



# Guest Spotlight

John

Age: 71

Transplant: Single Lung  
Hospital: Baylor St. Lukes  
Hometown: Franklin, LA

**Transplant Journey:** I visited my cardiologist in November 2021 and believed I was having issues with my heart. I had some tests done and was told I was out of shape. I knew this couldn't be true as I was walking every day. In February 2022, I had trouble breathing. I looked for doctors all over Louisiana, and my son helped me find a doctor and get an appointment as the appointment list was full. During the visit, he had me do a six-minute walking test, which I failed and was told I would need to use an oxygen tank. I was quite surprised! At first, it wasn't a lot of oxygen, but I was on it full time. I was referred to Tulane and it was confirmed that I had pulmonary fibrosis. After this I was told that I was being referred to Baylor St. Luke's and would need a lung transplant. We were in complete shock, but doctors assured us that it was better to get this taken care of now rather than wait until it was too late. We began coming to Houston in March 2022 and came back every three months for appointments and tests. I had to remain within 6 hours of the hospital and luckily our home was in that distance.

In January 2023, I passed the six-minute walk without oxygen and was so happy, but I got pneumonia and it was like my progress was thrown off a cliff. I received the call that they had a lung for me on April 30 and the surgery was the day after my birthday. What a gift, except I almost did not answer the 11:30pm phone call! I am grateful for the overall care I received, not only the physical care, but the emotional care and relationships I made with my doctors who genuinely cared for me. My transplant journey was a very spiritual one, this was truly a God-given miracle. My wife and I have been blessed constantly throughout my journey, and I have always seen my journey optimistically. I was not supposed to be here, but God graciously allowed me to continue to live my life

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

I would like to say a lot. I would like to know about them. Most importantly, I would like to thank them for giving me life. My donor saved numerous people. He died giving all of us life. I will now continue doing special things to honor him. I know I am meant to do something special.

## What has been your favorite space at Nora's Home?

The outdoor area of the home. I enjoy sitting outside on the patio furniture looking at the gardens and getting warm. I have also enjoyed taking part in the weekly sewing class where I am making a quilt.

## What would you say to the donors who support Nora's Home?

They are giving the gift of life without knowing it. Having a place like Nora's Home gives us the ability to live and have a place to be. If we did not have Nora's Home, my wife and I might have been okay but would have some struggle. However, others who are here might not be able to survive financially. Coming from the hospital to Nora's Home, both with wonderful staff, have made my journey even better.



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