

Caregiver Spotlight



Lynn
Grandma and Wife to John

Patient: John

Age: 71

Transplant: Single Lung

Hospital: Baylor St. Luke's

Hometown: Franklin, Louisiana

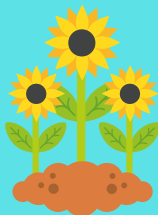
Describe the Transplant Journey: My visited his cardiologist in November 2021 and believed he was having issues with his heart. He had some tests done and was told he was out of shape. He knew this couldn't be true as he was walking every day. In February 2022, he had trouble breathing. We looked for doctors all over Louisiana, and our son helped find a doctor and got an appointment as the appointment list was full. During the visit, he did a six-minute walking test, which he failed and was told he would need to use an oxygen tank. We were quite surprised! At first, it wasn't a lot of oxygen, but he was on it full time. He was referred to Tulane and it was confirmed that he had pulmonary fibrosis. During an appointment at Tulane, we spent two hours with the doctor going over his entire health history. After this we were told that he 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. In January 2023, he passed the six-minute walk without oxygen and was so happy but got pneumonia and it was like his progress was thrown off a cliff. He received the call that they had a lung for me on April 30 and the surgery was the day after his birthday. What a gift! The transplant journey has been a very spiritual one, this was truly a God-given miracle. We have been blessed constantly throughout this journey.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home?

There is a spiritual aspect to Nora's Home. It is truly one of a kind, almost like a spiritual retreat. There is a lack of busyness from the outside world. I enjoyed spending time in the gardens and would read as it is tranquil. I also feel safe here. When you stay at Nora's Home you are not allowed to be isolated, which is so important to the recovery process. You are in, and a part of, a community. The staff here does not go unrecognized, we see all that they do. All of them have that special quality; there must be something in the job application as everyone is so caring.

What would you say to the donor who supported the organ?

I'd want them to know that I am so sorry for their loss. Your loss was truly a blessing in our lives. Thank them for your willingness to allow their child to give his organs to my husband and so many others. We would love to meet your family and share that we are eternally grateful for their son. We will never stop appreciating this gift. When you see what a transplant can do, you understand it.



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