website with a link to our Amazon page. You can view the list at https://norashome.org/get-involved/wish-list/ or scanning the QR code.
for transplant patients and their families.
How our Guests Describe Nora’s Home