

Guest Spotlight

Aaliyah

Age: 10

Transplant: Heart

Hospital: Texas Children's Hospital

Hometown: Weslaco, TX



Aaliyah and her mom Susana

Transplant Journey: Aaliyah had heart failure since she was born and has endured 7 open heart surgeries and as well as several heart catheters. She had a pacemaker since she was only 9 months old. She had multiple holes in her old heart and had struggled for 10 years with her weak heart. She was placed on a mechanical pump (ECMO) twice--once when her aorta erupted in 2014 and again in 2015 when her heart stopped.

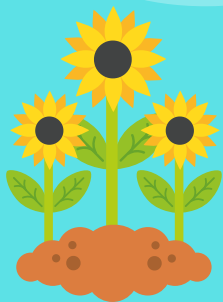
Aaliyah was unable to run and would easily get tired. Walking short distances would give her a headache due to her weak heart. The doctors decided this was a good time for a transplant. After a 10-hour surgery on October 7th, 2022, she received her new heart which began beating at 12:32 AM for the first time and she has been doing wonderfully ever since!

What is the first thing you want to do when you return home? I want to hug my family then I want to run and swim so I can play with my friends! I'm also very excited to go back to school--I'm in the 5th grade and my favorite subject is Science.

What has been your favorite space at Nora's Home? I love my bed! Sometimes I just want to be lazy and sleep.

What would you want your organ donor to know? I would say thank you to the person who gave me a new heart and let them know that they had a great heart that allows me to not have headaches anymore.

What would you say to someone who is considering becoming an organ donor? Being a donor can give others another opportunity at life and lets them do things they would never be able to do otherwise.



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