

Guest Spotlight

Stephanie

Age: 47

Transplant: Double Lung
Hospital: Houston Methodist
Hometown: Pflugerville, TX

Transplant Journey: Last year in February 2021, Stephanie got COVID-19 and went to the hospital in Austin because she had trouble breathing. She had asthma but didn't think that COVID-19 could make her lungs this weak. In Austin, she was put on a ventilator and went into a coma for four and half months. She was then placed on ECMO after she awoke from her coma. Her lungs were completely damaged. The doctor went ahead and suggested lung transplant. Doctors in Austin processed to get in contact with the transplant team in Houston after she had agreed. Stephanie and her husband came to Houston in September 2021. She was listed in the beginning of October. On January 9th, she got a call that they found a set of lungs, and she had accepted them immediately. She received her gift of life on January 10th, 2022. Stephanie mentioned how having ECMO gone was the best thing to happen after her surgery. She was able to wake up without tubes surrounding her. She was on it for 317 days and was one of the only patients in America that had been on it for so long.

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

Walking was one of my big goals. Before my surgery, I wanted to be able to get around on my own as it was very freeing. I had set a goal to walk about 2 miles a day. One day my husband Billy and I went to the Houston Aquarium, and I purposefully didn't bring my walker. I was able to walk the entire time without it!

What would you want to say to your donor/what would you want them to know?

Thank you for giving me another chance in life to live. Thank you for a life you lived and agreeing to be a donor.

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

Read up on it and become knowledgeable. It impacts and saves lives. Their contribution is a miracle and blessing. Through my situation, some of my friends have registered to be organ donors.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home? The people for sure. The stories you hear and can connect to are a life changing experience as it's almost like free therapy. You can learn so much from someone who has had a transplant.



Stephanie and her husband, Billy

