

Guest Spotlight



Neville

Age: 69
Transplant: Heart
Hospital: Memorial Hermann
Hometown: Inagua, The Bahamas

Transplant Journey: My son was playing basketball for King University in Tennessee and had a game in Houston. My wife and I decided to fly in to watch him play and visit my other son and his family who lived here. While visiting with my son and his family, he shared that his girlfriend's father was having similar symptoms that I had which I was under care for in Orlando. We decided to make an appointment with the same doctor who saw him. During my appointment, the doctor told me I needed to wait in the waiting for a wheelchair and be admitted to the hospital because they would not let me leave in my current state. We were shocked! I felt fine. They sent bloodwork to the lab and two weeks later they told me my heart was no good. They said it was like a hard rubber ball, and that it was not pumping blood correctly. I was told the only thing they could do for me was a transplant, and if I did not choose this option, I would die. I had to have saline injected into my system, as well as a defibrillator strapped to my chest for three months. I decided to remove the defibrillator because it woke me up in the night, and I got a pacemaker put in. After this, I was allowed to return home to The Bahamas.

When we returned, we got caught in Hurricane Irma. We were home for only three weeks, and received word of a mandatory evacuation and went to Nassau. At this time, I began to feel sick, my PICC line was infected. We decided to come back to Houston, and I was immediately taken to the emergency room. They took everything out, my pacemaker and my lines, and put me on steroids because of the infection. I stayed in the hospital because of the risk of dying.

On that Tuesday morning, there was a knock on the door. It was a gentleman who was a heart recipient. He sat me down and told me his story. He prepared me for the transplant, everything he said would happen, happened. Little did I know my transplant would happen soon. I was greatly reassured because of him. I had a good recovery and began to walk and exercise in my room. The little things made me stronger. I tell people, you have to think about what you want to do and be there mentally. My transplant journey has been a real adventure for me, and I appreciate the Good Lord for allowing everything to fall into place as smoothly as it did.

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

I would tell them to make this choice because you could help someone to live a decent life, like me. I learned that eight people, including myself, were saved on May 10, 2018, because of one organ donor.

What do you enjoy most about Nora's Home? My favorite thing about Nora's Home is the community that is built here. I love interacting with the guests and hearing their stories and comparing them with mine. It is truly a one-of-a-kind experience. I enjoy providing hope for others that are struggling with their transplant journey. I have learned so much from this experience and am a different person. I often go up to those who I believe are struggling and provide them comfort and hope. I want to share my story so I can see them recover physically and mentally because of this lifesaving gift. I have made so many friends along this journey.

