

Guest Spotlight

Age: 57 Transplant: Heart Hospital: Houston Methodist Hometown: Killeen, TX

**Transplant Journey:** I was diagnosed with heart failure, *myocarditis*, in 2015. The doctors suggested I get a transplant and asked if I had an interest and I told them no. I was put on medication and was fine until 2022. My wife and I went on vacation last October, and I was visibly tired and wasn't feeling well. It had also gotten to the point where I lost my appetite and was losing weight.

A few months later, I was having shortness of breath, was still not feeling well and I was tired. We were living in Dallas at the time, and I went to the hospital on January 7. They immediately transferred me to Austin Heart as I needed more precise care. The doctors said I had arrived just in time and glad I hadn't waited, or I wouldn't be here; my organs had begun to fail. My blood was not functioning well either in my heart. It was a long journey and the doctors in Austin saved me. I was attached to so many machines, my chances looked slim. I relied heavily on God's love throughout my journey, and I pushed the struggles I faced because of God's miracles. I did not leave ICU for an entire month.

In February I was told I needed to be transferred to the Texas Medical Center in Houston and there I was told I would need a transplant. It was my time and I believed in God's plan. I received my heart on March 16. I stayed in the hospital until being discharged on April 7 and I was able to join my wife at Nora's Home where I could fully recover.

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

I look forward to walking and to walking my dog. I can't wait to be home and sleep in my own bed. I also wish to start exercising more and cooking for my wife as she has cooked for me during my recovery.

## What would you want to say to your donor?

Thank you! Thank you! One day I would like to see the family and personally thank them for saving me.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home? I enjoyed everything! I appreciated how comfortable and clean the home was. I spent a lot of time in the kitchen and loved that I could cook with my wife. I spent a lot of time in the hallways walking and regaining strength. I also enjoyed interacting with the wonderful staff and my neighbors--the other guests. The staff were really sweet and caring for my wife and I.





