

Guest Spotlight

Age: 41

Transplant: Double Lung

Hospital: Methodist Hospital

Hometown: Columbus, MS

Catellia



Transplant Journey: I was diagnosed with fibrosis in 2011 and put on oxygen in 2012. I was working as a nurse but had to quit due to my health. I was on oxygen for 10 years and after the first 5 years, I decided to look at a lung transplant as my condition was worsening. I was very scared about getting a transplant due to the complications I would face. I was initially denied a transplant because of an autoimmune disease I have. It wasn't until last summer that I met a lung doctor who used to be chief of staff at Houston Methodist who sent me here to Nora's Home.

I came to Houston in October and received my transplant evaluation. They notified me in November that I was accepted and I moved to Nora's Home on the 1st of January. Prior to my surgery, I got really sick and stayed in the hospital for about 2 months in May but eventually was cleared for the transplant.

I feel very relieved because I am breathing well after my surgery. I was on 60L of oxygen in the hospital before my surgery and to go from 60 L of oxygen to no oxygen is indescribable. Being able to walk around and do things I haven't been able to do in years is just amazing. Even just to turn over in bed, I would get short winded, but now I can walk around in the mall, and it is just an amazing feeling.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home? It is like a second family here. Everyone goes above and beyond to make you feel like you are at home. They're not really caregivers, but in a sense, it's like they are because they look after you and make sure you are okay. I love that about it here and the people here are friendly.

For one, before I had gotten my lungs, they would offer to cook something and made sure to let me know that there was food. When I felt so bad that I couldn't come out of my room, they offered to go get it and bring me something to eat. Whenever I got groceries delivered, they would help me take my groceries into my room. Also, when I got ready to go into the hospital, they helped me with my suitcase and made sure that I was in the car and safe to go to the hospital. If I hadn't been out of my room for some days, they would call me and make sure that I was okay. When I was at the hospital, they called me to check in on me. To me, they went above and beyond to help me.

What is the first thing you want to do at home post-transplant? I am really looking forward to playing with my 4-year-old niece and going back to work again. I could not do much with my niece because she is a mover and a shaker! She would ask me to come walk with her, but I couldn't really do it. I would love to get up and dance and play around. I did not have the lung stamina to do it, but now I do.

